

Press Release – Tàpies Centenary Year

The Tàpies Centenary Year will honour the artist with four exhibitions at the Fundació Antoni Tàpies, together with dozens of activities

‘Tàpies lives. Living Tàpies’ will be the motto of this year-long event, which will be celebrated between 13 December 2023 and 13 December 2024.

The celebration will highlight the relevance of his work with a broad-based and international programme that will add new voices to Tàpies’ narrative through the participation of new generations, and will see the Fundació Antoni Tàpies projected as an open space.

Some of the voices contributing new narratives will be the filmmaker Albert Serra, the cultural journalist Rita Roig and the influencer Juliana Canet.

The year 2023 will begin with the commemoration of **the centenary of the birth of Antoni Tàpies (1923–2012)**, an anniversary that the **Fundació Antoni Tàpies will celebrate from 13 December 2023 to 13 December 2024** with a series of exhibitions and activities around the artist's figure, work and legacy.

The tribute will have as its motto **'Tàpies lives. Living Tàpies'** with the aim of **enhancing the figure of the artist and deepening an understanding of all aspects of his work and ideas**, as well as highlighting his relevance to today's more challenging issues.

This celebration also wants to **invite citizens and institutions to be**

part of it through a **participatory and broad-based programme**; to incorporate new voices into Tàpies' narrative, adding the views of younger generations, and to project the Fundació Antoni Tàpies as a space open to art and thought, while being faithful to the legacy and will of the artist. Therefore, we are working with the **Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA), Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC), Filmoteca de Catalunya, Gran Teatre del Liceu, Fundació Suñol and Fundació Victoria de los Ángeles, among others.**

The Fundació Antoni Tàpies will be curating the Tàpies Centenary Year with the aid of a **specific team dedicated to the event.** Núria Homs,

curator of the Fundació, will curate the Tàpies Centenary Year, with Judith Barnés as coordinator. An advisory committee formed by Manuel Borja-Villel, Pilar Cortada, Anna Saurí, manager of the Fundació, Clara Tàpies and Toni Tàpies will contribute to articulating a solid programme with an international reach. The entire Fundació team is currently working to develop it.

The programme will promote the figure and work of Antoni Tàpies on a national and international level, while **delving into both his artistic legacy and his social and political commitment**. From an **interdisciplinary and contemporary point of view**, the Fundació Antoni Tàpies will become the nerve centre

of the commemoration, although the celebration will spread further afield with the aim of bringing the institution closer to a larger public. The activities of the event will make it possible to connect the figure of the artist with the twenty-first century, while incorporating other voices and the perspectives of younger generations.

To pay tribute to the artist, the Fundació will produce **a total of four exhibitions**: *Tàpies. The Japanese Imprint*, curated by Núria Homs, will focus on the influence that some Japanese monks of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-centuries exerted on the artist's work as transmitters of the teachings of Zen Buddhism; *A = A, B = B*, curated by the artist and scientist Pep Vidal, will depart from Antoni Tàpies to reflect on the links between art and science through the participation of artists born since the 1980s; *Sengai*, an exhibition that is being negotiated with the Idemitsu Museum of Art in Tokyo, to present paintings and calligraphy by the Japanese Buddhist monk Sengai (1750–1837); and *Antoni*

Tàpies. Retrospective (working title), a retrospective dedicated to the work of Antoni Tàpies, curated by Manuel Borja-Villel and co-produced by the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (MNCARS) and the Fundació Antoni Tàpies.

The Fundació will **collaborate with different cultural institutions** around the country in order to reach other audiences and establish a dialogue with other discourses. To this end, although the Fundació will become the nerve centre of the commemoration, an exhibition of Tàpies posters is being organised at the Museu d'Història de Catalunya, as well as a travelling informative exhibition, designed for the Public Libraries of the Generalitat de Catalunya.

