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## Press Release

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### **Fundació Joan Miró and Fundación Abertis present a selection of works by Joan Miró in Paris**

**The project Miró Universe will be held in the Spanish Embassy in France with the collaboration Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, and Abertis Foundation.**

**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.**

**Abertis, through its Foundation, collaborates with large cultural institutions with the aim of promoting culture and accompanying the Public Administrations of the countries in which it is present.**

**Barcelona, 11 February, 2021.** 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; and 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.

The works of *Miró Universe* arrive at the Embassy in Paris after having been presented in Rome, Berlin, Dublin and Brussels with the collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Abertis Foundation and the Fundació Joan Miró.

### **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 shown artist's legacy. With the support of Public and private Institutions, has developed international projects and 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, an international reference group in the management of motorways, has a strong commitment with culture. In recent years, Abertis 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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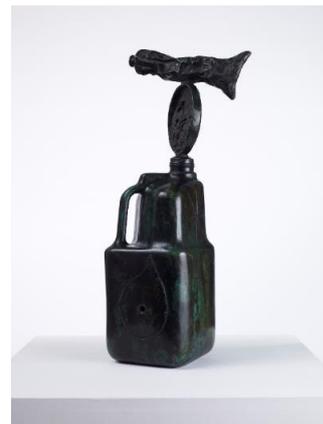
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Joan Miró. *Personnage, oiseau II*, 1973  
Oil on canvas  
Private collection  
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Joan Miró. *Femme, oiseau* 1972  
Bronze  
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona  
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Joaquim Gomis. *Portrait of Joan Miró*, 1944.  
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