

WE'RE EXTENDING

Imaginary Friends

Until 11 September 2023

A project curated by Martina Millà and Patrick Ronse

Press Release

***Imaginary Friends* will remain open until after the summer at the Fundació Joan Miró**

The exhibition, curated by Martina Millà and Patrick Ronse, has proved extremely popular with the public and is being extended until 11 September.

The Fundació Joan Miró will keep this exhibition on display throughout the summer so that the residents of Barcelona and visitors on holiday in the city can enjoy it.

***Imaginary Friends* is suitable for all ages, especially children, and invites the public to engage with the world of the very latest in art in a spontaneous, uninhibited and joyful way.**

Barcelona, July 2023. Having an imaginary friend is a psychological phenomenon in which a child forms a friendship with a person, character or animal – or a blend of all three – that does not exist in the real world. Through their interaction with their invented friend, children learn about themselves and the world as they play and explore the vast territory of their imagination and their creativity.

Imaginary Friends intends to give children insights into contemporary art in a lively and fun way while at the same time appealing to the playful spirit of visitors of any age. The exhibition curators Martina Millà, Head of Exhibitions at the Fundació Joan Miró, and Patrick Ronse, Director of Be-Part, a Belgian art center belonging to the cities of Kortrijk and Waregem, invite children of every age to connect with a group of artists and representative works and, through them, to develop their own understanding of art and the power of the imagination.

The starting point for the Fundació Joan Miró's exhibition project for this spring is the belief that contemporary art can be a personal experience, artists can be regarded as friends who widen our horizons and, as a result, the museum can become a place for imagination, friendship, social interaction, creativity and joy.

Paola Pivi, Kasper Bosmans, Polly Apfelbaum, Meschac Gaba, Afra Eisma, Pipilotti Rist, Martin Creed and Erwin Wurm present nine installations, some of them classics, others newly created, many of which are being shown for the first time in a Spanish museum. Some of the works – displayed in the exhibition rooms of the Fundació Joan Miró and in other spots around the museum – are interactive and invite the public to gain a new awareness of the role they play as visitors, and of their active mediation in the museum space. The selection of works covers a broad generational and cultural spectrum, while reflecting the contemporary concerns of artists who share a common interest, which is to involve the public in their practices by making them part of the work and even co-creators of some of the pieces. As one of the exhibition curators puts it: ‘Is there any better way to familiarise yourself with the art of our times than feeling yourself a part of it?’

Imaginary Friends aims to facilitate this connection between the public and artworks. Millà and Ronse’s intention in this project is ‘to stimulate the mind and the senses, to encourage access to imaginative dimensions, to generate sensuality, to break down stereotypes and limiting prejudices, and to create positive energies’. They add: ‘The true magic of the artworks in this exhibition resides in the way they interact with visitors to the Fundació Joan Miró’.

The imaginary friends in this exhibition will stay with visitors keen for this to happen outside the exhibition rooms thanks to the catalogue of the show, a book suitable for everyone based on an original story by the author Claudia González Caparrós, designed and illustrated by Milimbo. The publication that accompanies *Imaginary Friends* invites readers of every age to ask themselves questions and to give free rein to their imagination in relation to each of the installations in the exhibition, which is being extended throughout the summer and will end on 11 September.

Images and digitised dossier available for the press in our [virtual press room](#) and using the link bit.ly/AmicsImaginaris.

Follow the *Imaginary Friends* activities on social media using the hashtag [#AmicsImaginaris](#) and on the website <https://www.fmirobcn.org/imaginary-friends>.