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## Press Release

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**The Fundació Joan Miró presents its 2021 exhibition and activities programme.**

**The 2021 exhibitions programme will start in the spring with *Miró and ADLAN*, a show that reconstructs the artist's connection with this cultural organisation, which during the Second Republic in Barcelona had the goal of defending modernity and the advancement of new art. At the Espai 13 in turn, the foundation's platform for emerging contemporary art, the exhibition by Lorea Alfaro and Jon Otamendi will be featured as the final show in the cycle entitled *Turn it all turns*.**

**The Fundació will also present exhibitions derived from its collections at the Musée Rolin in Autun, France, the Embassy of Spain in Paris and Museu Can Mario of the Fundació Vila Casas, in Palafrugell.**

**The public and educational programme will combine proposals to be enjoyed in person, at the Fundació and other venues, with virtual initiatives. The project entitled *The Miró at Hand* will gather this set of digital resources together in the form small-format capsules, meant to inspire us, encourage creativity and bring us closer to the work of Joan Miró and the museum's activity in a different manner.**

**In 2021 the Fundació will rehabilitate part of its spaces to diversify their uses and make them more accessible to visitors. The Library will specialise in Joan Miró and in the history of the museum, while the Archive will be moved to the octagonal gallery on the first floor, an operation that revives the original function of the tower of knowledge, as envisioned by Miró and Sert.**

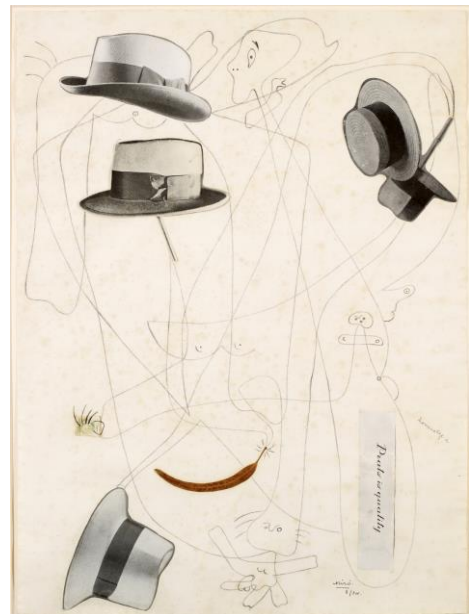
**This reworking of the spaces will make it possible to offer new experiences and services to visitors while enhancing research, which will likewise be bolstered by the recent creation of the Fundació Joan Miró – Universitat Pompeu Fabra Contemporary Art Chair.**

**Barcelona, 21 December 2020.** Beyond its character as a health crisis, COVID-19 has had a convulsive effect in social, economic and cultural terms. This in turn has given rise to reflection on the viability of many projects and the need to make decisions to address future challenges. The Fundació Joan Miró strives to continue growing and expanding its relationship with its visitors and its context, with new in-person and virtual formats and proposals. For these motives, in 2021 the foundation team will carry out its activity in three priority areas: visitor experience, both at the foundation and beyond its physical limits; the institution's relationship with the world; and financial sustainability with two perspectives in mind, one immediate and the other pointing further ahead, to its 50th anniversary in 2025.

Joan Miró had a clear idea what the civic responsibility of the artist should be. The foundation team works accordingly, seeking to benefit all of society, grounded in the conviction that now more than ever art is important, useful and necessary in people's lives. In 1968, Joan Miró expressed his will that the Fundació Joan Miró be a unique place in the world: a building designed for a collection, with complicity between the artist and architect Josep Lluís Sert. The place they together dreamt of continues to be open to all; it is friendly, dynamic, inclusive, accessible and inspiring as well. The foundation team further works to establish this bond with all those who interact with it through other physical and virtual spaces. The importance of lived experience with works of art is irreplaceable, yet it is possible to develop and expand other relationships with and amongst visitors, thanks to digital environments. This new way of looking opens the way to making art and culture accessible to everyone through hybrid spaces, which live and relate in a flowing manner.

