

PAUL DE MONCHAUX



FRESTONIAN GALLERY



Paul de Monchaux

Paul de Monchaux was born in Montreal in 1934 and studied at the Art Students League, New York (1952-1954) and at the Slade School of Fine Art (1955-1958). After teaching at the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology (1958-1960) and Goldsmiths College of Art (1960-1965), he went on to become Head of Sculpture and Head of Fine Art at Camberwell School of Art. In 1986 he retired from teaching to focus attention on his own work.

His sculpture is built around simple geometrical figures that, while inert in themselves, can come to life in the right combination – like the notes of a piano. His choice of material for a particular piece is determined by its ability to carry the form and distribute light across its surfaces. He has a long-standing interest in the sculptural origins of symbolic architecture and recent work has drawn on historian Joseph Rykwert's writing about the gender of columns. He does not make a distinction between his commissioned and freestanding work, regarding both as part of the same exploration.

De Monchaux's public commissions include, amongst others, Oozells Square, Birmingham (1998); Silence, Jersey (2007); Breath, Norwich Memorial Gardens (2001) and Girton Column, Girton College, Cambridge (2012).

He lives and works in London.

PAUL DE MONCHAUX

A CELEBRATION AT 90

26.6.24 - 3.8.24

Image taken at
Paul de Monchaux's studio,
May 2024

Frestonian Gallery is delighted to present a survey exhibition of the work of Paul de Monchaux, in celebration of the artist's 90th year. Spanning six decades, this extraordinary body of work charts the development of an artist of rare talent who has been a significant influence on British sculpture of the past 50 years.

As an educator at Goldsmiths College and Camberwell School of Art, where he was Head of Sculpture and Fine Art for nearly twenty years, de Monchaux shaped and guided the path of successive generations of artists working in Britain. At the same time his dedication to public sculpture saw his work define the form and feel of sites of significant social importance throughout the United Kingdom, including functional sculptures in the heart of cities such as Birmingham and Coventry, as well as memorials, including his 1993 *Memorial to Wilfred Owen* (Shrewsbury) and his 2007 *Memorial to WW2 Slave Workers* (Jersey). Major works have also been available to the public in sculpture parks and institutions, such as the Henry Moore Institute and Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

De Monchaux's progression as an artist through this selection of key works is revealed in the changing nature of form and finish, beginning with the weighty and seemingly rough-hewn *Bronze Flower* (1972). This work bears a certain uncompromising energy and solidity that can be seen as

relating to de Monchaux's immediate forebears: the sculptors of the Herbert Read coined 'Geometry of Fear' movement – figures such as Kenneth Armitage, Lynn Chadwick and Eduardo Paolozzi. In the works that follow, there is a conscious refining of surface and simplification of form that speaks of the influence of other giants of British sculpture such as Elisabeth Frink, Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore (a visiting tutor at the Slade during de Monchaux's time there in the late 1950s), as well as the long and benevolent shadow of Modernist pioneer Constantin Brâncuși.

By the time that we arrive at the later work it is clear that de Monchaux's own voice has emerged elegantly and coherently, whilst honouring the influence of several different cultural traditions. The 1994 stone carving *Freight to Groove* has a certain understated perfection of the simple form that draws on the tradition of Japanese sacred architecture, whilst the columnar steel accumulation *Stony Ground* (2008) owes much to de Monchaux's enduring love of Italian classicism (cemented during his years as the Chairman of the Faculty of Sculpture at The British School at Rome). The most recent works – lyrical three dimensional explorations in moulded fluted forms such as *Volute V* (2016), *Mariposa* (2021) and *Partita* (2023) – bring us up to the present moment and demonstrate an artist still at the height of his powers of refinement, invention and expression.



Volute V
2018, bronze
72 x 68 x 72cm
£30,000 + VAT (bronze ed. 7)

Bronze Flower
1972, bronze
60 x 60 x 50 cm
£45,000 + VAT (unique)





Freight to Groove
1994, Swaledale fossil limestone
48 x 28 x 25 cm
£30,000 + VAT (unique)



Intrados
1996, Purbeck Spangle limestone
48 x 28 x 25 cm
£30,000 + VAT (unique)

Stony Ground
2008, corten steel
36.5 x 34.5 x 34.5 cm
£20,000 + VAT (unique)



Volute IV
2013, plaster
68 x 53 x 53 cm
£18,000 + VAT (plaster ed. 7)
£30,000 + VAT (bronze ed. of 7)





