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## Press Release

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**The Fundació Joan Miró, the Fundación Abertis, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the Embassy of Spain in Greece and the Instituto Cervantes open the *Miró Universe* exhibition in Athens with a renewed selection of works by the artist**

- From 13 to 27 July 2023, the Instituto Cervantes in Athens is hosting a renewed edition of the *Miró Universe* touring exhibition, which includes a selection of pictorial and sculptural works by the artist, as well as photographs by Joaquim Gomis showing Miró's creative process.
- Through works from Miró's final stage of creation, the exhibition will allow visitors to get a glimpse of how the artist worked and consolidated his own language, which he gradually refined throughout his prolific career.
- *Miró Universe* arrives in the Greek capital after a successful international tour that took it to Rome, Berlin, Dublin, Brussels, Paris, New Delhi, Puerto Rico and Mexico, thanks to collaboration between the Fundació Joan Miró and the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, the Instituto Cervantes, AECID and the Fundación Abertis.

**Barcelona, 12 July 2023.** This summer, the public will be able to visit the wholly renewed *Miró Universe* touring exhibition at the **Instituto Cervantes in Athens** from 13 to 27 July. As part of an international tour that has already taken it to countries like France, Italy, Germany, the United States, Mexico and Puerto Rico, the exhibition is now being opened in the Greek capital to mark the Spanish Presidency of the European Union. On this occasion, the show will incorporate new pictorial and sculptural works by Joan Miró, as well as a renewed selection of photographs of the artist's creative process taken by Joaquim Gomis, which have come from the Arxiu Nacional de Catalunya.

Specifically, visitors to the exhibition will have the chance to see the **paintings** *Woman and Birds* (1969), *Painting* (1971-1973) and *Head, Bird* (1976) from the Fundació Joan Miró holdings. All three works are from the artist's final stage, in which he combined denser compositions that tended to occupy the entire pictorial surface with other simpler, more gestural and poetic ones. In the words of **Véronique Dupas**, the exhibition curator and author of the text for the publication accompanying the show, 'despite the differences from a formal viewpoint, the show's three paintings share the use of one chromatic range, reduced to primary colours and accompanied by black, which acquires a structural function.'



The careful selection for *Miró Universe* also includes the **sculptures** *Woman* (1966) and *Figure* (1968) from the Fundació Joan Miró holdings. These were created in the 1960s, when Miró set out on a path of ambitious sculptural production connected with the *objet trouvé* or found object. As Dupas points out, 'the artist found inspiration in all kinds of materials gathered randomly from nature during his walks, and in objects shaped by the hands of man, which he collected in his studios.'

In addition, *Miró Universe* presents a selection of **photographs** that document the artist's creative processes and working environments. The snapshots are by **Joaquim Gomis** (Barcelona, 1902-1991), an art promoter and great friend of Joan Miró, who photographed the artist's work and creative environment throughout his career. Gomis was the first president of the Board of Trustees of the Fundació Joan Miró, where, at the wishes of his heirs, his photographic archive held on long-term loan at the Arxiu Nacional de Catalunya is managed and disseminated.

The works allow visitors to discover how Miró 'became a **multidisciplinary artist** capable of working in various registers ranging from the dense to the light, from large to small formats, from violence to poetry,' the curator concludes.

*Miró Universe* arrives in Athens as part of a **successful international tour** that began in 2019, which has taken the exhibition to the Spain's embassies in Rome, Berlin, Dublin, Brussels, Paris and New Delhi, the residence of the Spanish Ambassador in Washington, the Centro Cultural de España in Mexico and the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico. The project is promoted by the Fundació Joan Miró and counts on the collaboration of the Fundación Abertis, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and the Instituto Cervantes.

### About Joan Miró

Barcelona, 1893 – Palma, 1983

Joan Miró was born in Barcelona in 1893, but the emotional landscapes that shaped him as a person and an artist were principally those of Mont-roig, Paris and Majorca, and later those of New York and Japan. The small town of Mont-roig in the Baix Camp region of Catalonia was a counterpoint to the intellectual ferment of his life with the surrealist poets in 1920s' Paris, and to the stimulus of discovering Abstract Expressionism in New York in the forties. Some time later, in the midst of World War II, Joan Miró returned from exile in France and settled in Palma de Mallorca, which became his refuge and workplace and where his friend Josep Lluís Sert designed the studio of his dreams.