## Exhibitions at the foundation

From 12 March, the Fundació Joan Miró presents **Joan Miró and ADLAN**, an exhibition that reconstructs the impact of a group of artists and intellectuals known as ADLAN (Amics de l'Art Nou [Friends of New Art]) on the history of modern European art. The show highlights the fundamental role the initiative had in the introduction of modernity into Barcelona in the 1930s, with their activity irradiating out to other locations in Spain. While in the great cities of Europe the avant-gardes had the support of critics and collectors, in Barcelona modernity required the support of a group of visionaries who sought to regenerate Catalan culture, taking Joan Miró as a standard and beacon in the promotion of new art.



Curated by **Jordana Mendelson**, **Joan M. Minguet** and **Muriel Gómez**, and open until 4 July, the exhibition presents selections from the five ephemeral exhibitions that Miró presented in Barcelona, with the idea that the Catalan avant-garde group ADLAN might get to know first-hand and before anyone else the pieces that would later travel to Paris, New York or Zurich. The works chosen show the experimental character of Miró's work and recreate the collaborative efforts of Miró with the associates of ADLAN. The exhibition also reconstructs a large ADLAN Archive with material conserved in various public and private archives and institutions in Catalonia, Spain and around the world.

The influence of ADLAN spread amongst Barcelonan artists, architects, writers and musicians, especially in the years after the Civil War and up to the decade of the 1970s. More specifically, the close connection between ADLAN and the GATCPAC (Grup d'Arquitectes i Tècnics Catalans per al Progrés de l'Arquitectura Contemporània [Group of Catalan Architects and Technicians for the Progress of Contemporary Architecture]) worked to forge understanding of modernity as linked to architectural rationalism and visual surrealism. This exhibition recuperates documentation on the sites where ADLAN's activity took place and the people who made it possible, including Josep Lluís Sert, J.V. Foix, Sebastià Gasch, Joan Prats and Adelita Lobo, amongst others.

From its very origins, the Fundació Joan Miró has represented the spirit of ADLAN, organising proposals of emerging art and curatorship through the **Espai 13**, a unique venue in the museum panorama of Catalonia and around the world. The current exhibition cycle at Espai 13 is **Turn it all turns**, curated by **Marc Navarro Fornós**, with the support of Fundació Banc Sabadell. Participating artists Laia Estruch, Beatriz Olabarrieta, Julia Spínola, Lorea Alfaro and Jon Otamendi have examined and put into practice the notion of estrangement, proposing a rereading of our immediate environment and the way we relate in it.

Until 14 March 2021, **Julia Spínola** presents *vis*, an installation that points to the difficulty of fixing objects in space and to the instability of images. Sculptures and silkscreens allow the artist to question the act of looking as a way of capturing reality. In her proposal, the gaze is the key for a framework of experience where meanings are erased and the observer becomes newly aware of his or her presence in the perceptive process.

The cycle ends with an exhibition by **Lorea Alfaro** and **Jon Otamendi**. Running from 25 March to 18 July, it is entitled *2020*. The starting point for these artists involves two differentiated perceptive paradigms, as they explore communicative forms that work without the object and without strategies of persuasion, yet are able to disseminate with no apparent reason. At the centre of the project is the synthesis of a plant aroma, which Alfaro and Otamendi have done with the assistance of a

laboratory, their research process resembling scientific method. This line of research is expressed in the gallery with photographic and video images, as well as through the texture of the exhibited textile pieces.

Since 2012, the Fundació Joan Miró has programmed **photography exhibitions** in its entrance lobby. On the basis of an agreement with the heirs of photographer Joaquim Gomis and the Generalitat de Catalunya, the foundation has taken responsibility for the management of the Gomis Archive, as well as making its holdings better known and enhancing the study of Gomis' work. With this express desire, the work of Gomis is shown in the space in temporary exhibitions, which alternate with shows by other creators who have practiced photography as amateurs. Opening January 15 and until May 2, a photographic project by the artist and experimental playwright **Violeta Mayoral** will be shown, evoking weather phenomena as the symbolic and real context that envelops artists as they strive to develop careers against the grain, in an unfavourable economic climate. Her images are dryly lyrical, contemporary and wintery, offering a deeply sensitive and experienced vision of vulnerability.