Volute IV
2013, plaster
68 x 53 x 53 cm
£18,000 + VAT (plaster ed. 7)
£30,000 + VAT (bronze ed. of 7)



Studies for Male and Female Columns,
2014-15, limewood
26 x 19 x 4.5 cm (each)
Each £4,500 + VAT / Set - £35,000 +



Bronze study 7
2018, bronze
26 x 19 x 4.5 cm
£6,000 + VAT (bronze ed. 7)

Bronze study 8
2018, bronze
26 x 19 x 4.5 cm
£6,000 + VAT (bronze ed. 7)



Callimachus
2021, limewood
41.2 x 41.2 x 14.5 cm
£12,000 + VAT (unique)



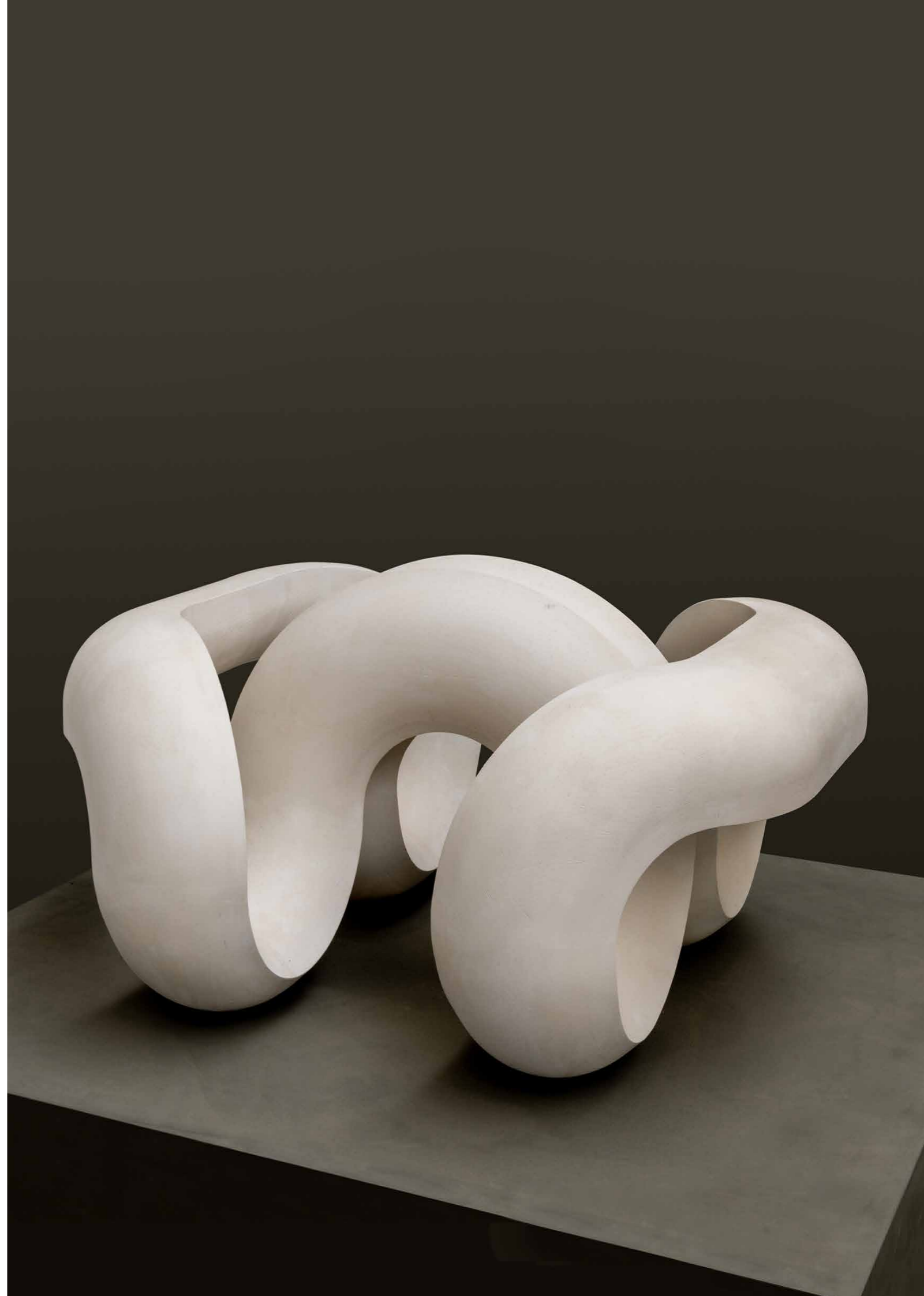


Callimachus
2021, limewood
41.2 x 41.2 x 14.5 cm
£12,000 + VAT (unique)



