



surrealist **women**

and their connections with Catalonia

MAYORAL

VALENTINE HUGO
MARUJA MALLO
LEE MILLER
FRIDA KAHLO
DORA MAAR
REMEDIOS VARO
ÁNGELES SANTOS
LEONORA CARRINGTON

13th January - 1st April 2017

Curated by Victoria Combalía

MAYORAL

Consell de Cent 286, Barcelona

Surrealist Women at Mayoral

AN EXHIBITION OF SURREALIST WOMEN
IS PRESENTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SPAIN

The exhibition “**Surrealist Women**” will show twenty works by eight surrealist women somehow connected to Catalonia: **Valentine Hugo, Maruja Mallo, Lee Miller, Frida Kahlo, Dora Maar, Remedios Varo, Ángeles Santos** and **Leonora Carrington**. This project, exhibited for the first time in Spain, is curated by art historian and art critic Victoria Combalía.

In this artistic proposal some unpublished pieces stand out, such as Frida Kahlo's *Self-portrait as Genitals* (1944), or five works by Valentine Hugo, like her print *Portrait of Picasso*, and the *Cadavre exquis* by Valentine Hugo with André Breton and Greta Knutson.

Jordi Mayoral, director of the gallery, explains why this project has been carried out: “We thought that showing a selection of their creations was not only timely, but also an act of justice and artistic recognition. Our goals are to offer an exhibition of some of their works and to stimulate reflection on these women artists. We want to understand how, and in what ways, they keep on questioning our young creators and our society today; we want to recover them and their artwork, because they reveal a great story of innovation and creation.”

The curator, Victoria Combalía, points out: “When the gallery asked me to prepare an exhibition of surrealist women artists connected to Catalonia, I thought it would be difficult, but also a great challenge. Some of these pieces have never been seen in the Spanish State before, like those of Valentine Hugo and Frida Kahlo. The selection of artists has been made according to whether they had Catalan origin, exhibited or travelled around Catalan territory, or had a romantic liaison with a Catalan, as in the case of Frida Kahlo's passion for Catalan artist Josep Bartolí.”

Curator's Biography

Victoria Combalía Dexeus was born in 1952 in Barcelona. She received her BA in Art History from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Her dissertation, finished in 1974, became a little book, an essential point of reference today: *La poética de lo neutro. Análisis y crítica del arte conceptual* (The Poetics of the Neutral: An Analysis and Critique of Conceptual Art), published by Anagrama in 1975, and re-edited by De Bolsillo in 2005.

In 1975 she went to Paris to study at, in the École Pratique de Hautes Études, where she was a student of Tzvetan Todorov and Julia Kristeva, and attended lectures by Michel Foucault.

From 1974 to 2013, she taught Contemporary Art at the University of Barcelona, and retired as a professor in October 2013.

From 1979 to 1981, Victoria Combalía was a visiting scholar at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, where she worked on her doctoral dissertation, which was about Gustave Courbet and modernity, and bore the title: “Gustave Courbet: A Research into the Genesis and Influence of His Art.”

From 1983 to 1996 she was Head Critic for the Arts Section of the newspaper *El País*. And from 1996 to 2009 she collaborated monthly on the op-ed page.

Together with Alicia Suárez and Mercè Vidal, she founded the magazine *ARTILUGI* (1977-1982). And with Albert Ràfols Casamada, Maria Girona, Joan Hernández Pijuan and Carles Hac Mor, she founded the art and poetry magazine *AMPIT* (1983-1984).

Victoria Combalía is a specialist in Dora Maar and Joan Miró.

She is a founder-member of the Catalan Association of Art Critics, and a member of the Spanish Association of Art Critics and of AICA (International Association of Art Critics).

In 2003 she was appointed Chevalière des Arts et des Lettres by the Ministry of Culture of the French Republic.

On 5 May 2009, the Generalitat de Catalunya (Government of Catalonia) awarded her the President Macià Medal.

**Valentine Hugo
with André Breton and Greta Knutson**

Exquisite Corpse
(1929)