## **Exhibitions outside of the Fundació Joan Miró**

Since the opening of the Fundació Joan Miró in 1975, one of its priorities has been to share the work and legacy of the artist Joan Miró with the world. With the support of public and private institutions, for more than thirty years the foundation has developed and supported international projects considered to be favourable opportunities to spread knowledge of the Fundació Joan Miró, forging quality relationships with other museums and institutions. Over the course of 2019 the Fundació took a step ahead in this aspect of its activity by creating a specifically dedicated office for the conceptualisation, development and management of travelling exhibitions based on its collections. During the closure of the museum for COVID-19 in 2020, the foundation has implemented new virtual methodologies, making it possible to loan work without obliging museum staff to travel with it, moving ahead with various travelling projects.

### ***The Miró Atmosphere***

#### ***The definitive emancipation of the cat's tail***

A project by Laura Goedert, assistant director of the Musée Rolin of Autun, in collaboration with the Fundació Joan Miró of Barcelona  
08/01/2021–28/02/2021

The exhibition entitled *The Atmosphere Miró* highlights the originality of Joan Miró's creative processes and the fortitude of his poetic dimension. Sculpture, prints, drawing and painting from the collections of the Musée Rolin and the Fundació Joan

# Fundació Joan Miró Barcelona

Miró dialogue in this journey through the unique imagination of Miró. Since 1999, the Musée Rolin of Autun has conserved the donation of Monique and André Frénaud, which is witness to the intellectual and artistic complicity uniting Miró and the French poet, which is also the basis for this project. The Fundació Joan Miró contributes eight bronze sculptures, seven large-format lithographs and 31 black and white photographs by Joaquim Gomis, these latter expressing the detailed atmosphere of the creative ambiances and landscapes that inspired Miró.

## **Miró Universe**

With the collaboration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
European Union and Cooperation, and the Abertis Foundation  
Embassy of Spain in France, Paris  
28/01–30/03/2021

The travelling project *Miró Universe*, which was seen in the Spanish embassies in Italy, Ireland and Belgium in 2019, will be presented this year at the Embassy of Spain in France. *Miró Universe* focuses on signs in the work of Joan Miró, through a concise and careful selection of painting and sculpture from his latter period. All the pieces pertain to the collections of the Fundació Joan Miró. The body of work includes the 1973 paintings *Figure, bird I, II and III*, with a simplified composition, where Miró extends the images until occupying almost all of the canvas, in an energetic gesture. The exhibition is completed with the sculptures *Woman, bird* and *Woman*, both of them from the early 1970s, whose titles and composition are also based on this same vocabulary of signs.

## **Miró-Gaudí-Gomis**

A project curated by Teresa Montaner and Ester Ramos  
of the Department of Collections of the Fundació Joan Miró  
Exhibition organised by the Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona,  
in collaboration with the Fundació Vila Casas  
Museu Can Mario of the Fundació Vila Casas, Palafrugell  
24/07–28/11/2021

*Miró-Gaudí-Gomis* (working title) highlights the creative affinities between these two creators through the photography of Joaquim Gomis, who was the first president of the Fundació Joan Miró and an important promoter of the work of both Miró and Gaudí. The photobooks that Gomis published in the 1950s in collaboration with Joan Prats, an art promoter and a key figure in the genesis of the Fundació, reveal the interest of the artist and architect in the forms and movements of nature, as well as the practice craft, both of which were relevant to the development of their respective work. The photographic sequences of these books, put together as a kind of cinematographic *découpage*, influenced the development of a new way of reading the work of both creators.

