



## PRESS RELEASE

### BAM presents "Joan Miró. The Essence of Past and Present Things"

From 8 October 2022 to 8 January 2023, the prolific and unclassifiable world of the painter, sculptor, engraver and ceramicist Joan Miró will be on display at BAM, Mons. This is an exceptional event in more ways than one, as Miró's last exhibition in Belgium (Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels) took place in 1956. The present solo show concentrates on the singular approach of one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most influential artists via the bringing together of nearly 100 original artworks that span the Catalan artist's entire career, including his earliest known painting: a landscape of 1908.

The exhibition *Joan Miró: The Essence of Past and Present Things* curated by Victoria Noel-Johnson explores the Catalan artist's work parallel to his traditional artistic formation and life-long rapport with the art of the past. Miró's approach bears witness to an ongoing interest that ranges from Primitivism, Romanesque art, the Italian and Dutch Renaissance, 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch Golden Age, Japanese painting and calligraphy, to modernist trends such as Fauvism and Cubism.

The in-depth analysis of this ever-present and evolving rapport with the art of the past enriches our understanding of his work as a whole. Best known for his imagery associated with Surrealist themes, the exhibited artwork by Joan Miró (Barcelona 1893 – Palma de Mallorca 1986) aims to highlight how the naïf nature of his child-like style hides a profound intellectual sophistication and meticulous research and method. Broken down into an artistic code of symbols – visual metaphors of gestures and complex relationships – Miró infused his canvases with an “underlying magic” vibrating with energy.

Visitors will have the chance to admire nearly 100 artworks (paintings, gouaches, drawings, ceramic pieces and sculptures) thanks to loans secured from prestigious public and private international collections including Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró (Palma de Mallorca), Fundació Joan Miró (Barcelona), Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Musée national Picasso-Paris, Fondation Maeght, LaM, and Galerie Lelong. The exhibition also features a rich selection

of art history books and objects that personally belonged to Miró, as well as museum postcards that the artist sent to friends between the late 1910s and early 1930s.

Interactive and captivating digital devices will punctuate the exhibition path in order to provide the visitor with a greater understanding about Miró's creative process.

This thought-provoking exhibition has been made possible thanks to the support of the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) and the Walloon Region. It continues BAM's international series of exhibitions dedicated to major 20<sup>th</sup> century artists, such as Keith Haring (2010), Niki de Saint Phalle (2018–19), Andy Warhol (2013–14), David LaChapelle (2017) and, more recently, Roy Lichtenstein (2020–21) and Fernando Botero (2021–22).

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### *Joan Miró. The Essence of Past and Present Things*

08.10.2022 > 08.01.2023

BAM (Beaux-Arts Mons, Rue Neuve 8 – 7000 Mons)

[www.bam.mons.be](http://www.bam.mons.be)

Tickets : [www.visitmons.co.uk](http://www.visitmons.co.uk) ou +32 65 33 55 80

### Press visit

07.10 – 11h

