

Tàpies lives. Living Tàpies

Tàpies is his work and his perspective on the world. Tàpies is a view of society that is more relevant than ever thanks to his forward-looking, committed, humanist and transgressive spirit. Tàpies is not dead. In fact, Tàpies is among us, more alive than ever, because, with hindsight, we have acquired a better understanding of his legacy. Because Tàpies' work should not only be looked at; his idiosyncrasies need to be experienced in their entirety. Tàpies Centenary Year seeks to highlight the artist's contemporary spirit. It is an invitation to relive his work, to explore it further. **Tàpies lives. Living Tàpies.**



2 – The Artist's Relevance Today

Antoni Tàpies was an innovative, daring and experimental artist who opened up new paths and introduced new techniques and materials to modern art. He was **a key figure of the postwar avant-garde and a referent for many artists of later generations**. His place in the history of contemporary art is of great relevance, because his conceptual and formal contributions play an essential role in twentieth-century art theory. Tàpies was a creator with an open view of the world, who saw art as a necessary tool for reflecting on the human condition.

Broadly-educated, Tàpies was interested in cinema and music, as well as the visual arts, and **took an active part in the fields of philosophy and literature**. Moreover, his generous commitment to culture is reflected in his support of knowledge and of artistic

and cultural exchanges: initially, through his connections with creators and art theorists from here and abroad; and more recently with the Fundació that bears his name. In the social sphere, he was deeply rooted in his country and supportive of social and political causes, from the anti-fascist struggles to pressing ecological issues, as well as being an active defender and promoter of Catalan language and culture.

Therefore, he can be considered **a creator ahead of his time**: for his rebellious nature, social commitment and innovative spirit, and for a body of work that is still relevant today for the way it addresses subjects such as the ecology, culture, language, social policies, human rights, mysticism and spirituality.

The relevance of Tàpies' work goes well beyond his artistic legacy, since, both as a person and as a creator, Tàpies has left an indelible mark on society thanks to his ground-breaking, expressive and experimental vision, and his **relentless drive for innovation**. His outlook on the creative process has influenced the most critical and transgressive elements of Catalan society and become an indispensable part of today's artistic and social currents.



Antoni Tàpies working in his studio in Barcelona, 1966-1967. Photograph by Ralph Herrmanns. © Ralph Herrmanns, 2023

3 – The Fundació at the Heart of the Event

With such artistic endeavour behind it, the Fundació is the result of Tàpies' roots in and connection with Barcelona. It came into being thanks to the artist's **desire to promote a project that would become an oasis amid the city's rumble**, making it an ideal space to delve into his work. Moreover, the Fundació Antoni Tàpies also promotes contemporary creation in a space that aims to encourage the study and knowledge of modern and contemporary art, beyond the figure of Antoni Tàpies. To this end, the Fundació disseminates the work of other artists, connecting national artistic creation with the international circuit. In addition, the Fundació is a space that invites you to live an aesthetic experience, an essential part of call when visiting the city of Barcelona.

As for the management of the Fundació Antoni Tàpies, on 30 October the **international open call** for the position of Director closed, and the committee of experts and the Fundació's Board of Trustees are currently evaluating the prospective candidates. The Board of Trustees is working toward inaugurating the Tàpies Centenary Year with a new direction.

Image of the Fundació Antoni Tàpies building, Barcelona. © Photography: Roberto Ruiz, 2023



4 – Work



Antoni Tàpies
Zoom, 1946
Oil and whitening on canvas
65 × 54 cm



Antoni Tàpies
Creu de paper de diari
(Newsprint Cross, 1946-1947)
Collage and watercolor on paper
40 × 31 cm

Antoni Tàpies
Al teu peu (For Your Foot, 1989)
Paint and pencil on wood
300 × 500 cm



5 – Work



Antoni Tàpies
Paraforagamus, 1949
Oil on canvas
89 × 116 cm

Antoni Tàpies
Trio, 1994
Paint on canvas
300 × 450 cm



Antoni Tàpies
Cadeira i roba
(Chair and Clothes, 1970)
Object-assemblage
94 × 76 × 63 cm



6 – Tàpies Centenary Year Logo

With the aim of fostering the country's creative talent, on 6 January 2023 the Fundació Antoni Tàpies participated in **an action to give institutional support to professionals in the design, visual communication and art sectors. In conjunction with the FAD, the Fundació initiated an open call** for the creation of a Tàpies Centenary Year logo. The call was extremely well received by the sector and **a total of sixty-seven proposals were submitted.**

The evaluation of the submissions was conducted by a jury of seven independent members: Pilar Cortada, President of the Centenary Commission; Pau Dito, Head of Publications at the Fundació Antoni Tàpies;

Antoni Tàpies. *Cadira* (Chair, 1991). Paint on synthetic fabric. 148 x 207 cm. © Fundació Antoni Tàpies, Barcelona / VEGAP. De la fotografia: © FotoGasull, 2023

Glòria Domènech, responsible for the Fundació Antoni Tàpies Library; Núria Homs, Curator of the Fundació Antoni Tàpies; Pablo Juncadella, Creative Director of Mucho; Sisón Pujol, President of ADG FAD; and Salvador Saura, designer. The jury shortlisted five from the 67 design studios that had submitted ideas for a logo that embodies the creativity of the Tàpies Centenary Year.

Two months after the open call was announced, the jury's final decision was made public, the winning proposal being that submitted by the Todojuntó studio. The studio has taken **the cross or X, a recurring symbol in Tàpies' work**, as a central element of the brand. Loaded with meaning, the symbol holds the logo together, while lending it flexibility and adaptability.

The logo is considered especially appropriate for its **dynamic, lively and open character, for its unpredictable and daring language**



7 – Tàpies Centenary Year Logo

that captures Tàpies' attitude, for its ability to generate movement and a certain volume, and for its eye-catching qualities. For its part, and within the framework of the Centenary, Todojuntó praises the Fundació Antoni Tàpies for its commitment to building new perspectives, connections, links and relationships with the artist's work. This flexible, open and mutable proposal is a space for reflection and knowledge that illustrates 'Tàpies' no-nonsense creative outbursts'.

Todojuntó is a Barcelona-based communication and graphic design studio founded in 2007. Their work focuses on a cross-sectional study of the fields of communication, with projects ranging from research into printing using ancient techniques to web page and editorial design. The team consists of **Ricardo Duque, Tiago Pina, Leticia Ortín and Alice Tirinzoni**, and their independent

projects include La Automática, the mobile Fanzinoteca and Dinou.

The logo generated for the Fundació Antoni Tàpies will coexist throughout the entire Centenary celebrations with the logo produced by the Generalitat de Catalunya, which includes **a portrait of the artist made by Colita in 1976**. The portrait reflects the vital and spontaneous character of Antoni Tàpies, while acknowledging the career of one of our country's most celebrated photographers.

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FUNDACIÓ ANTONI TÀPIES

Antoni Tàpies in the StooB studio in St. Gallen, 1993.
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