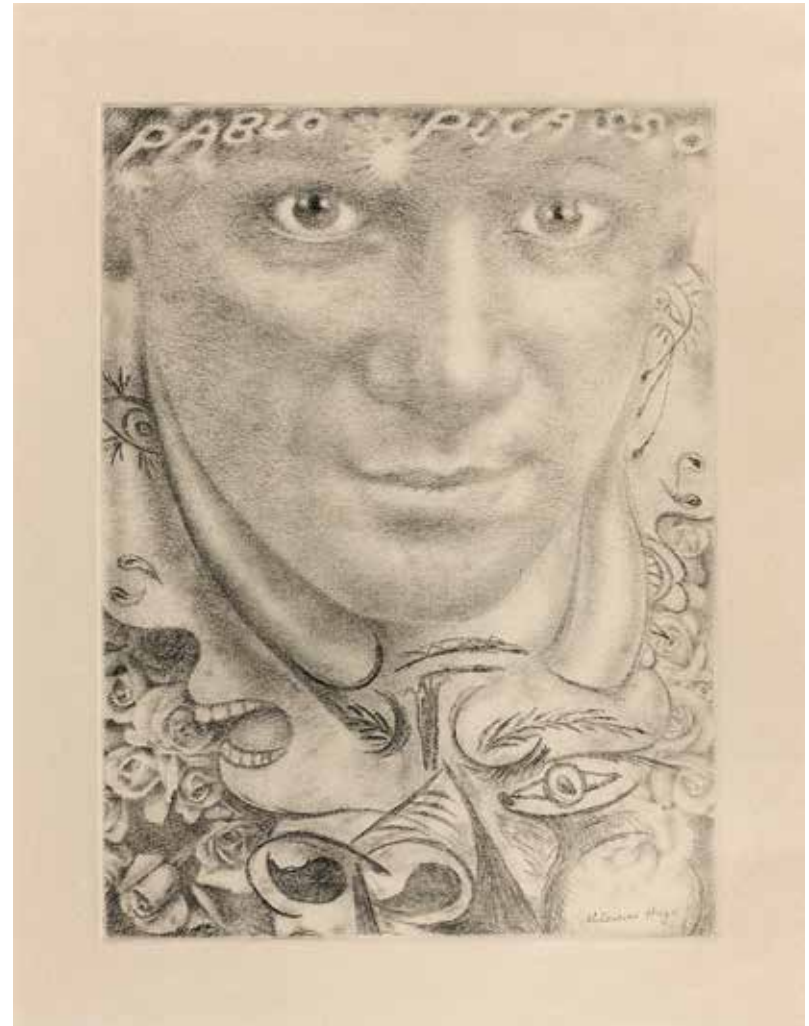
Coloured pencils on black paper
32.5 x 25 cm (13 x 9.8 in)



Valentine Hugo

Portrait of Picasso
(n.d.)

Engraving
39.5 x 28.5 cm (16 x 11 in)



Maruja Mallo

Heads and Athletes
(c. 1945)

Ink, coloured pencils and white chalk on paper
32.5 x 48 cm (13 x 19 in)



Frida Kahlo

Self-portrait Drawing
(c. 1937)

Pencil and coloured pencil on tracing paper
27.9 x 21.6 cm (11 x 8.5 in)



Frida Kahlo

Self-portrait as Genitals
(1944)

Charcoal and coloured chalk on paper
17.8 x 11.4 cm (7 x 4.5 in)



Dora Maar

Portrait of Maria Dolors Miró
(c. 1938)

Silver gelatin print mounted on cardboard
23 x 17 cm (9.1 x 6.7 in)



Remedios Varo

Woman or the Spirit of the Night
(1952)

Gouache on cardboard
43 x 22 cm (17 x 8.7 in)



Ángeles Santos

Soul Fleeing a Dream
(c. 1929)

Oil on canvas
52 x 45 cm (20 x 18 in)



Leonora Carrington

Untitled (Horses)
(1997)

Pencil on paper
39 x 60.5 cm (15 x 24 in)



About Mayoral

Mayoral is a gallery specialising in museum-quality post-war and Modern art, focusing on artists with a connection to the city of Barcelona. Founded in 1989 in Barcelona, Mayoral's exhibition programme has brought into focus historical works by major avant-garde artists of the twentieth century. The gallery works with Dalí, Miró and Picasso, as well as modern masters such as Chagall, Chillida, Fontana, Léger, Magritte and those of the Catalan artistic group Dau al Set: Brossa, Cuixart, Ponç, Tàpies and Tharrats.

Working in close collaboration with the families and estates of the artists, Mayoral ensure their integrity and legacy is preserved and a high level of historical accuracy is achieved in the gallery's innovative, carefully curated exhibitions and displays. Mayoral are a long-standing supporter and patron of the Fundació Joan Miró in Barcelona. Mayoral were behind the immersive exhibition which recreated Miró's atelier entitled *Miró's Studio* that took place in London in January 2016 in collaboration with historian Joan Punyet Miró, the artist's grandson.

The gallery's activity extends internationally, through participation in international art fairs such as Masterpiece, London and The Armory Show, New York, and close relationships with important private collections and museums, such as MoMA, the Picasso Museum, the Thyssen-Bornemisza and the Reina Sofía. Recent key exhibitions in their Barcelona premises have included: *Miró/Calder* (2014); *Miró. Le courtisan grotesque* (2005); *Dalí. The worries of a genius* (2004); *35 Picassos* (2008); and *Chillida-Awakening* (2015).

If you want further information, don't hesitate to contact us:

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