



FELIU ELIAS Reality as an obsession



This exhibition presents the multifaceted work of Feliu Elias (Barcelona, 1878–1948), a painter, satirical humourist, and implacable art critic. Indeed, his work reflects a recourse to alterity, as may also be seen from his signatures: FELIU ELIAS for his paintings, APA for his caricatures, and JOAN SACS for his polemical critiques.

Feliu Elias. *Self-portrait,* c. 1907 Private collection

In this exhibition, one finds this prolific and contradictory artist's most prominent productions, comprising over one hundred art works and documents, held for the most part at the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya and in private collections and other museum institutions. As a novelty, in the last section of the show we offer a view of the art of Catalonia from the beginning of the 20th century through critiques signed by Elias as Joan Sacs, together with a selection of paintings by Salvador Dalí, Joan Miró, Pablo Picasso, Sonia Delaunay and Josep de Togores, among other artists.

A sharp gaze



Feliu Elias. The tsar at rest, 1909. Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya

Under the pseudonym of APA, one discovers the most leftist, republican and anticlerical Feliu Elias. His anti-German caricatures of World War I spurred, for their part, the growth of his international fame and renown. Likewise, APA made fun of the Catalan nationalist party Lliga Regionalista, the military and the anarchist organisation FAI, making it necessary for him to go into exile in Paris on two occasions. Subsequently, following his return to Barcelona, the arrival of the Francoists in 1939 forced Elias and his family to flee once again to France, where he was interned in a concentration camp.



"...I have struggled to translate on canvas the selfsame Reality that astonishes us..."

Feliu Elias *The Gallery,* 1928 Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya



Feliu Elias. Antechamber, 1932. Private collection

The painter of life at a standstill

Feliu Elias was an original self-taught painter. His painting was silent and penetrating, inseparably attached to an objective realism that sought perfection and the containment of emotion. Combining portraits with still lifes, he situated the animate and the inanimate.

Connections & Collisions

The exhibition's last section allows us to see the tensions existing between the realisms and the avant-gardes through the incisive gaze of Feliu Elias's alter ego, Joan Sacs. Although his acquaintanceship with Impressionism caused Elias to draw closer to an art that explored new views of reality, around 1920 he made a call for a return to tradition and to the fine arts. In this respect, his ferocious critiques of the avant-gardes aroused much debate.

To learn more...

Guided tours

Every Saturday, from 10th December to 9th April, at 11.00 am (in Spanish) and at 12.30 pm (in Catalan).

The activity is included in the ticket price. For tours at other times, please see the terms posted on the Museum's website.

Workshop The Art of Caricature, with the cartoonist Jaume Capdevila (Kap), based on the satirical work of Feliu Elias.

+ INFO at www.museunacional.cat

Until 29th January 2023, the Museu de Sabadell is holding an exhibition called *The Circles of Feliu Elias in Sabadell*, which presents the artist's relation with his family's native city.







Parc de Montjuïc Barcelona **www.museunacional.cat**