Mariposa
2021, plaster
38.5 x 64 x 67 cm
£30,000 + VAT (bronze ed. 7)

Mariposa
2021, plaster
38.5 x 64 x 67 cm
£30,000 + VAT (bronze ed. 7)





Partita
2023, plaster for bronze
28 x 50 x 28 cm
£9,000 + VAT (plaster ed. 7)
£15,000 + VAT (bronze ed. 7)



Partita
2023, plaster for bronze
28 x 50 x 28 cm
£9,000 + VAT (plaster ed. 7)
£15,000 + VAT (bronze ed. 7)

Paul de Monchaux b. 1934, Montreal, Canada
Lives and works in London

Education

1955-58 Slade School of Fine Art, London, UK
1952-54 Art Students League, New York, US

Teaching

1965-86 Head of Sculpture and Head of Fine Art at Camberwell School of Art, London
1977-82 Chairman of the Faculty of Sculpture, The British School at Rome
1960-65 Lecturer in Sculpture at Goldsmith's College, London
1958-60 Lecturer in Sculpture at the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, Zaria, Nigeria

Public Commissions

2012 Girton Column, Girton College, Cambridge
2011 Breath, Memorial Gardens, Norwich
2007 Silence, Memorial to WW2 Slave Workers, Jersey
2005 Song, BBC Churchill Memorial, The Henry Moore Institute,
2001 Brunswick Square, Birmingham
2000 Enclosure, West Park, Southampton
1998 Oozells Square, Birmingham
1993 Symmetry, Wilfred Owen Memorial, Shrewsbury
1991 Basilica, Coventry Crown Court, Coventry
1990 Time Benches, Gateshead Garden Festival, Tyne and Wear, and Euston Station, London
1984 Mnemonic, Colchester Hospital, Colchester

Awards

2000 Civic Trust Award with Townshend Associates for Oozells Square, Birmingham
1990 The Northern Electric Environment Award
1980 Arts Council Major Award

Exhibitions (* denotes a group exhibition)

2024 Formation - Paul de Monchaux at 90, Frestonian Gallery, London
2020 Tess Jaray & Paul de Monchaux: Correspondences, Megan Piper, London
2019 Paul de Monchaux: Volutes, Megan Piper, London
2016 Paul de Monchaux: Ten Columns, Megan Piper, London
2015 Summer Exhibition, The Royal Academy, London *
2015 Art15: Tess Jaray and Paul de Monchaux *
2015 Making It: Sculpture in Britain 1977-1986, (Arts Council Collection touring exhibition), Longside Gallery, Yorkshire Sculpture Park *
2014 Summer Exhibition, The Royal Academy, London *
2013 Fixing Memory, The Piper Gallery, London
2012 United Enemies, The Henry Moore Institute, Leeds *
2012 Summer Exhibition, The Royal Academy, London *
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2009 Summer Exhibition, The Royal Academy, London *
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2003 Summer Exhibition, The Royal Academy, London *
2002 Summer Exhibition, The Royal Academy, London *
1992 The Furnished Landscape, Crafts Council Gallery, London *
1990 Gateshead Garden Festival, Tyne and Wear *
1989 Whitechapel Open, Whitechapel Gallery, London *
1988 Whitechapel Open, Whitechapel Gallery, London *
1988 The London Group, exhibition, London *
1987 Whitechapel Open, Whitechapel Gallery, London *
1986 Whitechapel Open, Whitechapel Gallery, London *
1986 Stoke-on-Trent National Garden Festival, Staffordshire *
1984 The London Group, exhibition, London *
1983 The Sculpture Show, Hayward Gallery and Serpentine Gallery, London *
1979 Notices, Camden Arts Centre, London *
1974 The London Group, exhibition, London *
1968 The London Group, exhibition, London *
1965 The London Group, exhibition, London *
1962 The London Group, exhibition, London *
1961 The London Group, exhibition, London (elected as member in 1961) *
1960 18 Young Sculptors, Institute of Contemporary Art, London *
1960 John Moores, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool *



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