

1946-1947 Barcelona – Mont-roig – Karachi

Photographs by Joaquim Gomis

14 July 2020 – 10 January 2021

Press Release

The Fundació Joan Miró presents the photography exhibition *1946-1947 Barcelona – Mont-roig – Karachi*

At the end of World War II and ten years after the beginning of the Spanish Civil War, Joaquim Gomis's images captured the post-traumatic shock and the slow reconstruction of the settings where his and Joan Miró's lives had unfolded.

Coinciding with the Indian artist Nalini Malani's exhibition *You Don't Hear Me*, these photographs inquire into the spirit that prevailed in Catalonia at the time of India's violent partition following its independence from the British Empire.

Barcelona, 14 July 2020. In 1946 and 1947, when they were both back in Barcelona after the war years, Joaquim Gomis and Joan Miró saw each other frequently. Gomis photographed the most famous buildings by Antoni Gaudí, as well as Miró at work at the Gimeno Foundry, or at their mutual friend Llorens Artigas's workshop, but also at Mont-roig del Camp, the artist's retreat near Tarragona, and his studio on Passatge del Crèdit in Barcelona. The Second World War had ended a year earlier, and ten years had gone by since the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War.

Meanwhile, in other parts of the world, new collective confrontations were erupting which were often the result of the dismantling of European 'empires' and the beginning of the Cold War. Coinciding with *You Don't Hear Me*, the solo exhibition of Nalini Malani (born in Karachi, Undivided India, in 1946) at Fundació Joan Miró, the new photography exhibition at the foyer of the museum delves into Gomis' archive to find images from those two years that would convey the prevailing mood in Catalonia right at the moment when what was known as British India was declaring its independence. A declaration that came with a territorial partition that brought about a wave of violence that, like in Spain, left a legacy that still needs reckoning and reconciliation.



Joaquim Gomis. Entrance to the building where Joan Miró had his studio on Passatge del Crèdit, in Barcelona [reconstruction of Barcelona after the bombings; stone blocks and cart], 1947-48
Joaquim Gomis Archive, held at Arxiu Nacional de Catalunya © Hereus de Joaquim Gomis, 2020



Joaquim Gomis. Mas Miró in Mont-roig del Camp [cart followed by a dog], 1946
Joaquim Gomis Archive, held at Arxiu Nacional de Catalunya © Hereus de Joaquim Gomis, 2020

This selection of photographs by Joaquim Gomis captures a historic and personal moment of suspended time, of collective post-traumatic shock, of absences, and very slow reconstruction. They are images that correspond to the mood and the gaze of the photographer, who felt he belonged on the losing side of the Spanish war, just like Joan Miró did, and so many kindred spirits. Together, as they took stock of the new reality, they tried to resume—discreetly so as not to elicit the attention of the fascist regime—old projects truncated by the war.

By the time one collective regret emerges, the flood of ignorance surges elsewhere in the world. When the era of regret for that particular deluge is about to dawn, subsequent waves of darkness submerge other corners of the world.

Kamleshwar, *Kitne Pakistan*
(2000; translated from the original Hindi as *Partitions*, 2006)

Fundació Joan Miró Barcelona

Joaquim Gomis i Serdañons (Barcelona, 1902-1991) was an entrepreneur, photographer, art promoter and the first president of the Fundació Joan Miró (1972-1975). For more than five decades, he produced a broad and powerful body of photographic work in keeping with the most avant-garde artistic expression of his time. He was a founder member of ADLAN (Friends of the New Art, 1932-1936) and of Club 49 (1949-1971), two of the groups that were most active in promoting the new art in Catalonia between 1930 and 1970.

Since 2012, the Fundació Joan Miró has organised photography exhibitions in the foyer. Through an agreement with the heirs of Joaquim Gomis and the Catalan Government, the Foundation manages the Gomis Archive and disseminates and promotes the study of this Catalan photographer's work. To this end, the Foundation organises temporary exhibitions of Gomis's work in this space, alternating with shows featuring the work of other amateur photographers.

Images available at <https://bit.ly/BCNMontroigKarachi>

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