

# Joan Miró

1893–1983

Joan Miró i Ferrà (1893–1983) was a Catalan-Spanish painter, sculptor, ceramicist, and printmaker, and one of the defining figures of twentieth-century modernism. Born in Barcelona on April 20, 1893, to a watchmaker father and a goldsmith mother, he showed an early gift for drawing and enrolled at the Escola Superior de Belles Arts de Sant Jordi in Barcelona. After a serious illness in 1911, he committed fully to painting, studying under Francesc Galí and mounting his first solo exhibition at the Galeries Dalmau in Barcelona in 1918.

In 1920 Miró moved to Paris, where he entered a circle that included Pablo Picasso, the Surrealist poets, and the Dadaists. His early Paris work drew on Fauvism, Cubism, and the folkloric traditions of Catalonia — culminating in *The Farm* (1921–22), a near-hallucinatory homage to the Catalan countryside later acquired by Ernest Hemingway. By the mid-1920s his visual language had shifted decisively: biomorphic forms, floating signs, primary colors, and an atmosphere of dream and play that aligned him with Surrealism without ever fully belonging to it. André Breton included him in the first Surrealist exhibition in 1925, though Miró always maintained his independence from the movement's ideology.

His range expanded continuously through the decades that followed. In the 1930s he worked with collage and sculptural assemblage, designed tapestries, and created sets and costumes for ballet. After the trauma of the Spanish Civil War — which prompted his deeply political print series *Aidéz l'Espagne* (1937) — he spent the war years in Mallorca and Normandy, producing the intimate *Constellations* series (1940–41), twenty-three small gouaches that became among the most celebrated works of his career. Large-scale public commissions followed in the postwar years: ceramic murals for the UNESCO headquarters in Paris (1958), which earned him the Guggenheim Foundation's International Grand Prize, and works for Harvard University and the Terrace Hilton Hotel in Cincinnati.

Miró's printmaking practice was as serious as his work in any other medium. He produced hundreds of lithographs, etchings, and aquatints throughout his career, working with master printers in Paris and collaborating with publishers including Maeght and Mourlot. His prints carry the full weight of his visual vocabulary — the same signs, forms, and luminous color fields present in his paintings — and were conceived as independent works rather than reproductions.

He opened the *Fundació Joan Miró* in Barcelona in 1975, and a second foundation, the *Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró*, in Palma de Mallorca in 1981. His work is held in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Tate Modern in London, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, and the Musée National d'Art Moderne, among many others. Joan Miró died in Palma de Mallorca on December 25, 1983, at the age of ninety.

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T. Botero Galleries offers select original prints by Joan Miró. These are not original paintings and the gallery does not represent the artist's estate.



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