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OPENING SHOT

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Above: Claire Falkenstein working on a sculpture in Italy, c1957

THE WEB MASTER

Ortuzar gallery celebrates the legacy of sculptor Claire Falkenstein with a solo show

A summer course at American-Ukrainian artist Alexander Archipenko's workshop in 1933 was the only formal training that Oregon-born sculptor Claire Falkenstein received during her nearly 70-year career. Yet in 1961 she would go on to craft *Entrance Gates to the Palazzo* for the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, the gates standing almost 3m tall, an intricate, fused web of mild steel and Murano glass. "Falkenstein assembled and built her sculptures rather than carving or casting them – wire brazed joint by joint until the networks stood on their own," says Ales Ortuzar, who feels the late artist is deserving

of "further attention" and has co-organised an exhibition of her work. At Ortuzar's New York gallery, 20 sculptures will be on display. Made during her time living in avant-garde circles in San Francisco, Rome and Paris, they include examples from her seminal *Suns* series: airy copper, bronze and iron lattices that challenge the closed forms of metal sculpture. "The only restriction was my own limitations," Falkenstein reportedly stated. "And I was testing them all the time." **ELLA MANSELL** *Claire Falkenstein: San Francisco, Paris, Rome is at Ortuzar in New York from 10 September until 31 October*