

RAFAEL TOUS DONATES HIS COLLECTION OF CONCEPTUAL ART TO MACBA



Rafael Tous and Ferran Barenblit during the press conference at MACBA, Monday, February 24th, 2020 - photo @MiquelColl

- ▶ With nearly one thousand works covering several decades, this collection of Conceptual art is the most significant in our country and an example of a way of collecting that grew out of complicity and intensity.
- ▶ This donation is one of the most generous in recent decades and reinforces MACBA's position as a reference institution for Conceptual art.
- ▶ MACBA will exhibit part of this important legacy at the end of the year.

Barcelona, 24 February 2020.- Rafael Tous has chosen to donate his important collection of Conceptual art to MACBA. In an act of great generosity, the same generosity that inspired his vocation as a patron, he has donated nearly one thousand works by artists that are key to the understanding of art over the past fifty years. Having built an important holding of Conceptual art since its inception, MACBA is now even

better placed to become an essential reference point for the knowledge and study of this fundamental period in the development of contemporary art.



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The **Rafael Tous Collection** constitutes the most important group of Conceptual art works in the country. Comprising almost one thousand pieces, it brings together works by around thirty of the most prominent artists of the seventies and eighties from Catalonia and the rest of Spain.

Linked to the textile world, Rafael Tous (Barcelona, 1940) has been a life-long collector of art. He began acquiring Impressionist works in his youth, but by 1970 he had begun collecting artists of his own generation with whom he developed close friendships. His collection grew out of visits to the artists' studios, as well as the exhibitions at Galeria G, Sala Vinçon, Espai 13 of the Fundació Joan Miró and the university space at the Universitat Autònoma, Barcelona.

The Rafael Tous Collection is built on complicity and proximity. It is the result of intense friendships with, and a firm commitment to, a generation of creators to whom he has lent his support over the years. To a large extent, the radical approaches of this generation were made possible by the backing of people like Rafael Tous, who believed in their work with loyalty and enthusiasm. In so doing, he became a key agent for the development and consolidation of the Conceptual generation, while leading the way for the future of art in Catalonia.

His commitment was to be consolidated with the opening of Metrònom. From 1980 until 2006, first in the Sant Gervasi neighbourhood and then in the emblematic building on carrer Fusina in El Born, Metrònom was a space for experimentation not only in the field of visual arts, but also in music, dance and theatre, where he encouraged new and experimental works with an extraordinary eye for quality.

It was the poetic commitment of Conceptual art, as well as its political and social content, that led Tous to acquire the works that became his contemporary art fonds. Beginning with the precursory steps taken by Antoni Llena and Àngel Jové at the end of the sixties, the collection embraces the works of the central period of Catalan Conceptualism (1970–75), and follows the subsequent development of the individual

artists until the present. Works focused on political critique (Francesc Abad, Francesc Torres, Grup de Treball, Muntadas), social art and the media (Muntadas, Joan Rabascall, Eulàlia Grau), investigations around matter and the object (Pere Noguera, Jordi Pablo, Jaume Xifra), the body and nature (Jordi Benito, Àngels Ribé, Fina Miralles, Carles Pujol), and the ritual ceremonies of the so-called Catalans in Paris, are among other interests and artists that provide a window onto the vast artistic panorama of the period.



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The Rafael Tous Collection has been the subject of several exhibitions. A series of three different ones, curated by Gloria Picazo, were held at the Museu de Girona (December 1992), the Universitat de Barcelona (June 1993) and the Palau de la Virreina (October 1993). A further exhibition by the same curator and organised by the Diputació de Barcelona travelled to fourteen Catalan regions between 2001 and 2003. In 2002, the Centre Cultural Tecla Sala in Hospitalet de Llobregat opened with an exhibition of work from the Rafael Tous Collection, curated by Victoria Combalá. The regular participation of work from the Rafael Tous Collection in numerous group exhibitions has contributed to its dissemination and knowledge.

For its fonds of contemporary art, its collection of African art – with about two thousand pieces, including sculpture, masks and everyday objects – and its national and international photography collection, in 2016 the Rafael Tous Collection received the Colección Nacional Particular (National Private Collection) Award given by the Friends of ARCO Association and the GAC Award 2016 for collecting.

CONCEPTUAL ARTISTS IN THE RAFAEL TOUS COLLECTION

Abad, Francesc (Terrassa, 1944)
Balcells, Eugènia (Barcelona, 1943)
Benito, Jordi (Granollers, 1951 – Barcelona, 2008)
Calvo, Carmen (Valencia, 1950)
Cerdà, Jordi (Barcelona, 1949)
CVA. Comité de Vigilancia Artística, consisting of Juan Luis Moraza (Vitoria, 1960) and María Luisa Fernández (Villarejo de Obrigo, 1955), active between 1979 and 1985.
Ferrer, Benet (Sabadell, 1945)
Fingerhut, Alicia (Barcelona, 1948–2017)
Gancedo, Teresa (León, 1937)
García Sevilla, Ferran (Palma de Mallorca, 1949)
Grau, Eulàlia (Terrassa, 1946)
Joan i Rosa, Josep M. (Figueres, 1940)
Jové, Àngel (Lleida, 1940)
Llena, Antoni (Barcelona, 1942)
Lootz, Eva (Vienna, 1940)
Miralda, Antoni (Terrassa, 1942)
Miralles, Fina (Sabadell, 1950)
Muntadas, Antoni (Barcelona, 1942)
Noguera, Pere (La Bisbal d'Empordà, 1941)
Pablo, Jordi (Barcelona, 1950)
Palomer, Pilar (Barcelona, 1945)
Pazos, Carlos (Barcelona, 1949)
Pujol, Carles (Barcelona, 1947)
Rabascall, Joan (Barcelona, 1935)
Ribé, Àngels (Barcelona, 1943)
Rossell, Benet (Àger, 1937 – Barcelona, 2016)
Torres, Francesc (Barcelona, 1948)
Valverde, Lorenzo (Barcelona, 1961)
Xifra, Jaume (Salt, 1934 – Paris, 2014)