

ART REVOLUTIONARIES

Homage to the Pavilion of the Spanish Republic, 1937

17th January - 10th February 2017 (London)



Hugo Paul, Calder with *Mercury Fountain* in the Spanish Pavilion at the Paris World's Fair, 1937.



Unknown photograph, Joan Miró painting *El Segador*, 1937.



Dora Maar, Picasso in his studio of Grands-Augustins on a ladder in front of the *Guernica*, 1937.

"[...] Artists who live and work spiritual values cannot and should not remain indifferent to a conflict in which the highest values of humanity and civilisation are at stake."

— Pablo Picasso —

"Because I humanely sympathised with what it represented."

— Joan Miró —

"When I saw what was going on in general in this pavilion, which included *Guernica* by Picasso, I promptly volunteered my services to do something or other for it."

— Alexander Calder —

MAYORAL

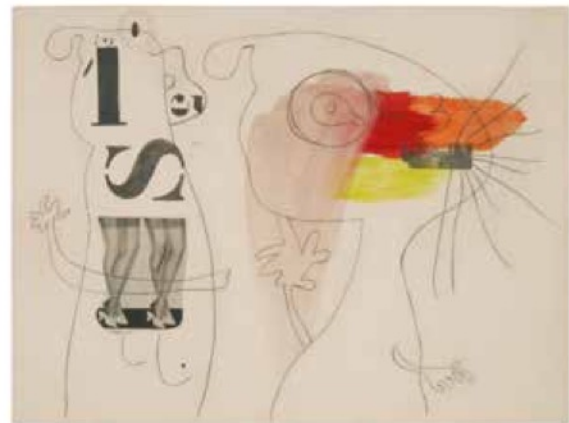
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“Art Revolutionaries” is a historically accurate project featuring works by Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Alexander Calder and Julio González. The exhibition has been the result of a year-long research and document gathering; intense work has been carried out, full of interesting findings and discoveries, that enables us to show and evoke the Spanish Pavilion in a most accurate and faithful way, recreating part of the building and allowing the viewer to feel immersed in the atmosphere of that period.

“As Catalans, we are very conscious of the importance of the Spanish Civil War, of the fight for the ideals of freedom; as art lovers and professionals, we know that the works created by our artists then are still part of our collective memory and that they represented a turning point.”

— Jordi & Eduard Mayoral —

Including seventeen paintings, drawings and sculptures, the selection of works — among which *Standing Woman and Sitting Woman* (1939) and *Woman Head* (1957) by Picasso, *Untitled* (1934) and *Métamorphose* (1936) by Miró, and *The Red Base* (1969) and *Crag with Yellow Boomerang and Red Eggplant* (1974) by Calder, stand out— shares a very close link with those presented by the republican artists in 1937. Many of them are created by the same technique, style or have the same story behind its conception.



Joan Miró, *Métamorphose* (1936), pencil, Indian ink, wash, decal and watercolor on paper, 48.3 x 63.8 cm (19 x 25.1 in.)

80 years since the exhibition in 1937

The exhibition commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Exposition Internationale des Arts et des Techniques appliquées à la Vie Moderne, in 1937 in Paris, with the aim of paying homage to the artists who took place in it.

The curator of the show, Juan Manuel Bonet, former director of the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid, explains: “Everyday there is an increasing awareness that the International Exposition was an exceptional event”. The Spanish Pavilion for the Universal Exposition of Paris, 1937, was created in a period of great turbulence, as Spain was in the midst of a Civil War. For this reason, the Pavilion presented by the Spanish Republican Government became a strategic platform to vindicate the tragic situation the country was going through.



Patio and Auditorium of the Spanish Pavilion, Paris, 1937, © Succession Picasso 2016, © Calder Foundation 2016, © RMN/François Kollar, © Ministère de la Culture - Médiathèque du Patrimoine, Dist. RMN. [Detail].

