

Full text of the New Year's greeting written by Jordi Pericot (Masnou, 1931), Professor Emeritus of Communication at Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) and artist. The greeting has been inspired by the sculpture *Desolation* by Josep Llimona.

As a child, my parents often took my siblings and me to the Ciutadella Park in Barcelona. It was during one of these visits that I first saw the sculpture *Desolation* by Josep Llimona.

I remember very clearly the impact this figure had on me – a figure so defeated and vulnerable, alone in the middle of the park. It stirred feelings of sadness and desolation. These feelings still linger today.

Yes, dark thoughts and feelings of marginalisation, but also hope, which over time have come to symbolise that bleak and unjust period of the Spanish post-war era. A symbol that often resonates when I sense that the world around me no longer reflects those ideals of justice, equality and democracy for which we fought.

Seeing *Desolation* again now has triggered an emotional response that undoubtedly comes from the stark contrast between the fundamental and irreversible expectations we had as young people and the current social and political reality, which increasingly shows signs of disillusionment with and detachment from those values.

I would even go so far as to say that there is a parallel between the unease I felt as a child and the uncertainty or frustration I feel now, as the longed-for social cohesion and peaceful coexistence are under serious threat. Yes, threatened, but not something we can consider lost. We must continue fighting for a healthier and stronger democracy.

We need to regain trust and hope, put simply, revive hope. An “active hope” that goes beyond mere optimism or the passive wish for things to improve. Hope that is more than just a feeling; it's a practice that compels us to keep moving forward, upholding a positive attitude despite the circumstances. Hope that drives us to stand for what we believe is just, not because we are certain of success, but because we are committed to our values.

Concrete and deliberate actions are required to build the future we desire. We must take responsibility, make positive decisions in the face of adversity or uncertainty, and advocate for values and the search for new resources to build a society that sustains life and is steadfast in its commitment to environmental recovery.

Here's to a great 2025!

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