This week in Chicago

“Eric Gill: Iconographer” at Loyola University Museum of Art
The religious printmaker and iconographer fell from grace. By Madeline Nueser

Eric Gill, The Burial of Christ from The Four Gospels, 1931
Photo: Courtesy of Albert Sperisen Collection, University of San Francisco

This exhibit’s chronological arrangement indicates, perhaps rightly, Eric Gill underwent a slow descent into madness. Loyola University Museum of Art shows how the printmaker and iconographer (of anonymous font fame) started out as an etcher of letters, cherubic women and biblical figures and, some time later, obsessively inked images of God-ordained “free love.” (Gill’s “love” is said to have been exercised on his family and dog.) Light on text panels, the exhibition kindly refrains from force-feeding a narrative except where necessary. One panel hints at a print series’s explicit nature, which includes a couple copulating while an embrace of rays emanates from the hand of God.

March 30, 2011