
Press release

The Fundació Joan Miró and the Fundació Vila Casas sign a long-term collaboration agreement linked to the Joan Miró Collection.

From January 2020 until 2030, the Fundació Vila Casas will contribute 100,000 euros a year to the Fundació Joan Miró for the conservation of the artist's collection. This endowment will be used to restore, update and enhance the value of all the activities related to the Fundació Joan Miró's collection, in order to guarantee its improvement and excellence.

The agreement is an act of generosity and civic responsibility by art promoter Antoni Vila Casas, and mirrors the act Joan Miró carried out through the creation of the Barcelona-based foundation that bears his name. In the same way as its instigators, the Vila Casas and Joan Miró foundations are committed to art and culture as transforming elements of a society.

Barcelona, 2 December 2019. Antoni Vila Casas, president of the Fundació Vila Casas, and Sara Puig, president of the Fundació Joan Miró, signed the agreement at an event held today in the rooms of the Joan Miró Collection of the Fundació Joan Miró. Thanks to the collaboration between both institutions, from 2020 to 2030 the Fundació Joan Miró will receive 100,000 euros a year from the Fundació Vila Casas for the conservation of the Joan Miró Collection. Thus, the Fundació Vila Casas becomes a Major Partner of the Fundació Joan Miró, and its president, Antoni Vila Casas, a member of the emeritus Fundació Joan Miró board of trustees.

During the act of signing the agreement, Antoni Vila Casas praised Joan Miró as “the greatest Catalan painter of the last hundred years, the number one artist in the country”, and that this agreement is a gesture of “necessary protection” of the Fundació Joan Miró’s collection. For her part, Sara Puig expressed her deep gratitude for the complicity and generosity art promoter Antoni Vila Casas has shown with Joan Miró’s legacy. Marko Daniel, director of the Fundació Joan Miró, advanced some of the conservation projects that could be expedited thanks to this agreement, such as the restoration of the archive of sketches and drawings on paper and of the artist's personal library collection, among others.

The works of art that make up the Joan Miró Collection come from the donation made by the artist at the time of opening the Foundation to the public in 1975. Over the years, various generous donations have been made and added, including those by Miró's wife Pilar Juncosa, his friend Joan Prats and different members of the Miró family, as well as pieces from other public and private collections that continue to enrich a living, diverse and complete collection.

The collection is currently made up of 217 paintings, 178 sculptures, 2 objects, 4 ceramic pieces, 9 tapestries, around 8,000 preparatory sketches of virtually all of his pieces, and the almost complete collection of the artist's graphic and lithographic work. The Foundation also preserves the artist's personal library, thanks to the Miró family's archive. Ultimately, a unique collection that offers multiple ways of investigating Joan Miró's artistic career, and one that is essential to the study, research and dissemination of Miro's work.

Part of the collection is exhibited in the rooms that Joan Miró and Josep Lluís Sert designed together in Montjuïc. These spaces represent the friendship and dialogue that connected the artist and the architect, and were expanded in 1988 by Jaume Freixa. Their approach enhances the unique dialogue between art, architecture and landscape that characterises the Fundació Joan Miró.

Fundació Vila Casas

The Fundació Vila Casas was founded in 1986 by pharmaceutical entrepreneur Antoni Vila Casas to reinforce health research. Then, from 1998, the basis of his artistic project was established: to collect, preserve and disseminate contemporary Catalan art from the period between 1930 and 2030. Tradition, culture and language are the axes of Catalan identity, and the essence and *raison d'être* of the institution. It currently owns four exhibition spaces—the Can Framis Museum and the Espais Volart in Barcelona and the Palau Solterra and Can Mario museums in Torroella de Montgrí and Palafrugell respectively—which are all part of Catalonia's architectural legacy. In this way, the Fundació Vila Casas becomes a platform for the exhibition of the permanent part of its collection, as well as for the celebration of temporary exhibitions by the artists who feature in it. As for its work in the social health field, the Foundation develops research projects in order to establish a channel of dialogue between health professionals, society and the media.

Fundació Joan Miró

The Fundació Joan Miró, created by the artist himself, opened the doors to the public in Montjuïc in 1975. The building, designed by Josep Lluís Sert in direct collaboration with Joan Miró, houses a unique collection of works by the artist, in addition to his personal library and an archive with virtually all of his preliminary drawings. The Fundació Joan Miró was the first museum in Barcelona dedicated to modern and contemporary art, and since then it has hosted numerous temporary exhibitions. One of its spaces, Espai 13, was one of the first rooms dedicated to emerging artists and curators, in response to Joan Miró's willingness to support the new generations of creators, as well as an educational environment for the promotion of creativity and understanding of modern and contemporary artistic practices.

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