MUSEU NACIONAL D'ART DE CATALUNYA

NEW ROOMS
ART & THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR COLLECTION
The Museu Nacional renews its exhibition discourse, and at the same time extends the number of rooms dedicated to the art produced during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939).

Painting, sculpture, drawing and engraving, along with new types of media, such as illustrated publications, posters, photography, photomontage and cinema, were put to use on both sides.

During the war years, many artists decided not to remain neutral: art became a powerful weapon for stirring consciences and gaining support for one political cause or another.

Despite the dramatic circumstances, this mobilisation was the culmination of some of the aspirations in modern art and the avant-garde. Using the war as a motive, an entire iconographic programme unfolded, where themes such as the war front, aerial bombardments, and massacres and evacuations of the civilian population were singled out.

[Cover]
Room 76
Andrés Fernández Cuervo Sierra. Bombing. Detail, 1937
From the International Exhibition in Paris, 1937
Museu Nacional d’Art de Catalunya

Room 78
Helios Gómez. Evacuation, 1937
Loan from Gabriel Gómez Plana, son of the artist, 2003
Museu Nacional d’Art de Catalunya. © Associació Cultural Helios Gómez, VEGAP, Barcelona, 2021
FIRST FLOOR

ROOMS 76 - 80

PAVILION OF THE REPUBLIC
PROPAGANDA
HEROES AND HEROINES

VICTIMS AND EXECUTIONERS
WOMEN ARTISTS IN TIMES OF WAR
EVACUATION

Room 76
Juana Francisca Rubio. Hero, c. 1937
From the Quarterly Exhibition of Visual Arts of Barcelona, 1938. Museu Nacional d’Art de Catalunya
PAVILION OF THE REPUBLIC

The Pavilion of the Spanish Republic at the 1937 Paris International Exhibition was the mouthpiece in Europe for the Republican cause. The aim was to gain international support in the fight against fascism. Designed by Josep Lluís Sert and Luis Lacasa, it was inaugurated in July 1937. It allowed the world to see a wide range of cultural developments that took place in defence of legitimate government. The aim was to show what the country was experiencing through art, created in real time, as a response to the grave events that were taking place.

Important works such as Guernica by Pablo Picasso, La Montserrat by Juli González, Mercury Fountain by Alexander Calder and The Catalan Peasant in Revolt (also known as The Reaper) by Joan Miró – which disappeared after being exhibited in the Pavilion – were shown along with those of other artists who were equally committed to the Republic, but who were less well known to the general public.

A large part of the works included in the exhibition of the Pavilion of the Republic, and which are currently included in the Museum’s collections, can be admired in these rooms.

FEDERICO GARCÍA LORCA, IN PARIS

Following the assassination of Federico García Lorca, a tribute was paid to the figure of the poet and playwright at the Paris International Exhibition.

During the exhibition, tributes were paid to him with poetry recitals and a display of his books and photographs, among other things.

Fernando Briones’ painting Allegory of the Execution of Federico García Lorca pays homage to the poet and represented an explicit condemnation of his murder.

When the Paris Pavilion was dismantled, the work was handed over to the Palau Nacional, the building hosting the Museum Nacional, along with many other works on display in the Pavilion.
Room 77
Martí Bas. *Executions at Badajoz bull ring*, 1937
Acquisition at the Barcelona Spring Exhibition, 1937
Museu Nacional d’Art de Catalunya

Room 80
Antoni Campañà. *Rifleman* [Vicente Burón], 1936
Loan from the Campañà Capella family, 2020
Museu Nacional d’Art de Catalunya

Room 79
Francisco Pérez Mateo. *Bather*, c.1935
Loan from Vicente Pérez Mateo, 1944
Museu Nacional d’Art de Catalunya

Room 79
Fernando Briones. *Allegory of Federico García Lorca’s Execution*, 1937
Donation by Isabel and Fernando Briones
Fernández-Pola, daughter and son of the artist, 1999
WOMAN ARTIST IN TIMES OF WAR

Women play a prominent role in the new rooms of the Civil War. The various functions they took on during this period, such as those of artists, militiamen or victims, are depicted here.

Two artists in particular stand out: Ángela Nebot and Juana Francisca Rubio. They took part in the Quarterly Exhibition of Visual Arts in Barcelona in 1938.

LINA ÓDENA

Communist militant and fighter for the Republic, this militiaman died during the Spanish Civil War. Ódena was an example to many women who fought during the war, that refused to stay home and accept the traditional role given to them by society at the time.
Faced with the need to communicate to the world the drama of war, and to coordinate the internal and external dissemination of the image of the anti-fascist struggle, republican institutions set up propaganda systems with artists committed to legitimate government.

To a lesser extent, the Francoist side also used posters as a vehicle for propaganda and counter-information, thus establishing a dialectic of forces. It was not a war of arms, but a battle to raise awareness among the population.
ACTIVITIES

THE MUSEUM’S NIGHT
Monday, July 3, doors open from 8 pm to midnight and a comment on the site on the works of the Art and Civil War rooms from 8 pm to 11 pm.

THEATRE — Rastres-Argelers.
Wednesday, July 7, at 8.30 pm, in the Oval Hall. Prior registration on the Museum’s website.

GUIDED VISITS
 Saturdays July 24 and 31, and every Saturday until October 23, at 11 am (Spanish) and 12.30 pm (Catalan). In August, only for groups upon request.

GUIDED VISIT — Online
Spaces and stories of the Civil War
A tour of the museums and interpretation centres throughout the country that describe the Civil War. Wednesday, September 15 and 22, at 6 pm. More information and registration on the Museum’s website.

EDUCATING FOR PEACE. SCHOOL PROGRAMME
Dynamic visit Art and commitment. A space for reflection on war and conflict for secondary education, baccalaureate and adult education.

PODCAST — In person and online
Subversive sounds: LGBTI voices, guerrillas and refuges.
Prior registration on the Museum’s website.

Volume I. Guerrillas
Tuesday, September 28, at 6.30 pm, at the Barcelona LGTBI Centre and online. The Museum’s iconographies focusing on the struggle of the republican guerrillas will be related to queer actions.

Volume II. Refuges
Thursday, October 7, at 6.30 pm, at the Barcelona LGTBI Centre and online. Imaginaries of evacuation and refuge will be reopened, to trace the notion of LGBTI exile, from the Civil War to the present day.

CINEMA

Become a Friend of the Museum!
www.amicsdelmnac.org

Now more than ever, connect with culture! blog.museunacional.cat

Don’t miss our videos on the Museu Nacional’s YouTube channel.

#ArtConflictMemòria

Download the programme of exhibitions and activities for Civil War: Art, conflict and memory.

MUSEU NACIONAL D’ART DE CATALUNYA
Parc de Montjuïc
Barcelona
www.museunacional.cat

Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament de Cultura

CONSEJERÍA DE DEPORTE, JÓVENES Y MÚSICA
MINISTERIO DE DEPORTE, JOVENES Y MÚSICA

Ajuntament de Barcelona