

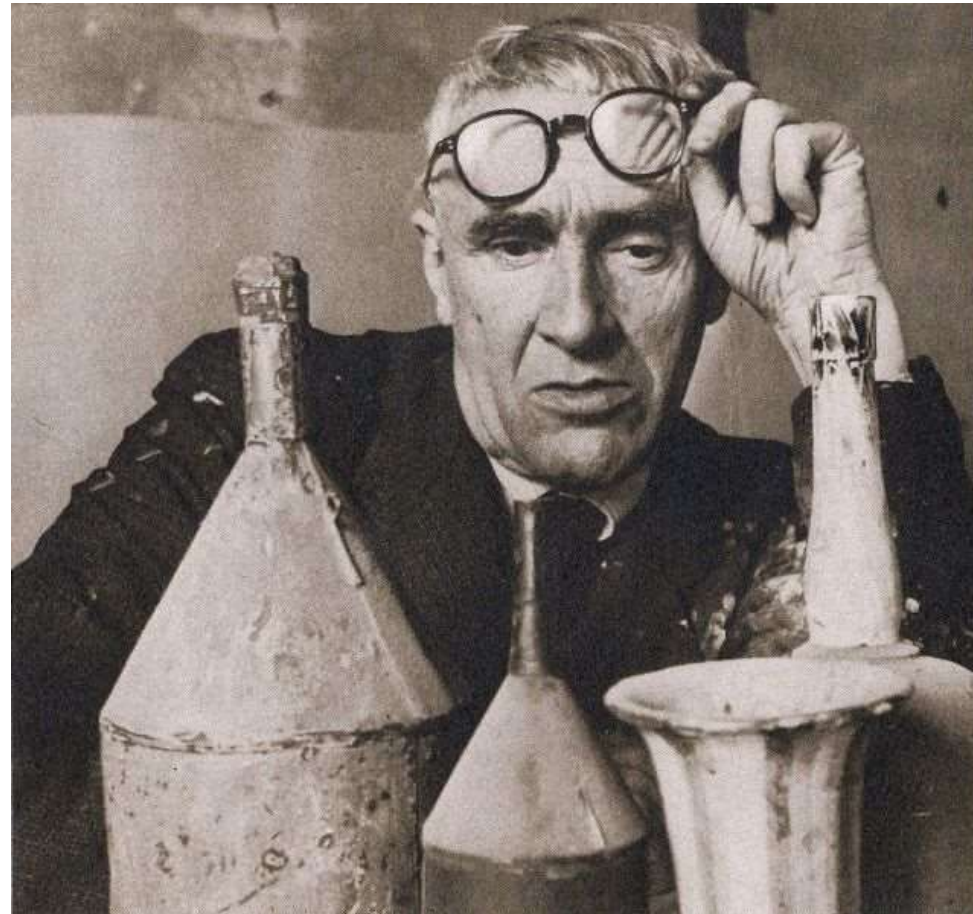
INFLUENCES ON GIORGIO MORANDI

Recognising these in his artworks

What Influenced the art of Giorgio Morandi

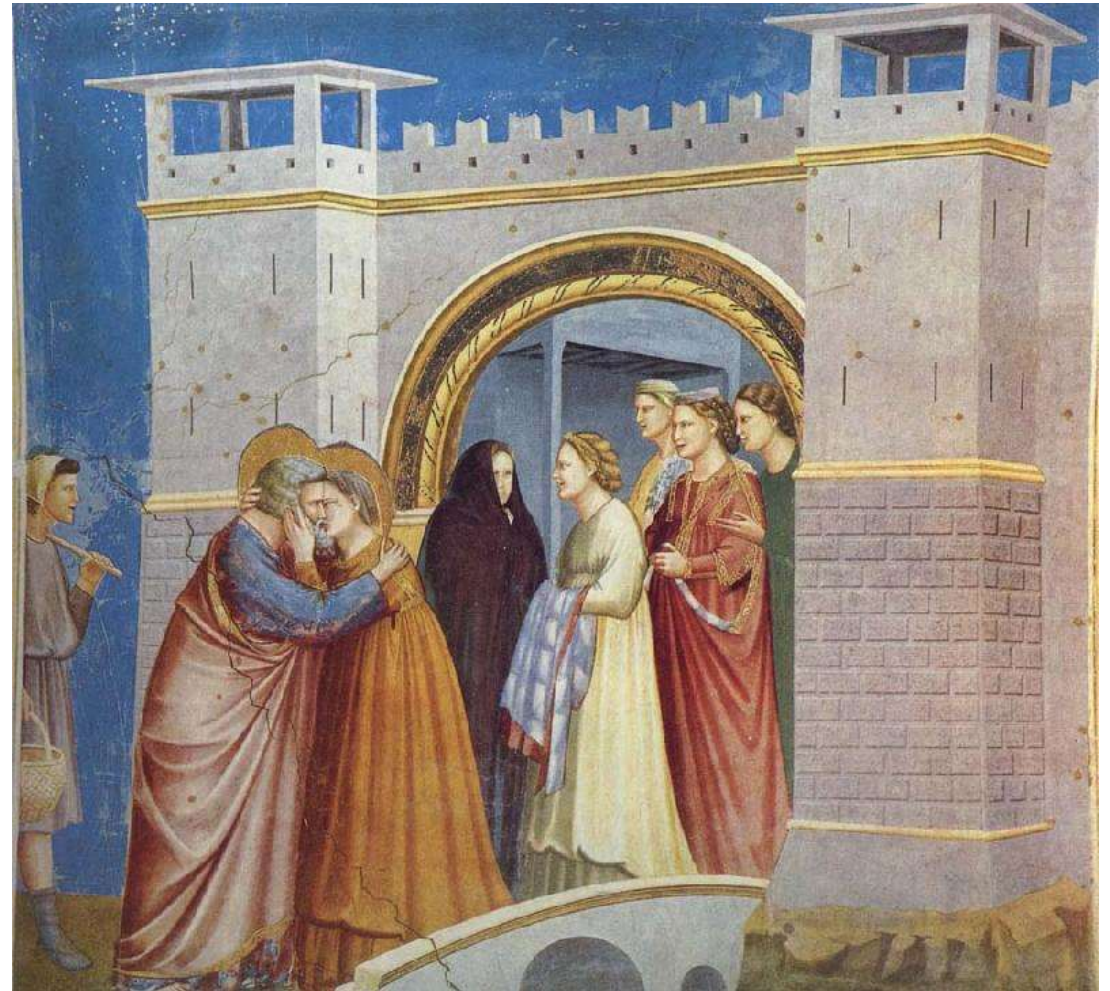
Morandi

(1890 – 1964)



The Italian painter and etcher of still life and landscapes. Born in Bologna. Studied at Bologna Academy 1907-13. Here he closely studied the work of his fellow northern Italian artists Giotto, Pierro Della Francesca and Ucello.

Giotto
Anna and Joseph meet at the Golden Gate
1303-05





Paolo Ucello
St George and the Dragon
1456

Piero Della Francesca
The Flagellation of Christ
1455-70





Hilltop at Evening, 1928

In the early 1900s Morandi became aware of the work of the French Impressionists and Post-Impressionists.

He saw touring exhibitions of Auguste Renoir, Claude Monet and – his favourite – Paul Cezanne.