Miró's attachment to the landscape of Mont-roig first and then Majorca was crucial in his work. His connection to the land and his interest in everyday objects and in the natural environment formed the backdrop to some of his technical and formal research. Miró avoided academicism in his constant quest for a pure, global art that could not be classified under any specific movement. Self-



contained in his manners and public expressions, it is through art that Joan Miró showed his rebelliousness and a strong sensitivity to the political and social events around him. These conflicting forces led him to create a unique and extremely personal language that makes him one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

### **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 is home to a unique collection of Joan Miró's works, his personal library and an archive of all his preparatory drawings, thus making it a centre of reference for research, dissemination and promotion of the artist's production and legacy. Since its opening as the first museum in Barcelona dedicated to modern and contemporary art, the Fundació Joan Miró has shared the artist's work and legacy with the world. With support from public and private institutions, it has promoted and developed international projects and numerous temporary exhibitions. It is also the driving force behind Espai 13, one of the first galleries given over to emerging artists and curators and an active educational space that fosters creativity and a greater understanding of modern and contemporary artistic practices.

### **About the Fundación Abertis**

The Fundación Abertis was founded in 1999 as a non-profit organisation with the aim of contributing to the sustainable development of the different regions and countries where the Abertis Group has a presence. In recent years, the Fundación Abertis has managed to spread culture in the regions where it operates. It has done this by bringing the work of great Spanish artists such as Joan Miró, Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dalí, Diego Velázquez and Antoni Gaudí closer to the public in countries such as France, Italy, Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

In addition, the Fundación Abertis carries out a range of actions aimed at improving road safety to reduce accidents, as well as social initiatives for the most disadvantaged groups, and contributes to the development of the International Network of Abertis Chairs in those countries where it has a presence, such as Spain, France, Puerto Rico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Italy and Mexico.

### **Selection of images of works for the press**

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Images of the works and the room are available at: <http://bit.ly/UniversMiró>



Joan Miró. *Woman and Birds*, 1969

Oil on canvas

Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona

Private collection long-term loan

© Successió Miró, 2023



Joan Miró. *Painting*, 1971-1973

Oil on canvas

Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona

Private collection long-term loan

© Successió Miró, 2023



Joan Miró. *Head, Bird*, 1976

Oil on canvas

Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona

Private collection long-term loan

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Joan Miró. *Woman*, 1966

Bronze

Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona

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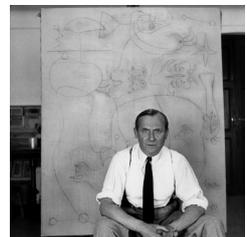




Joan Miró. *Figure*, 1968  
Bronze  
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona  
© Successió Miró, 2023



Joaquim Gomis. *Portrait of Joan Miró*, 1944  
Joaquim Gomis holdings, on long-term loan to the Arxiu Nacional de Catalunya  
© Herederos de Joaquim Gomis. Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona, 2023



Joaquim Gomis. *Joan Miró at the Gimeno Foundry*, 1946  
Joaquim Gomis holdings, on long-term loan to the Arxiu Nacional de Catalunya  
© Herederos de Joaquim Gomis. Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona, 2023



Joaquim Gomis. *Joan Miró's Studio, Son Abrines, Palma de Mallorca*, 1961  
Joaquim Gomis holdings, on long-term loan to the Arxiu Nacional de Catalunya  
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Joaquim Gomis. *Interior of Joan Miró's Studio, Son Abrines, Palma de Mallorca*, 1961  
Joaquim Gomis holdings, on long-term loan to the Arxiu Nacional de Catalunya  
© Herederos de Joaquim Gomis. Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona, 2023



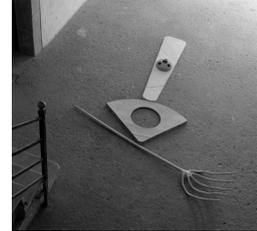
**Fundació Joan Miró** \* J... Barcelona



Joaquim Gomis. *Preparatory objects for The Pitchfork sculpture in the Studio in Son Boter, Palma de Mallorca, 1961*

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

© Herederos de Joaquim Gomis. Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona, 2023



**More information is available from:**

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