The exhibition, featuring almost 70 works, presents a selection of sculptures, one ceramic piece and various Miró drawings, which are made to dialogue with Gomis' photographs of Gaudí architecture. His images show the influence of the architect on Miró, especially in the artist's sculptural and ceramic work. In homage to the architect, in 1979 Joan Miró dedicated the sets of prints to him entitled *Gaudi Series*, *Tiled* and *Large Round*, which also feature in this exhibition. This exhibition, with work from the collection of the Fundació Joan Miró and various other documentary collections, was presented in 2019 at the Fundació, and will be shown in the summer of 2021 in an extended version at Can Mario, the Contemporary Sculpture Museum of the Fundació Vila Casas in Palafrugell.

## **Public and educational programming**

Convinced that visitors are not users or guests but active agents in the construction of the idea of a museum, the foundation presents public and educational programming related to its collection, temporary exhibition projects, the building architecture and the foundation's context, offering visitors a significant experience and a living relationship with art. Programming includes stable and occasional proposals, both in-person at the foundation or other facilities and digital, which are conceived for the educational community, families, the specific public in the foundation's vicinity and the general public. The foundation also participates and collaborates with other institutions and events in the city, such as the traditional festivities of Santa Eulàlia and the Mercè, Architecture Week and The Night of the Museums, along with festivals such as Barcelona Dibuxa [Barcelona Draws], Barcelona Obertura, In-Museu, Sampler Sèries, 48h Open House Barcelona and the international research project *Dancing Museums – The democracy of beings*, amongst others.

The public and educational programme of the Fundació Joan Miró has been an essential aspect of the institution's activity from its very beginning. Year after year, proposals and methodologies are conceptualised and developed in function of social demand. In this regard, programming has been adapted to the context of COVID-19 to include in-person and digital proposals, making it possible for the foundation to enter into dialogue with all of its many publics.

The foundation is located at a highly unusual site in the city, and is part of a social and cultural network that includes organisations, associations and facilities. Its unique character depends to a great degree on its integration, complicity and participation in the community fabric, where the foundation is also participant in the Poble-sec Neighbourhood Plan. This year the Fundació Joan Miró has consolidated **programming designed for all school grades, both in the mandatory and post-mandatory system**, properly adapted to current health measures, with visits

from school groups on days the museum is closed to the public. The Espai Taller [Workshop Space] receives school groups with all necessary safety measures in place. Furthermore, the public and educational programming team also goes to nearby schools themselves, where collaborative projects are developed. These schools include the Escola del Bosc de Montjuïc, Escola Mossèn Jacint Verdaguer, Escola Poble-sec and the Institut Lluís Domènech i Montaner in the Zona Franca for the programme EnResidència, run by the Barcelona culture institute, ICUB, and the Barcelona Education Consortium.

The **proposals for families** are meant to be both entertaining and focused on shared learning, as they seek to connect with the curiosity of each individual and encourage a personal relationship with art. They are also designed to contribute to socialisation and shared learning, both at the foundation facility and at home.

Due to recent health measures, a new guided visit format has been prepared so families might enjoy a relaxed, safe tour in small groups. Individual packs of material are available, if necessary, to ensure hygiene norms are met. **A.P. (artist proof)** is a project that unveils the working processes of Joan Miró. During the visit families with children from 6 to 10 experiment with various techniques, including drawing, collage, ink blots and games with objects. All of these activities are brought together in a working notebook, similar to what Miró himself used, which afterwards is used as the starting point for participant's own creations. For its part, **Miró Universe** invites families with children from 3 to 5 to explore Miró's work in discovering the world the artist created through orality and movement, featuring motifs like lines, stains, moons, stars and colours.

In the month of June, the foundation will publish a **new biography of Joan Miró** for readers of all ages. Appearing in Catalan, Spanish, French, English and Chinese, and illustrated by the artist Marta Altés with texts by Gemma Gallardo, it will be used to develop a new itinerary through the collection galleries. Participants will have the opportunity to pay particular attention to certain Miró works highlighted in the book, establishing connections between learning from reading and artistic creation.



According to health measures, workshops for families foresee individualised materials, and they are carried out with the idea of enhancing outdoors activities.

**Look, Mark, Create!** proposes exploring the building's architecture, its shapes and textures, from an artistic point of view. Participants take a sensorial itinerary through the foundation galleries, the Espai Taller and the Laribal Gardens outside to explore and gather the diversity of textures found in the building and its surroundings. Afterwards, using the pop-up technique, families create a book they can later take home.

