

MIRÓ MATISSE

Fundació Joan Miró *  Barcelona

MUSÉE MATISSE

Fundación
BBVA



 VILLE DE NICE

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PRESS RELEASE

EXHIBITION

MIRÓMATISSE. BEYOND IMAGES

Vernissage: 24.10.2024

Open to the public: from 25.10.2024 to 9.2.2025

Supervision: Marko Daniel, Director of the Fundació Joan Miró in Barcelona, and Aymeric Jeudy, Director of the Musée Matisse Nice

Curator: Rémi Labrusse, École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris

Curatorial assistance: Véronique Dupas, Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona

Exhibition organised and produced by the Fundació Joan Miró in partnership with the Musée Matisse Nice and sponsored exclusively by the Fundación BBVA

The Fundació Joan Miró and the Fundación BBVA present the exhibition *MiróMatisse. Beyond Images* with the support of the Musée Matisse Nice.

Miró and Matisse: a dialogue between artistic generations arrives in Barcelona following its success in Nice between 28 June and 24 September 2024.

The exhibition takes a chronological approach and focuses on key moments when the exchanges between the artists' gazes were particularly fruitful: the reminiscence of Fauvism in Miró's work in the late 1910s and in the early 1940s. In addition, special emphasis will be placed on Miró's admiration for Matisse's ink drawings and collages from the 1950s onwards, when Matisse became a renewed influence for Miró. This curatorial approach reveals a hitherto unknown dialogue between the two artists, showing how they revolutionised and redefined the boundaries of modern art during their friendship marked by their mutual creative influence and admiration.

This is the first exhibition in Spain to consider the relationship between these two artists and the first opportunity to view such a large number of works by Matisse since the survey exhibition at the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza in 2009. One of the key figures in this encounter between the two artists was Pierre Matisse, the son of Henri Matisse and Miró's art dealer in New York, who acted as a bridge between his father

and Miró, thereby facilitating an exchange that consolidated their artistic and personal bond. This pioneering exhibition explores in depth the connection that transformed the art scene of the twentieth century, offering the public an opportunity to view works never shown in Barcelona before.

The exhibition *MiróMatisse. Beyond Images* is a unique experience as it brings together works from prestigious international collections, among them the MoMA in New York, the Museo Reina Sofía in Madrid, the Musée de Grenoble and Musée des Beaux-Arts in Belgium and the Saint Louis Art Museum, and other pieces generously contributed by the two artists' families. The significance and singularity of the exhibition is further enhanced by the pioneering partnership between the Fundació Joan Miró in Barcelona and the Musée Matisse Nice, institutions that hold the most important legacies of these two artists. *MiróMatisse* is, therefore a pioneering exhibition central to understanding and rethinking the history of European art of the twentieth century.

Barcelona, 22 October 2024. The Fundació Joan Miró in Barcelona, in partnership with the Musée Matisse Nice, presents the exhibition *MiróMatisse. Beyond Images*, which will run from 25 October 2024 to 9 February 2025.

This is a unique and outstanding opportunity to view in Barcelona works by Joan Miró and Henri Matisse never shown in Spain before. In short, it is a fascinating exhibition that will surprise and captivate our audience.

'Beyond Images', firstly, because clichés are questioned in this exhibition. It is true that at first sight it may seem paradoxical to place these two artists side by side. They belong to two different generations (Matisse was born in 1869, Miró in 1893) and they are generally associated with different artistic circles (Fauvism in the case of Matisse, Surrealism in Miró's) and different aesthetic approaches ('decorative' harmony in the case of Matisse and disturbing strangeness in Miró's). Nevertheless, the aim of the exhibition is to show the profound, lasting and constructive relations between the two artists through their concept of art and their artworks.

'Beyond Images' also because both these artists based their creative work on a profound critique of the tradition of images in the West. Their broad concept of the practices of painting and drawing was driven by that critical curiosity. As a consequence, they felt a mutual recognition and admiration.

CREATIVE DIALOGUES

Fauvism, with Matisse as one of its chief exponents, was one of the trends that revolutionised art at the start of the twentieth century. This movement is characterised by a use of colour and freedom from formal constraints that aimed to lead painting to a more visceral and direct expression. In his search for 'elevated decoration', Matisse used colour as a means to express profound emotions and moved away from the faithful depiction of reality.

Miró, for his part, was influenced by Surrealism and so took a radically different approach to painting. Surrealism, with its emphasis on the subconscious and the world of dreams, enabled Miró to explore a realm in which logic and reason were replaced by instinct and intuition. In his works, Miró broke down form and colour, reducing them to their most basic elements, and he created a unique visual language that defied traditional conventions.

