

## ***Illusions and Illusionism***

**Photographs by Joaquim Gomis**

**Curator: Martina Millà**

7 February 2023 – 14 May 2023

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## **Press Release**

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### **The Fundació Joan Miró presents the photography exhibition *Illusions and Illusionism***

**Barcelona, 7 February 2023.** *Illusions and Illusionism* is an exhibition of photographs taken in various spots around the city of Barcelona and in Sitges and El Masnou between the 1940s and early 1960s. The selection reveals Joaquim Gomis's interest in popular entertainment, unusual objects and the world of children's play and the family.



Joaquim Gomis. *Ciutadella Park*,  
December 1946.

Joaquim Gomis Fonds, on long-term loan to the Arxiu Nacional de Catalunya.

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*Illusions and Illusionism* opens with a photograph taken in Ciutadella Park in Barcelona in December 1946, when Franco's policy of Spanish self-sufficiency and limited trade was at its peak. This period of economic deprivation and shortages, which lasted until the early sixties, spanned the twenty years covered by the exhibition.

In one of the photos, a group of people dressed for cold weather are shown looking at fish in the large fountain in the park. The water, and the fish swimming about in it, is a distraction for them and reflects them with fluid and changing forms, creating simple illusions that make them forget the harshness of their everyday lives.



Joaquim Gomis. *Garden at the Home of Francesc Pros in El Masnou*, November 1965.

Joaquim Gomis Fonds, on long-term loan to the Arxiu Nacional de Catalunya.

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This photograph is the first in a sequence of shots that evoke moments of magical strangeness: images of tasks or crafts which, because they are no longer done today, are intriguing to us and at the same time make us think of popular games or traditions; threatening objects, like the stuffed owl in the taxidermy shop on Plaça Reial, which fills us with misgivings that it could come back to life at any moment; or the radical transformation of a space brought about by an artist's design, such as the dog kennel made by Moisès Villèlia for the home of a family in El Masnou.

The exhibition *Illusions and Illusionism* is filled with echoes of *Imaginary Friends*, the show the foundation will be presenting this spring in its temporary exhibition rooms and which aims to introduce families to the imaginative and creative possibilities of contemporary art.

# Fundació Joan Miró Barcelona

**Joaquim Gomis i Serdañons** (Barcelona, 1902-1991), a businessman, patron of the arts, collector and the president of the Fundació Joan Miró between 1972 and 1975, was one of the first Catalan photographers to employ a modern language. Over a period of more than five decades, he produced an extensive, meticulous body of photographic work that was linked to the most advanced artistic approaches of his day. He was a founding member of ADLAN (Friends of New Art, 1932-1936) and of Club 49 (1949-1971), two of the groups that did the most to raise awareness of avant-garde art in Catalonia between 1930 and 1970. His photographic fonds is valuable testimony of the life, work, landscapes and creative processes of Joan Miró, with whom Gomis was close friends.

The collections of photographs by Joaquim Gomis are today held in the Gomis Fonds at the Arxiu Nacional de Catalunya and the rights pertaining to them – 70,000 photographs with complementary documentation (letters, press clippings, books and catalogues) – are managed by the Fundació Joan Miró. Following an accord with the Joaquim Gomis Estate and the Government of Catalonia, the foundation has been responsible for managing the Gomis Archive, as well as disseminating the fonds and encouraging the study of his work. To this end, work by Gomis had been displayed since 2012 on a temporary basis in the foundation's foyer, alternating with exhibitions of work by other creators who have engaged in amateur photography.

Photos available at [Il·lusionsGomis](http://Il·lusionsGomis)

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