

Miró Universe

21/03 – 12/05/2019

Spanish Embassy in Italy, Rome

With the collaboration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, and Abertis Foundation

Press Release

Miró Universe, organised by the Fundació Joan Miró, opened at the Spanish Embassy in Italy

Rome is the first port of call for this touring project that, thanks to the collaboration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Abertis Foundation, will include five works by Joan Miró in the principal Spanish embassies across Europe between 2019 and 2020.

The initiative is part of the institution's mission to disseminate the artist's work internationally, focusing on his use of signs through a concise and careful selection of paintings and sculptures from his later years.

Barcelona, 21 March 2019. Miró considered art an intrinsic part of life, with magical attributes that had to be recovered. To achieve this goal, he did not hesitate to transgress the academic conventions of painting and, like other artists linked to the Surrealist world, he sought inspiration in primitive artistic manifestations: formally simple, yet loaded with sacred connotations.

Taking as references prehistoric art, the medieval masters and popular culture, Miró wanted to go beyond the mimetic representation of reality by progressively simplifying forms and leaving only what is essential. This practice gave rise to a singular sign language, which crystallised in the early 1940s and from which he was never to depart. In his work, the night, the woman, the constellations, male and female sexes, the ladder of escape and the bird became expressions of a universe of creation and renewal.

Miró Universe emphasises the use of signs in Miró's work through a concise and careful selection of paintings and sculptures from his later years, belonging to the fonds of the Fundació Joan Miró. These include the 1973 paintings *Personnage, oiseau I, II and III*, simplified compositions in which Miró enlarges the images until they practically occupy the entire canvas with energetic gestures. The exhibition is completed with the sculptures *Femme, oiseau* and *Femme*, also from the early seventies, and whose titles and compositions are based on the same vocabulary of signs.

Rome is the first venue of this touring exhibition, which will subsequently visit the Spanish embassies of Berlin, Dublin, Brussels and Paris between 15 March 2019 and 15 January 2020. The collaboration agreement, signed on 20 December 2018 by the Fundació Joan Miró, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, and Abertis Foundation, also includes related educational activities aimed at local school communities. In addition, the Fundació Joan Miró has produced a publication for the occasion that includes, among other, a text by Ester Ramos, Curator of the Collections of the Fundació Joan Miró, which reviews the genealogy of the sign in the artist's work.

About the Fundació Joan Miró

The Fundació Joan Miró was created by the artist himself and opened its doors to the public in 1975. It has a unique collection of Miró's works, his personal library and an archive with all his preparatory drawings, which makes the Foundation a centre of reference in the research, dissemination and promotion of the artist's production and legacy.

Since its inauguration as the first museum in Barcelona dedicated to modern and contemporary art, the Fundació Joan Miró has hosted numerous temporary exhibitions. It also promotes Espai 13, one of the first venues dedicated to emerging artists and curators, and an active educational space dedicated to the promotion of creativity and a better understanding of modern and contemporary artistic practices.

About Abertis

Abertis is an international reference group in the management of toll motorways. As part of its strategic plan for corporate social responsibility, the company is strongly committed to the promotion of culture. *Miró Universe* joins other important exhibitions of Miró's work to have been sponsored by the Abertis Group, such as the exhibition *La couleur de mes rêves*, which was on show at the Grand Palais in Paris (France) until February 2019, to wide public acclaim.

Moreover, in recent years the Group has sponsored exhibitions by both Miró and other key Spanish artists, including Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dalí, Diego Velázquez and Antoni Gaudí, in major cities such as Paris, Madrid, Rome, Buenos Aires, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Santiago de Chile.

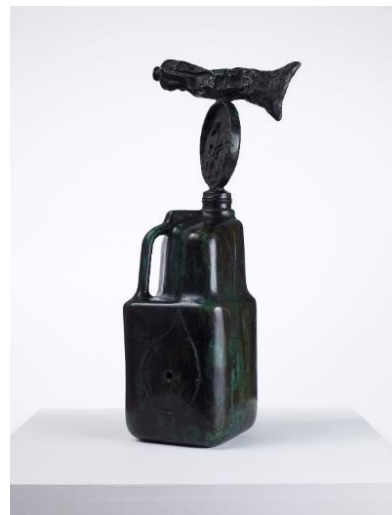
Images for press

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Joan Miró. *Personnage, oiseau II*, 1973
Oil on canvas
Private collection
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Joan Miró. *Femme, oiseau* 1972
Bronze
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona
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Joaquim Gomis. *Portrait of Joan Miró*, 1944.
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