

Visual arts Jackie Wullschlager

Emily Young: The Metaphysics of Stone

There is one person whose career and art work have been shaped by sculpture. She has been fundamental to the art world, and her work has been a constant presence in the field ever since. Her work has been a constant presence in the field ever since. Her work has been a constant presence in the field ever since.

Thomas Demand: Model Studies

Thomas Demand's work is a constant presence in the field ever since. His work has been a constant presence in the field ever since. His work has been a constant presence in the field ever since.

Julio González: First Master of the Torch

Ordovas, London

It was a poisoned chalice for any artist to associate with Picasso, who brought flair and energy but was notorious for his magpie-like appropriation of others' ideas, transformed in his hands into something undreamt of and new. Only twice did he really collaborate rather than steal – famously in the breakthrough to cubism with Georges Braque, less famously working with Spanish sculptor Julio González from 1928 to 1932 on constructions in iron wire and sheet metal that pushed figuration to near-abstract limits.

The encounter revolutionised 20th-century sculpture. A compressed version of the story is the subject of Ordovas's new museum-quality small show, which places seminal pieces by González alongside works by Picasso and key mid-century figures influenced by them: David Smith, Eduardo Chillida, Anthony Caro.

González, son of a goldsmith, grandson of a blacksmith, was born in 1876 and took half a century to find his own language. During the first world war, working at the

Renault factory at Boulogne-Billancourt outside Paris, he learnt oxy-acetylene welding and came to see that he could use the strength of iron to create three-dimensional forms without filling in the volume – later called "drawing in space". "Tête aux Grands Yeux" (1930), borrowed from the Lehmbruck Museum, combines a mask-like metal head with holes for eyes, a tapering V-form metal neck, and a stone body/base: a piece at once looking back to cubism but also forward to sculpture for an industrialised world. "Les Amoureux" (1932) is more machine-like; "Monsieur Cactus" (1939), with its chunky soldered parts, plays industrial references against spiky biomorphic shapes. Both are important works from Valencia planned for the show but held up for export licences; let us hope they arrive soon. Abstractions rooted in the human form – González's works are almost all upright structures – they demonstrate the inventiveness and emotional force that led Anthony Caro to comment that "it was González who first showed that his medium could become a valid art form".

www.ordovasart.com +44 (0)20 7287 5013, from Tuesday to April 2



'Tête aux Grands Yeux' (1930)

Van Dyck in Sicily

Van Dyck's work in Sicily is a testament to his skill as a portraitist and his ability to capture the essence of his subjects. His work in Sicily is a testament to his skill as a portraitist and his ability to capture the essence of his subjects.

Gesamtkunstwerk: New Art from Germany

The German art scene is a testament to the skill of its artists and their ability to create works of art that are both beautiful and meaningful. The German art scene is a testament to the skill of its artists and their ability to create works of art that are both beautiful and meaningful.

Mondrian/ Nicholson/ Parry

Mondrian's work is a testament to his skill as an abstract painter and his ability to create works of art that are both beautiful and meaningful. Mondrian's work is a testament to his skill as an abstract painter and his ability to create works of art that are both beautiful and meaningful.

Nicholson's work is a testament to his skill as a painter and his ability to create works of art that are both beautiful and meaningful. Nicholson's work is a testament to his skill as a painter and his ability to create works of art that are both beautiful and meaningful.

Parry's work is a testament to his skill as a painter and his ability to create works of art that are both beautiful and meaningful. Parry's work is a testament to his skill as a painter and his ability to create works of art that are both beautiful and meaningful.