

**Joan Miró. New Beginnings. Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern** | 28/1 – 7/5/2023  
**Paul Klee and the Secrets of Nature. Final days** | Until 12 February

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## Press release

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### The Zentrum Paul Klee in Bern presents *Joan Miró. New Beginnings*

**The exhibition examines Miró's final artistic stage and journeys along the path of the radical experimentation he undertook from 1956, the year when his studio in Palma de Mallorca was built.**

**The project concludes the collaboration between the Fundació Joan Miró and the Zentrum Paul Klee, which celebrates the work of these two leading artists of the 20th century by organising an exhibition at each museum based on the specialised collections of the other.**

**The exhibition *Paul Klee and the Secrets of Nature*, which launched this collaboration with an exploration of the importance of the study of the natural world in the Swiss-born German artist's works, now only has a fortnight left to run in the temporary exhibition rooms of the Fundació Joan Miró.**

**Barcelona, 26 January 2023.** About fifty works from the Fundació Joan Miró's collection are being presented for the first time in Switzerland in the exhibition *Joan Miró. New Beginnings*, which opens its doors at the Zentrum Paul Klee in Bern on 28 January. There are forty-three paintings, three sculptures, a *sobreteixim* (an overwoven textile artwork) and two collages from Miró's final artistic stage, the one for which the Fundació Joan Miró's collection is an international benchmark. The works are mainly dated from the late 1960s to the early '80s, a time of profound review and great artistic exploration for Miró. The selection includes renowned paintings such as *Self-Portrait* (1937-1960) and *Burnt Canvas 2* (1973), or the large model of the sculptural group at La Défense in Paris – *Pair of Lovers Playing with Almond Blossoms* (1975) – which usually presides over the sculpture room of the Fundació Joan Miró but is leaving the Barcelona museum for the very first time.

Although he always wanted to go beyond conventional painting, after his long-awaited studio in Palma de Mallorca had been built in 1956, Joan Miró expanded his concept of painting in a previously unknown direction. At that stage, Miró questioned all his previous work, reviewed his early production and set to work again on pieces that had remained incomplete. This period of profound review is the starting point for the exhibition *Joan Miró. New Beginnings*, which presents a total of 74 works by the artist, mainly from the Fundació Joan Miró in Barcelona, but also from the Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró in Mallorca.

# Fundació Joan Miró ✱ Barcelona

During this period of looking for new expressive forms, Miró set upon his canvases with fire and scissors, explored different techniques such as textiles and ceramics, expanded the formats of his paintings and sculptures, and used deliberately ephemeral or humble materials and media, like the *pompier*-style paintings bought from flea markets that he modified with forceful brushstrokes. All of these approaches meant that the artist produced surprisingly radical works that today remain decidedly contemporary.



Joan Miró. *Burnt Canvas 2* (1973).  
Acrylic on canvas cut and burnt. Fundació  
Joan Miró, Barcelona. On loan from a private  
collection. Photo: Joan Ramon Bonet, Arxiu  
Successió Miró © Successió Miró, 2022

Curated by Fabienne Eggelhöfer, chief curator of the Zentrum Paul Klee in Bern, *Joan Miró. New Beginnings* concludes the project promoted by the two institutions, which celebrates the work of these two key artists of the 20th century by organising an exhibition at each museum based on the specialised collections of the other. The spirit of the collaboration pays homage to the link between the two artists who, despite not getting to meet each other in person, made the encounter with the other's art a transcendental event for both of them.



Joan Miró. *Pair of Lovers Playing with  
Almond Blossoms*. Model for the sculptural  
group at La Défense, Paris (1975).  
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona. ©  
Successió Miró, 2022

For its part, *Paul Klee and the Secrets of Nature*, the exhibition that launched this collaboration, now only has a fortnight left to run in the temporary exhibition rooms of the Fundació Joan Miró. Curated by Martina Millà, head of exhibitions at the Fundació Joan Miró, the exhibition highlights the fascination that the Swiss-born German artist felt for the exploration of natural phenomena and his desire to embrace and become one with the internal laws governing them. Exclusively sponsored by the Fundación BBVA, *Paul Klee and the Secrets of Nature* plots a chronological journey – divided into four areas – that follows Klee's development as an artist and pedagogue, from his formative period to the synthesis in his mature stage, while also examining the impact of the First World War and the definition of a theoretical framework during his years of teaching at the Bauhaus.

Until 12 February next, visitors will be able to learn about this aspect of Paul Klee's work from more than 200 pieces, among which are paintings, drawings, pedagogical documentation and natural objects mainly from the Zentrum Paul Klee's collection. Within the context of the revision of the canon and as part of the effort to recover the names and careers of artists silenced by the official account of the history of art, each section includes a work by a woman artist, of whom some were contemporaneous with Klee, such as Gabriele Münter (1877-1962), Emma Kunz (1892-1963) and Maruja Mallo (1902-1995), while others are aligned with some of his artistic approaches, such as Sandra Knecht (Switzerland, 1968).

The project is completed by a catalogue that contains and expands on the main lines of the exhibition, and by a broad public and social programme with activities for different educational stages, families and the general public, some of which are still active. For more information, see the current activities linked to [Paul Klee and the Secrets of Nature](#).

Images are available at: [bit.ly/NewBeginningsZPK](https://bit.ly/NewBeginningsZPK)