The architects who designed the building were Josep Lluís Sert and Luis Lacasa, and José Gaos was the curator of the exhibition. The main artists: Picasso (*Guernica*), Miró (*The Reaper*), Calder (*Mercury Fountain*) and González (*Montserrat*) created some of the most relevant pieces in art history.

In this regard, Picasso commented: “Maybe, later on, some art historian will prove that my painting has changed because of the war. I myself don't know”. According to Joan Miró's grandson Joan Punyet Miró: “*The Reaper* and the *Guernica* seemed political propaganda posters of monumental dimensions. Nobody chose a solid and durable support, because they knew in advance that those works were ephemeral, just to make an impact, and that they would finally disappear together with the pavilion.”

“Art Revolutionaries” is an exhibition whose main protagonists are liberty and oppression, hope and despair. A crucial moment in which everything was at stake and in which, finally, these artists lost a cruel war that forced them into exile, disrupting forever the course of a whole generation of incomparably talented creators.



Pablo Picasso, *Head of a Woman*, 1957, oil on canvas, 33 x 24 cm (13 x 9.4 in.)

Furthermore, a reconstruction of *El Segador (The Reaper)* –approved by the Fundació Joan Miró of Barcelona- will be shown. Thus, the exhibition wish to express, with the utmost enthusiasm and rigor, admiration for a group of brave artists who were committed to their ideals and their nation and who fought for them from their particular trenches: artistic creation.



Alexander Calder, *Crag with Yellow Boomerang and Red Eggplant*, 1974. Painted sheet metal and wire, 198.1 x 238.7 x 104.1 cm. (78 x 94 x 41 in.)

The connection with London

The exhibition has an important archival and documentation section. Alongside Miró's famous mural, we are going to show the involvement of the Artists International Association (an exhibiting society founded in London in 1933, which held exhibitions and events to promote and support various left-of-center political causes); they made many different activities to raise money for Spain.

We will illustrate how other British artists like Felicia Browne (the British artist who fought for the republican side in the Spanish Civil War and who died in combat) and Henri Moore were involved in the Republican cause and the struggle for democracy. Among all the documents, a poster designed by Henri Moore, “We Ask Your Attention”, will be on display. The poster was created on the occasion of the Artists’ International Congress and Exhibition, and published by the Surrealist Group and printed by the Farleigh Press (T. U.), Watford, Herts in 1938.



Henry Moore, Design for ‘We Ask Your Attention’, 1938.
Reproduced by permission of the Henry Moore Foundation.

Documentation from the tour exhibition of the *Guernica* by Picasso will also be shown, the very first stop of which took place in London at the New Burlington Galleries in 1938.

“Art Revolutionaries” has had the collaboration of the best experts in the field, as well as the support of the Successió Miró, the Calder Foundation, the Fundació Joan Miró of Barcelona, the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, the CRAI (University of Barcelona), the Harvard Library and the Henry Moore Foundation.

About Mayoral

Mayoral, founded in 1989, is a gallery specialised in modern and post-war art of Barcelona, focusing on the period 1930-1975. The main artists we represent are Miró, Dalí, Picasso and Tàpies, as well as other great artists related to Barcelona, like Calder, Millares and Chillida. We stage exhibitions of the artists we represent, curated and organized in collaboration with the foundations, associations and families of the artists, who work to safeguard their legacies. The exhibitions, which are the result of a process of research, include: talks, guided visits with experts, conferences, film screenings and educational activities.

Last year 2016 we performed “Miró’s Studio” in London and New York, a project that led us to show the essence of Miró’s cathedral, the atmosphere of his atelier in Palma of Majorca.

The gallery operates on an international scale through its presence in many prestigious art fairs, and has contact with the most important collectors, galleries and museums, such as the MoMA, the Picasso Museum of Barcelona, the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum and the MN-CARS. Mayoral is also a patron of the Fundació Joan Miró in Barcelona.

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#ArtRevolutionaries

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