

## International Symposium. *Miró and Twentieth-Century Sculpture*

Friday 15 and Saturday 16 April 2016

CaixaForum Madrid

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### Press Release

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**Càtedra Miró presents *Miró and Twentieth-Century Sculpture*, an international symposium that places Joan Miró's work within the tradition of modern sculpture, in dialogue with the work of other artists.**

**The conference is coordinated by Robert Lubar Messeri, Director of the New York University Madrid, of the Càtedra Miró and of the International Miró Research Group. It will be held at CaixaForum Madrid, with the participation of Elizabeth Cowling, Robert Slifkin, Briony Fer, Julia Domènech, Thierry Dufrêne, Alexander Potts, William Jeffett, Perejaume and Juan Luis Moraza. The artist's grandson, Joan Punyet Miró, will participate in the closing session.**

***Miró and Twentieth-Century Sculpture* is organised by the Càtedra Miró, impelled by Fundació Joan Miró and Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, and NYU Madrid, with the support of the Graduate Research Initiative (NYU) and the collaboration of Obra Social "la Caixa".**

#### **Barcelona, 4 April 2016.-**

*"I only use the objects I find. I gather them altogether in my studio, which is very large. I lay the objects all around on the floor and I choose this one or that one. I never make sculptures from sketches, I just put them together."* (Joan Miró in Dean Swanson, *Interview de Miró à propos des sculptures*. Minneapolis: Walker Art Center, 1971)

From his early experiments with sculptures and object-based collages to his initial forays into casting and his mature works, Joan Miró's sculptural practice invites comparison with the work of other artists such as Julio González, Pablo Picasso, Max Ernst, Hans Arp, Isamu Noguchi, Alberto Giacometti, Henry Moore and David Smith, to name a few.

The papers presented at the international symposium ***Miró and Twentieth-Century Sculpture*** will address topics ranging from sculpture techniques and processes to Miró's position as a maker of surrealist objects and his role in the subsequent development of object-based sculptural practices, as well as his renewal of the techniques and traditions of twentieth-century sculpture.

Rosa Maria Malet, Director, Fundació Joan Miró; Josep A. Planell, Rector, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, and Ignasi Miró, Director, Àrea de Cultura, Fundació Bancària "la Caixa", will open the symposium at 9.30 am on 15 April. Robert Lubar Messeri, Director of NYU Madrid, of the Càtedra Miró, and of the International Miró Research Group, and coordinator of the symposium, will introduce the papers that will be presented on the first day: *Miró's Relief Constructions of 1930* by Elizabeth Cowling, Professor Emeritus and Honorary Fellow, The University of Edinburgh; *Joan Miró and Detrital Monumentalism in Postwar Sculpture* by Robert Slifkin, Associate Professor of Modern Art, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU; and *Miró: Starting Points for Sculpture*, by Briony Fer, Professor of History of Art, University College, London.

The paper *Visual and Linguistic Metaphors in Miró's and Duchamp's Object-Based Sculptures*, by Julia Domènech, Global Instructor at NYU Madrid, will begin the afternoon session. Thierry Dufrière, Professor of History of Art, Université Paris Ouest Nanterre, will present *The Personages of Joan Miró: Entification and Sculpture*, and Alexander Potts, Max Loehr Collegiate Professor, University of Michigan, will wrap up the day's program with the paper *Modern Sculpture in the Public Sphere: Joan Miró and Eduardo Chillida*.

On Saturday 16 April, William Jeffett, Curator of Special Exhibitions, The Salvador Dalí Museum, St. Petersburg, Florida, and curator of the exhibition *Miró and the Object*, will moderate a roundtable discussion with the artists Perejaume and Juan Juis Moraza. Joan Punyet Miró, representative of Successió Miró and Joan Miró's grandson, and Robert Lubar Messeri, coordinator of the symposium, will close the event.

The symposium ***Miró and Twentieth-Century Sculpture*** will be held at CaixaForum Madrid, which is hosting ***Miró and the Object*** until 22 May 2016. Curated by William Jeffett, it is the first exhibition to specifically explore the role of the object in the work of Joan Miró. It shows how Miró began with pictorial representation of objects, moved onto physically incorporating them in his works by means of collage and assemblage, and ended up exploring new techniques such as ceramics and sculpture.

The exhibition, organised jointly by the Fundació Joan Miró and Obra Social "la Caixa", presents over a hundred works from the Fundació Joan Miró collection and other major public and private collections in Europe and America, as well as a selection of original objects that Miró collected throughout all his life.

**More information:**

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