In terms of the educational and public programme, **the centenary will see numerous activities addressing some of the artist's most prominent interests, such as cinema and music.** The education department of the Fundació Antoni Tàpies will deploy a programme of activities for the 2023–24 academic year addressed to the entire educational community. It will offer tools, resources and opportunities, so that educational centres throughout the country may elect to join the Tàpies Centenary Year and spread the artist's work and ideas to younger generations.

Some of the planned activities include: an extensive **educational day**, which will be available throughout the

school year to accompany learning processes based on the artist's work; an **itinerant educational resource**, which will focus on Tàpies' relationship with books as objects, artworks and sources of knowledge; and a **series of participatory actions**, with the aim of disseminating the work of the artist.

At the same time, to strike a balance between memory, the legacy of Antoni Tàpies and contemporaneity, the Fundació will be inviting renowned professionals from the cultural sector and emerging voices to find a way of representing and interpreting the world anchored in the present. Therefore, from an interdisciplinary and intergenerational approach, Tàpies' oeuvre will become

the centre of a dialogue with our time. Some of the participants in this game of looking will be: the film director, producer and screenwriter **Albert Serra**; the cultural journalist **Rita Roig** and the cultural influencer **Juliana Canet**.

The logo of the Tàpies Centenary Year, designed by Todojunto, the studio that won the open call of the Fundació Antoni Tàpies, and distributed in collaboration with the Foment de les Arts i del Disseny (FAD), will coexist with the institutional logo created by the Generalitat de Catalunya, based on a portrait taken by the Catalan photographer Colita in 1976, showing the spontaneity and vitality of the artist.

Finally, as a starting point for the Tàpies Centenary Year, the **Antoni Arola Studio** will create **a light intervention on the façade of the protomodernista building** that houses the headquarters of the Fundació Antoni Tàpies.

Throughout the Tàpies Centenary Year, we will be showing the **artist's working process** in a transversal way, while further exploring his creative practice when building his own universe. We will also be focusing on his writing and thinking, in order to highlight, beyond his artworks, the lesser known references and affinities of the artist and the ideas with which he endowed the country.

In addition, we want to emphasise Tàpies' interest in **science**, as a discipline that allows us to understand the world, and in **Eastern philosophy**, focusing on the attention that Tàpies paid to non-Western cultures and the way these permeated his production. Simultaneously, we intend to spotlight how **the artist's social commitment**

was maintained throughout his life. **The contemporary gaze of Antoni Tàpies and his projection towards the future** will be complemented by giving space to **young creators and researchers** who will be enquiring into his knowledge and work.

The Tàpies Centenary Year will operate on the basis of public and private collaboration. To this end, a relationship will be fostered between public and private agents who can provide additional resources. The Fundació Antoni Tàpies is trying to declare the Tàpies Centenary Year **as an Event of Exceptional Public Interest**, so that private sponsorship can be tax deductible.

The organization of the Tàpies’ Year has a multidisciplinary team with first-hand knowledge of the figure, work and legacy of the artist:

- Tàpies’ Year curator: Núria Homs
- Tàpies’ Year coordinator: Judith Barnés – jbarnes@ftapiés.com
- Centenary committee: Judith Barnés, Manuel Borja-Villel, Pilar Cortada (President), Núria Homs, Anna Saurí, Clara Tàpies and Toni Tàpies.
- Team of the Fundació Antoni Tàpies: Sandra Àguila, María Amador, Yones Amtia, Judith Barnés, Rosa Eva Campo, Pau Dito, Glòria Domènech, Iván Ferrús, Núria Homs, Susana Galindo, Ana Lop, Cristina Madrid, Montse Márquez, Silvia Pascual, Marta Perarnau, Ramon Rovira, Anna Saurí, Maria Sellarès, Daniel Solano and Linda Valdés.

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The press section of the Fundació Antoni Tàpies website is accessed through the menu at the top of the screen, under the Fundació logo, in the “Museum and Library” section. In the “Press” section you will find the Tapies’ Year Press Dossier and press images.

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