

Fausto Melotti, sculptures, assemblages, reliefs, drawings

from 1935 to 1973, Marlborough,
5 Via Gregoriana, Rome. Il
Segno, Via Capo Le Case 5.
Through June. 1973

Melotti, one of the pioneers of abstract art in Italy, has only lately been recognized.

His line was fluid and understated from the beginning. A period when small objects, chinks, chains and leaves were juxtaposed in boxed compartments in the early 1960s is daintily whimsical. Later there were sculptures of curls and prongs and stick figures and warrior-like structures blazing with sumptuously colored rags resembling barbaric banners.

In recent work, the touch is as light and the wit and references as subtle as ever, but there is no longer any playfulness. Arrows, pyramids and other enigmatic thin signs in groups glint and float in geometric circumference.

Constellations, games or gardens for gods, they are strangely monumental. Space has been made ample and serene with the simplest means.