

Strand 1: Art Nouveau Cities: between cosmopolitanism and local tradition

Definitive abstract for paper presentation at the *coupDefouet* International Congress

Modernista sculpture in Bilbao: Paco Durrio and Nemesio Mogrobejo

I focus my study on two of the major practitioners of modernist sculpture in Bilbao: Paco Durrio (1868-1940) and Nemesio Mogrobejo (1875-1910). I present little-known information and heretofore unpublished works, specially related to applied arts, such as jewellery and artistic object's design. I pay particular attention to the relationship of their work to some of the most important centres of Modernism, such as Paris, Brussels, Munich and Vienna, and to their relation to the models, artists and critics that they met there. I also consider the originality of these artists' production and their role in spreading the modernist aesthetic in both the Basque Country and Spain as a whole. Finally, this paper consists of an analysis and reinterpretation of transnational exchanges that had influenced on modernist sculpture in Bilbao, coming not only from Paris (as the historiography usually considers) but also from Central Europe and the Far East.

Keywords: Sculpture, Jewellery, Ceramics, Applied Arts, Art Nouveau, Spain, Bilbao, Durrio, Mogrobejo

Escultura modernista en Bilbao: Paco Durrio y Nemesio Mogrobejo

La presente comunicación se centra en el análisis de la producción de los dos principales representantes del modernismo en Bilbao: Paco Durrio (1868-1940) y Nemesio Mogrobejo (1875-1910). Se presentan datos y obras nuevos o poco conocidos, especialmente relacionados con las artes decorativas, y se presta una especial atención a la relación de estos autores con los centros más importantes del Modernismo europeo, como París, Bruselas, Múnich y Viena, así como a su vinculación a los modelos, artistas y críticos que conocieron en estas ciudades. También se analiza la originalidad de su producción artística y su influencia en el arte vasco y español de principios del siglo XX. Por último, se pretende realizar un análisis y reinterpretación de los intercambios transnacionales que han influido en la escultura modernista en Bilbao, procedentes no sólo de París (como la historiografía ha venido indicando) sino también de Centroeuropa y Oriente.

Palabras clave: Escultura, Joyería, Cerámica, Artes Decorativas, Modernismo, España, Bilbao, Durrio, Mogrobejo

Curriculum Vitae

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María Soto Cano holds a PhD in the History of Art (granted special recognition from the European Doctorate program) from the University of Oviedo.

She is currently working as technical assistant for the Fine Arts Museum of Asturias. She has held numerous scholarships and research fellowships, and participated in research projects at institutions such as the Jovellanos Museum in Gijón (Asturias), the Museum of Fine Art of Asturias, the Museum of Fine Arts in Bilbao, the Queen Sofia National Museum and Art Centre in Madrid, the Lázaro Galdiano Foundation in Madrid, the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris, the National Gallery of Modern Art in Rome, and the Belvedere Gallery in Vienna.

Her work centres on sculpture from circa 1900-1939, and she has published on artists such as Julio Antonio, Nemesio Mogrobejo, Quintín de Torre and Sebastián Miranda. She is currently at work on a project on the sculptors in residence at the Spanish Academy in Rome during the first third of the twentieth century, and preparing a monograph on the Basque sculptor Nemesio Mogrobejo.