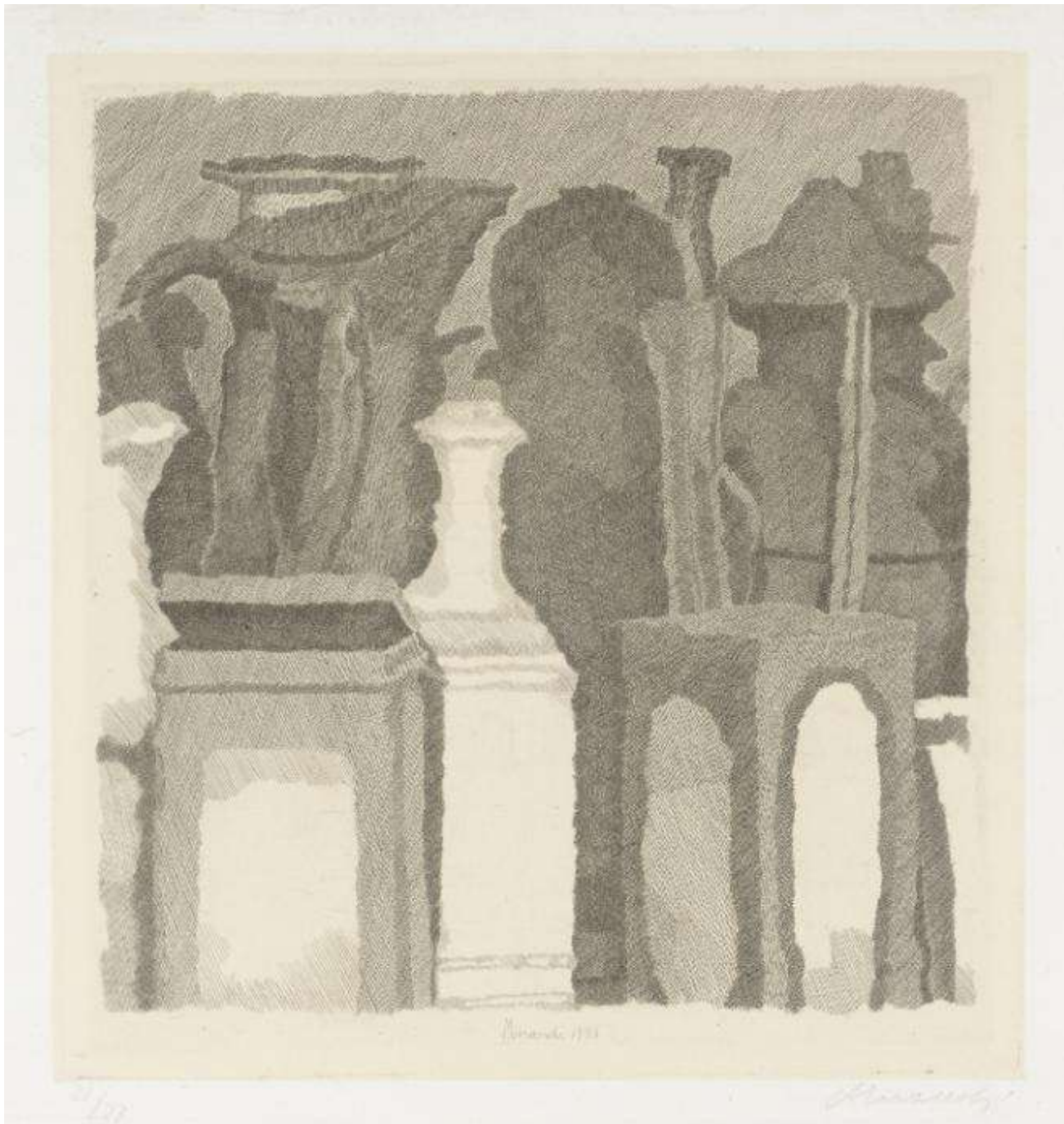
Like most artists of the early 20th Century, Morandi had some contact with Cubism, (Picasso, Braque, Juan Gris), and with his native Italian Futurist contemporaries, (Balla, Marinetti, Boccioni). He never left Italy and the only thing to really influence him outside of his home was the work of Cezanne.



Paul Cezanne
Houses in Provence
1883



Paul Cezanne
Still Life with Milk Jug and Fruit
1900



Taking Cezanne as his ideal, Morandi embarked on a life-long research, limiting himself to a small range of themes.



Natura Morta
Still Life Etching
1928

Tone is a major feature of much of Morandi's work, the best of which can be seen in his etching work – a method of Printmaking that uses a very sharp point to 'scratch' marks onto a metal plate, which is then 'inked-up' and printed.

You can see the patience with which Morandi builds up his hatching and cross-hatching here



Like his major influence Cezanne, Morandi repeatedly returns to the same things in his work, refining his techniques and use of materials in minutely different ways.

Like Monet, he looks at the effect of light on the objects he captures.

Like Giotto, there is always a simplicity to what Morandi attempts to do.

Limiting his colour palette allowed Morandi to concentrate his experiments on exploring Form.



Still Life
1946





Mood and atmosphere seem to develop

strangely out of these most ordinary of subjects.

Oddly, these jugs and bottles can even begin to look a little sinister and disturbing.

So, when we know all of this, we can approach Giorgio Morandi's artworks knowledgably and appreciate more of what influenced his artistic experiments.