

# Adolfo Schlosser

Opening September 8th, 2022



Adolfo Schlosser. Untitled, 1977

Galería Elvira González is pleased to announce the opening on September 8th of the fifth solo exhibition of Adolfo Schlosser (Leitersdorf, Austria, 1939 – Madrid, Spain 2004). Based in Spain for the last four decades of his life, Schlosser's need for expression led him to explore different disciplines (literature, sculpture, painting, sound pieces...) and to perform art to study the active bond between soul and nature.

The exhibition traces the evolution of Adolfo Schlosser with more than forty works dated between 1973 and 2002, with installations, sculptures and works on paper. Schlosser's practice shows his conception of nature as a living entity and not as a medium. His work has a clear reference to nature not only formally but also with the use of seaweed, stones, natural wax, straw and adobe as material.

Adolfo Schlosser was born in Leitersdorf, Austria, in 1939. Son of a ceramist, he attended the Academy of Applied Arts in Graz where he studied sculpture. Between 1957 and 1959 he also trained in painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. During those years his interests wavered between Fine Arts and literature. At the age of 19, after a four-year period in Iceland where he alternated working as a fisherman on board on a whaler and as a writer, he returned to Vienna and began to practice *hörspiel* (radio drama). In the early 1960s he did the first sculptures.

Travelling through several countries in Europe, he ended up in Spain in 1966. Once in Madrid, he entered in the artistic scene which boosted the development of some of his ideas and concerns towards arts. In this context he founded the magazine *Humo* (Smoke) along with Juan Navarro Baldeweg, Eva Lootz and Patricio Bulnes.

The highlight of this period is the recovery of sculpture as a major form of expression. After his first incursions into geometric language, Schlosser found his own vocabulary strongly related to nature. His increasing interest in space and possible configurations, thanks to different elements in tension, leads him to experiment with materials such as plexiglas and rope. However, in the following years he evolves towards different forms and materials and begins to experiment with organic materials taken directly from his surroundings. With these he created a simple, light and yet, direct and powerful works, in which the nature/culture dichotomy takes form in a game of contrasts.

In 1991 he was awarded with the Premio Nacional de Artes Plásticas, which was the recognition to his contribution in the promotion of new approaches to arts in the Spanish scene.

His work is in several public collections, such as the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (MNCARS) in Madrid, the Museu d'Art Contemporani (MACBA) in Barcelona, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo (CAAC) in Seville, or the Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea (CGAC) in Santiago de Compostela. In February 2006, the Museo Reina Sofía held an important retrospective exhibition. Schlosser's public works have been installed across Spain, such as in the RENFE train station in Santander, the Plaza del Centenario in San Sebastián, the campus of the Universidad Politécnica in Valencia and the campus of the Universidad de Torrelavega in Cantabria.