The foundation will programme a series of individual workshops open to the public, with all COVID-19 safety measures in place, featuring **Draw and make your own herbarium**, under the direction of the artist Inés Calveiro. Nature was always at the origin of Miró's creation, so that here, in this workshop, participants learn to observe the beauty of nature just as Miró did. Accordingly, they are encouraged to create their own collections of plants by combining leaves from trees, painting, drawing and paper collage.

## **The Miró at Hand**

The rise in resources and content on digital channels has accelerated a scenario that had already been foreseen: the dissolution of the boundaries between private and public spaces. Work colleagues and classmates have entered into our homes through our screens, and leisure and learning proposals have grown beyond any sort of habitual physical limitation. Museums, art centres, auditoriums and theatres have all been part of this tendency, as spaces for cultural intervention, while officially closed, have opened up fully to share what they have inside.

During the confinement for COVID-19, the Fundació Joan Miró team made a set of resources more readily available to virtual visitors (some of this material already existed, some was new). Under the title [\*\*Miró at home\*\*](#), they gave continuity to the activity and mission of the institution. When the foundation reopened in the month of June of 2020, it was a symbolic moment of encounter with its publics, but also a moment to more fully explore one of its key programming areas: the relationship between [\*\*art and nature\*\*](#), which had become a domain of emotional refuge given the unsettled situation following the initial closure.





The foundation seeks to continue expanding and relating with its publics, with digital initiatives making it possible to enjoy available content in any place and at any time. **The Miró at Hand** is a set of digital resources which are presented as small-format capsules meant to inspire visitors, encourage their creativity and allow them to approach Joan Miró's work and the activity of the foundation in a different way. Content is focused on the foundation's key areas of activity: Joan Miró, contemporary creation, the building's architecture and the foundation's context. These proposals do not merely translate in-person content, as they are conceived to continue moving towards an open museum model, where the gaps and limitations between genres and disciplines are left behind.

**My Miró** is a collection of video recordings made by members of the foundation staff, Friends of the Miró and foundation collaborators. In a highly personal and emotional manner, and without academic bias, they explain the Miró from personal perspectives. The initiative is an invitation to visitors, whether virtual or in person, to share in their interpretation of a work, space or aspect of the artist that has moved them.

In another project, **Art in action** revives some of the performative actions that have taken place over the years at the foundation. It constitutes a documentary selection that illustrates the evolution of artistic language become action, body, voice and statement, reflecting the institution's ongoing desire to find a place for all artistic expressions. The starting point of this proposal is the Erasure Performance by Nalini Malani, presented in December 2020 at the foundation.

**Families online**, to close this section, is a set of proposals conceived to encourage family creativity. With this proposal, **Miró at play** presents its third downloadable, collectible game. The learning experience is a combination of various factors where all information comes into play, including the oral transmission of experiences,

anecdotes and, naturally, personal exploration and creative play. In a similar line of activity, although of a different character, [Creative families](#) invites families to take on experimentation, both at home and in the Fundació Joan Miró galleries. Creativity is a bridge between curiosity and discovery. Creativity is made manifest by doing, while stopping to look attentively, reading images carefully and interpreting them are clearly creative acts. Miró's art, with its highly diverse and subtle character, is an unending source of inspiration for the visual expression of emotions and ideas.

## **New spaces, new ways of relating**

The new ways the Fundació Joan Miró relates with its many publics also involve the revision of various of the building's spaces, which are updated to improve visitor experience. In 2016 the foundation began to go back to its origins, with the return of the [collection](#) to the original galleries that Joan Miró and Josep Lluís Sert had conceived for its presentation. The foundation team continues to work on this revival of the dialogue between artist and architect, approaching their original shared dream, with the conviction that when art is shown in unique spaces visitor experience is transformative.

The year 2021 offers an opportunity to balance out this relationship with the architecture and functionality of the foundation's spaces. Thanks to co-funding from the Government of Catalonia, it will be possible to revive the ideas shared both artist and architect with regards to the tower of the Fundació, conceived as a space for knowledge interchange.