Despite these stylistic differences, Miró and Matisse shared profound reflection on the traditions of the image in Western culture. Both questioned the established norms and sought ways of transcending simple visual representation to create works that would resound with human experience at a more profound level. Matisse did so through his search for a decorative harmony that would surmount internal conflicts, while Miró 'assassinated' traditional painting to give rise to a universe of signs and symbols that would invoke a reality beyond what is visible.

Matisse had a deep admiration for Catalonia, a place that played a crucial role in the formation of his style. Ever since his stays in Collioure, a small Catalan port on the French border, he was captivated by the light and rural life of the Mediterranean. It was in Collioure that Matisse, with André Derain, developed Fauvism, an artistic movement characterised by the explosive use of colour and the radical simplification of forms.

A DEEP ADMIRATION

Miró and Matisse thought highly of each other. Matisse, who often referred to Miró as a 'true painter', admired the precision and forcefulness of Miró's use of colour and form. This admiration revealed itself in the 1930s, when Matisse suffered a creative crisis that led him to doubt his own work. During this period, Matisse studied and hung onto a number of works by Miró, in which he found the necessary inspiration to start his artistic approach anew.

Similarly, in the Second World War, Matisse told the poet Louis Aragon, a friend of both artists, that Miró was one of the living artists he most admired:

We were talking about contemporary painters and I asked him who, apart from Picasso, seemed to him to be a true painter. He mentioned the name Bonnard... and then, without hesitation: 'Miró... Yes, Miró... because he can depict anything on his canvases... If he has placed a red blot at a certain spot, you can be sure that it had to be there and nowhere else, that it had to be... If you remove it, the canvas fails.

Henri Matisse to Louis Aragon, c. 1942

For his part, Miró regarded Matisse as a leading figure that he turned to in his search for a visual language that combined Fauvist brutality with a profound inner poetry. In his personal notes, Miró expressed a desire to create works that 'would have a Fauve spirit, but within the bounds of poetry' and that they would even be more 'brutal' than those of Matisse. This connection with Matisse's Fauvism helped Miró to arrive at his own

artistic voice, notable for its chromatic intensity and vital energy that remained constant throughout his career.



Joan Miró y Henri Matisse en el café Les Deux Magots, París, c. 1936 © Pierre Matisse, VEGAP, Barcelona, 2024

A PERSONAL CONNECTION

Despite the age gap of twenty-three years between them and the fact that they lived in different countries, Miró and Matisse began to meet up in Paris in the 1930s thanks to Pierre Matisse, Matisse's youngest son, who became Miró's art dealer in 1934. Pierre, who had inherited from his father a profound respect for painting and artists, played a central role in raising awareness of Miró's work in the United States. Thanks to Pierre's influence and support, Miró showed his work in leading galleries and museums in North America, thereby establishing his international reputation.

This collaboration between Pierre Matisse and Miró strengthened the bonds between the two artists' families and enabled their works to be appreciated in a global context. Miró's trust in Pierre as his representative not only reflected his admiration for the father but also his recognition of the integrity and vision of the son as the promoter of his art.

BEYOND IMAGES

The exhibition *MiróMatisse. Beyond Images* is not just a display of these two artists' works, but also an exploration of the profound intuitions and tensions that led them to transcend traditional images.

This show invites visitors to immerse themselves in the dialogue between these two modern artists, whose friendship and mutual respect prompted them to redefine the limits of painting and left a deep imprint on the history of art.

THE PUBLICATION



Title: *MiróMatisse. Beyond Images*

Pages: 172

ISBN: 978-84-16411-78-8

RRP: €39

Available in: Catalan, English, French and Spanish

Available at: www.miroshop.com

Rémi Labrusse, the author and curator of the exhibition *MiróMatisse. Beyond Images*, explores the friendship between Henri Matisse and Joan Miró, who admired each other's work even though they were members of different generations and art movements. The book, featuring over 180 images, considers the people and situations in order to reveal the profound, lasting and constructive relationship between the two artists.

Contents:

Rémi Labrusse

- One word, plus a photograph
- What is a painter?
- Miró discovers Matisse
- The power of things
- Two nudes
- Fauvism, only more brutal (Matisse's lesson)
- 'Allowing my hand to guide me'
- Figure, disfigure
- Starting over with painting (Miró's lesson)
- Go-betweens: a man's world?
- Decoration, assassination
- Another photograph
- Bibliography of works cited



Véronique Dupas

- Comparative chronology

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

An open and specific programme of activities designed for a range of audiences that you can follow on the foundation's website



PARTICIPATIVE SPACE (Room 21)

From 25 October 2024 to 9 February 2025

Waiting Room, a space designed by Anna Irina Russell and Clàudia del Barrio

Activations of the Participative Space

2 November at 5.30 pm

'A Hug between Upbringing and Coloured Rouge', storytelling with Susy Shock and Personaje Personaje

