

**Joan Miró. La forza della materia**

**Joan Miró exhibition in Milano, Italy**

March 25 – September 11, 2016

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## Press release

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**The Fundació Joan Miró organizes in Milano, Italy, the exhibition *Joan Miró. La forza della materia*, a show that brings together a total of 114 works by the artist**

***Joan Miró. La forza della materia* highlights the will of Miró of reaching the purity of art by exploring beyond conventional painting. The show illustrates the constant experimentation with techniques, media and different procedures that led him to the development of a new culture of matter.**

**Under the direction of Rosa Maria Malet, the Fundació Joan Miró in Barcelona organizes this exhibition, which has sixty-six works from its collection. The show includes paintings, drawings, sculptures and graphic works made between 1931 and 1981.**

**The exhibition will be open from March 25 to September 11, 2016 at the MUDEC, Museo delle Culture, Milano, Italy.**

*"Matter, the instrument gives me the technique, a means to give life to one thing [...] In my painting, a small line with a thick shape at the end is a surprise. I'm as surprised [...] More than the picture itself, what counts is what brings out into the air, what diffuses."* With these words, collected by Yvon Taillandier in an interview in 1959 at *Xxe Siècle*, Joan Miró reflects on the importance of experimentation with matter in his work and on the freedom and its creation effects in various media.

*Joan Miró. La forza della materia* includes a broad representation of this experimentation with matter, through 114 works of their funds and private collections, presented in four rooms. In the first one, paintings and drawings from 1931 and 1944 are exhibited, most of which produced under the influence of the Spanish Civil War and World War II. Thus, these works synthesize the tragedy of this period and show the new symbolic language that Miró configured.

The move of Joan Miró in 1956 to Palma de Mallorca, where his friend, the architect Josep Lluís Sert, had designed a studio, is the starting point of the exhibits in the second room. The paintings of this space show how Miró, with the desire to reach an increasingly anonymous artistic expression, releases his gesture. At maturity of his career, a continuing interest in matter and its possibilities lead him to work with profusion bronze sculpture, also represented in this room. Miró uses the *lost-wax* process to give life to new beings by the assembly of objects, mainly from natural and popular environment.

The third room presents a series of works of the seventies in which Miró continued questioning the ultimate meaning of the painting without ever leaving it. With the intention of removing all illusory elements of his painting, he underwent it to the most unorthodox practices -for example, burning the canvases- while uses or reuses the most unusual medias, wood, sandpaper, paintings *pompier* style, etc. Destroying and creating both, the artist provokes the viewer and questions the economic value of the artwork.

The last section of the exhibition focuses on the sculptural and graphic works of Miró, modalities with immense technical possibilities enhanced by collaborative work with artisans. In this room are remarkable his works with carborundum -an artificial abrasive made from powder of carbon and silicon-, that allows him to enrich the matter and enhance the line of the engravings. In each of these disciplines, Joan Miró challenges the technique seeking the freedom of expression that he achieved with painting.

*Joan Miró. La forza della materia* is organized by the Fundació Joan Miró in Milano, Italy at the MUDEC, Museo delle Culture, a center dedicated to the interdisciplinary research on the world cultures. Taking inspirations from the civic ethnographic collections and in partnership with our communities, MUDEC intend to create a place where to dialogue on contemporary themes by the medium of visual, performing and sound art, design and costume. The MUDEC presents an innovative form of governance with a partnership between the public and private sectors involving the Milan City Council and 24 ORE Cultura – Gruppo 24 Ore.

**For further information:**

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Images for press at <http://bit.ly/1n6T2ZC>

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Joan Miró  
*Personnages et oiseau*  
Figures and bird  
1937  
Indian ink and watercolour on paper  
25 x 32 cm  
Private collection



Joan Miró  
*Femme*  
Woman  
1938  
Colored crayón, pastel, Indian ink  
and gouache on paper  
41 x 33 cm  
Private collection



Joan Miró  
*Personnages, oiseau, étoiles*  
Figures, bird, stars  
1942  
Pencil, watercolour, gouache, Indian ink  
and pastel on paper  
66 x 51 cm  
Private collection



Joan Miró  
*Femmes, oiseau, étoiles*  
Women, bird, stars  
1942  
Pencil, lead pencil, pastel, Indian  
ink and watercolour on paper  
42,5 x 79 cm  
Private collection



Joan Miró  
Painting  
1960  
Oil, graphite pencil and mastic on  
wood  
50 x 58 cm  
Private collection



Joan Miró  
Painting  
1962  
Oil on rag  
229 x 67 cm  
Private collection



Joan Miró  
*Vol de canards, femme, étoile*  
Flight of ducks, woman, stars  
1965  
Oil on « pompier » -style canvas  
100 x 50 cm  
Private collection



Joan Miró  
*Femme III*  
Woman III  
1965  
Oil and acrylic on canvas  
116 x 81 cm  
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona



Joan Miró  
*Femme au clair de lune*  
Woman by moonlight  
1970  
Gouache, Indian ink and wax  
crayon on paper  
99 x 61 cm  
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona



Joan Miró  
*Femme dans la nuit*  
Woman in the night  
1973  
Acrylic on canvas  
195 x 130 cm  
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona



Joan Miró  
*Personnage dans la nuit*  
Figure in the night  
1974  
Oil on canvas  
73 x 92 cm  
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona



Joan Miró  
*Poème*  
Poem  
1974  
Oil on canvas  
130 x 97 cm  
Private collection



Joan Miró  
*Tête*  
Head  
1940-1974  
Acrylic on canvas  
65 x 50 cm  
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona



Joan Miró  
*Personnage, oiseaux*  
Figure, birds  
1975  
Oil, Indian ink and graphite pencil on  
cardboard  
63 x 49,3 cm  
Private collection



Joan Miró  
*Personnage, oiseau*  
Figure, bird  
1976  
Oil on wood  
77 x 50 cm  
Private collection



Joan Miró  
*Personnage, oiseaux*  
Figure, birds  
1976  
Oil and wax crayon on tarred  
packaging paper stapled on wood  
77 x 50 cm  
Private collection



Joan Miró  
*Bas-relief*  
Bas-relief  
1969  
Bronze  
35,5 x 22,5 x 4,5 cm  
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona



Joan Miró  
*Coq*  
Cok  
1970  
Bronze  
53 x 38,3 x 58,8 cm  
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona



Joan Miró  
*Personage*  
Figure  
1981  
Bronze  
88,5 x 62,5 x 47,5 cm  
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona



Joan Miró  
Starting-point for Figure, 1981  
Cloth napkin  
18 x 13,5 x 0,5 cm  
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona



Joan Miró  
*Les Deux Amis*  
Two friends  
1969  
Etching, aquatint and carborundum  
71,5 x 106,5 cm  
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona



Joan Miró  
*Pantagruel*  
1978  
Etching, aquatint, carborundum and  
grattage  
106,8 x 74,7 cm  
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona



Joan Miró  
*L'Égyptienne*  
Egyptian girl  
1977  
Etching, aquatint and carborundum  
121,5 x 85 cm  
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona



Joan Miró  
*Mambo*  
1978  
Etching and aquatint  
114,3 x 73,9 cm  
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona



**Fundació Joan Miró** ✱  Barcelona