Next year the **library** will be revamped to make it a specialised space in Joan Miró and the history of the foundation itself, as it adapts to new demands with digitalised information and more immediate access. This update will also make it possible to diversify use of the space. For its part, the **Archive**, which was constituted as an important collection of work on paper the artist donated to the foundation and for his own personal library, will be moved to the octagonal gallery on the first floor of the tower. This was the space that Miró and Sert had originally designated for it. The new location will enable the foundation to modernise its installations and fit it into the presentation of the collection, giving access to unique holding that are essential for understanding the work of Miró.

The specialisation of the library would not have been possible without the collaboration of the Pompeu Fabra University, to which the foundation has ceded part of its bibliographic collection in art from the 20th and 21st centuries. With this donation the university will develop the [Fundació Joan Miró – UPF Contemporary Art Chair](#), making it possible to enliven interest amongst the university community in the artist's work and in modern and contemporary art, as well as to study and more broadly promote the work of Joan Miró in academic circles, through the support of

the foundation collection. The foundation is also an active partner in the UPF project at the historical Mercat del Peix, the fish market.



## Balance 2020

After closing 2019 in a balanced manner, with a 3% increase in visitors, as well as in terms of income generated by the foundation from sponsorship and sales from the shop and bookstore (both run directly by the foundation), from the beginning of 2020 the foundation team has followed the impact of COVID-19 closely, preparing a plan to adapt to the new circumstances. The foundation closed to the public from 13 March to 12 June, when it reopened with all measures in place to ensure safe visits, with guarantees for external employees and team members. **Special opening hours**, from Friday to Sunday, have been maintained until now. Despite restrictions, from Monday to Thursday the museum offers arranged visits to the collection and all other services provided by the institution.

In the first week of confinement, the team of the foundation unrolled various initiatives to keep the institution in contact with its various publics, amongst which the project **Miró at home** stands out. The foundation's digital channels have seen a significant and unprecedented increase in use. During the closure, **economic forecasts** point to an income loss of 3.4 million euros from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. The foundation has implemented saving measures to the tune of 1.2 million euros (an ERTE, the Spanish emergency layoff compensation, for the entire staff of the foundation, which is still in place; the suspension of contracts for external services for attending visitors and cleaning; and savings on products related

to the foundation shop and bookstore during the museum closure), all the while working to increase income streams from sponsorship and the public administration. With a projected deficit of approximately 2.2 million euros, the foundation's Board of Trustees and Executive Committee have procured various extraordinary contributions over the course of the year to address the crisis, sourced from public administrations habitually contributing to the institution's budget: Barcelona City Council is committed to contributing 1 million euros, the Generalitat de Catalunya provides 870,000 euros and the Barcelona Provincial Council, 100,000 euros. A response from the Spanish Ministry of Culture is still pending. These funding contributions make it possible to complement staff salaries and raise them to 90% of full salary, as well as helping to balance out foreseen debt.

In 2021 the Fundació will continue to work with public administrations for a new funding model, both ordinary and—while the impact of COVID-19 lasts—extraordinary. Together with this, income sources will be diversified to reduce dependence on resources generated by visitors, a factor that had been made patent during the pandemic. The Fundació will focus on collaborative projects and new programmes in concert with enterprises and individuals, so as to provide the Fundació with the funds required for the conservation of its heritage and the development of its activity.

### Images:

*Joan Miró and ADLAN* <https://bit.ly/2WEIk1H>

*Turn it all turns* Espai 13 2019-2020 <https://bit.ly/3nG2nYl>

Photography exhibitions, Violeta Mayoral <https://bit.ly/2JahrOY>

*Miró Atmosphère* <https://bit.ly/2WBPi6z>

*Miró Universe* <http://bit.ly/UniversMiró>

*Miró-Gaudí-Gomis* <https://bit.ly/MiroGaudiGomisFJMCanMario>

2021 Projects <https://bit.ly/37t1LQj>