Audience: families and adults, in Spanish

9 November at 11.30 am

'A Line that Extends the Hand', mural drawing workshop with YASS/YAZZI and Martí Sawe

Audience: families (children aged 6–12)

30 November at 11.00 am

'Video Games Club', open conversation with Club de videojocs and Estela Ortiz

Audience: adults

8 February at 5.30 pm

Finissage with Kika Superputa, performance by Kika Superputa

Audience: adults

PLASTIC ARTS WORKSHOPS

16 and 23 November at 10.30 am

'Oscillating between Lines and Cut-outs', monotyping and collage workshop with Jana A. Abril

Audience: adults

17 November and 15 December 2024 and 19 January and 2 February 2025 at 11.30 am

'Makimono', workshop with Koala Art for Kids

Audience: families (children ages 5 and up)

14 and 21 December at 10.30 am

'Soft as Cement', workshop on drawing and painting on cement with Sergi Serra Mir
Audience: adults

25 January and 1 February at 10.30 am

'Trusting in the Gesture', textile painting and embroidery workshop with Maria Elisa Gómez
Audience: adults, activity in Spanish

FILM

19 November at 5.00 pm

Presentation of '*Pierrot le fou*, Matisse's Chromatic Influences on Godard' and screening of the film at the Filmoteca de Catalunya
Part of the *For Love of the Arts* season
Audience: adults

SEMINAR

18 January from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

'Celebrating the Body', training seminar for female social action workers
Audience: adults

VISITS

Guided tours of the exhibition

English: Thursdays at 5.30 pm

French: Fridays at 5.30 pm

Spanish: Saturdays at 5.30 pm

Catalan: Sundays at 5.30 pm

Audience: suitable for everyone

* The tour on Saturday 26 will be with a Catalan sign language interpreter

Tours for people with impaired vision

Saturdays 30 November 2024 and 11 and 18 January 2025 at 10.00 am

Languages: Catalan/Spanish

Audience: adults

As part of the exhibition, we are offering the guided tour with activities entitled 'A Form Is a Place to Live', aimed at schoolchildren and led by Les Rupestres.

SELECTION OF IMAGES



Henri Matisse

Collioure in August, 1911

Oil on canvas, 89 × 116 cm

Private collection

© Succession H. Matisse / VEGAP, 2024

Photograph: © Summit Trust Geneva for the Sidarta Collection



Joan Miró

The Beach at Cambrils, 1917

Oil on canvas, 60 × 73 cm

Nahmad Collection

© Successió Miró, 2024

Photograph: Nahmad Collection



Henri Matisse

The Gourds, 1915–16

Oil on canvas, 65.1 × 80.9 cm

Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York

© Succession Henri Matisse / VEGAP, 2024

Photograph: The Museum of Modern Art/Licensed by SCALA/Art Resource, NY



Joan Miró

Still Life II (The Carbide Lamp), 1922-23

Oil on canvas, 38.1 × 45.7 cm

MoMA, New York, acquired in 1939

© Successió Miró, 2024 / ADAGP, París, 2024

Photograph: The Museum of Modern Art /

Licensed by Art Resource, NY



Joan Miró

Painting (The White Glove), 1925

Oil on canvas, 113 x 89.5 cm

Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona

© Successió Miró, 2024

Photograph: Jaume Blassi



Henri Matisse

View of Notre-Dame, 1914

Oil on canvas, 147.3 × 94.3 cm

Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York

© Succession Henri Matisse, VEGAP, 2024

Photograph: The Museum of Modern Art,

New York/Scala, Florence



Joan Miró

Birds in Space, 1959

Oil on canvas, 130.8 x 81 cm

Nahmad Collection

© Successió Miró, 2024

Photograph: Nahmad Collection



Henri Matisse

Still Life. Interior in Venetian Red, 1946

Oil on canvas, 92 x 65 cm

© Succession Henri Matisse / VEGAP, 2024

Photograph: J. Gelenys – Art Photography

© Royal Museum of Fine Arts Belgium, Brussels

IMAGES

Images and digitised dossier are available for the press at [\(https://www.fmirobcn.org/en/foundation/press/\)](https://www.fmirobcn.org/en/foundation/press/) and <https://bit.ly/MIRÓMATISSE>

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Full practical information about visiting the Fundació Joan Miró is available at: <https://www.fmirobcn.org/en/visit-us/>

Free [multimedia guide](#) available for download

ACCESSIBILITY



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#MiróMatisse

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MUSÉEMATISSE

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 **VILLE DE NICE**

LA VANGUARDIA

P el Periódico

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