

## **JOSEP GRAU-GARRIGA**

1929, Sant Cugat del Vallès (Catalonia, Spain) - 2011, Saint-Mathurin-sur-Loire (Angers, France).

Josep Grau-Garriga was born in Sant Cugat del Vallès, on February 18, 1929, within a family of farmers who suffered the hardships of Civil War and particularly those of the post-war, going through jail and exile. It's in this environment where Grau-Garriga discovers his vocation for art.

In the early 40s, Grau-Garriga gets his first influences through the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, its frescoes, Romanesque and Gothic paintings. He studies art first at the Llotja and then at the Escola Superior de Belles Arts de Sant Jordi in Barcelona.

In the 50s, he is devoted to mural painting, creating works of the magnitude of the murals in the chapel of Sant Crist of Llaceres (Sant Cugat del Vallès, 1956) or the sanctuary of St. Mary of Paretdegada (La Selva del Camp, 1959). In 1956, the entrepreneur Miquel Samaranch offers him the opportunity to revitalize the old *Casa Aymat* in Sant Cugat dedicated to the production of carpets and tapestries. Samaranch hands him the artistic direction of the company within which an experimental tapestry workshop is organized. A year later (1957) the company funds his first study trip to France, where he deeply gets to know the technique of medieval and contemporary tapestry, a medium he'll revolutionize and that will grant him international relevance. He personally meets the painter and French poet Jean Lurçat, considered a master of modern tapestry and one of the leaders of its renovation, who, the following year (1958), would come to work with him in Saint Cere, in Olt (France). Applying the technical and conceptual knowledge acquired in France to the local context, Grau-Garriga, as artistic the director, and his disciples place the *Casa Aymat* on the basis of what has been called the Catalan School of Tapestry. He became the theorist of the movement generated there, involving, for nearly two decades, some of the most well-known artists of the time such as Joan Miró, Josep Maria Subirachs and Antoni Tàpies. The new emerging concepts revolutionized textile art both nationally and internationally. In 1964, he presents the first solo exhibition of tapestry ever in Spain, at Sala Gaspar in Barcelona. The following year, his first exhibition abroad, at the II Biennale Internationale de la Tapisserie Moderne in Lausanne (Switzerland), grants him a special public recognition.

In 1969, the Institute of International Education in New York conceded him a scholarship that will allow him to move to New York for a year and travel around the United States, Mexico and Canada. During the 70s he combines his work with a remarkable teaching practice.

In 1988 a major retrospective exhibition is presented at the Palau Robert in Barcelona. In 2004 his hometown pays him tribute. The 'Grau-Garriga Year', includes, inter alia, a double exhibition of recent work and one dedicated to his early years. Since 2007, one of his tapestries presides the entrance of the new building of the Town Hall of Sant Cugat. It's made up of four red and yellow pieces with different materials, including copper wire of different thicknesses that gives the work a transparent appearance.

He died on August 29, 2011 in Angers (France), where he lived since 1989.

The Contemporary Tapestry Museum - Casa Aymat, holds an important collection of his works, as well as the MACBA - Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona. In addition, his work is part of the permanent collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the National Museum of Modern Art in Paris, the Museum of Contemporary Art International Rufino Tamayo in Mexico City, among others.

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

### 2018

'Tapestries' Michel Soskine Inc, Madrid (Spain).

Art Basel Unlimited, selected by curator Gianni Jetzer, Basel (Switzerland).

### 2017

'Josep Grau Garriga: Tapestries 1970 - 2011', Salon 94 Bowery, New York (USA).

### 2016

'Tapisseries: 1970 - 2011' Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris (France)

### 2015

'Josep Grau Garriga. Fiber sculpture of the 70s - 90s.', Michel Soskine Inc., Madrid (Spain).

### 2010

Musée des Beaux-Arts d'Angers, Cabinet d'arts graphiques, Angers (France).

### 2009

Abbaye de Saint-Florent-le-Vieil (France).

### 2002

Abbaye de Ronceray y Musée Jean Lurçat d'Angers, Angers (France).

### 1999

Canals Galeria d'Art, Sant Cugat (Spain).

Galeria Benassar. Madrid (Spain).

Galeria Blanquerna. Madrid (Spain).

Galerie Xavier Delannoy, La Garde-Freinet (France).

**1996**

Canals Galeria d'Art, Sant Cugat (Spain).

**1993**

Templo romano de Vic, Vic (Spain).

**1992**

Centre Cultural Can Mulà, Mollet del Vallès (Spain).

Galería Punto, Valencia (Spain).

Institut Français de Côte d'Ivoire, Abidjan (Ivory Cost).

**1990**

Museu d'Història de Sabadell, Sabadell (Spain).

Canals Galeria d'Art, Sant Cugat (Spain).

**1989**

Musée Jean Lurçat, Angers (France).

**1988**

Palau Robert, Barcelona (Spain).

**1987**

Museo Rufino Tamayo, Mexico DF (Mexico).

**1985**

Claustros del Monasterio Real, Sant Cugat del Vallès (Spain).

Musée du Château des ducs de Wurtemberg, Montbéliard (France).

**1983**

Arras Gallery, New York (USA).

**1982**

Claustros del Monasterio Real, Sant Cugat del Vallès (Spain).

Cité de Carcassone, Carcassone (France).

**1981**

Palais de la UNESCO, Paris (France).

**1975**

The Birmingham Museum of Fine Arts, Birmingham (USA).

**1974**

Arras Gallery, New York (USA).

Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles. (USA).

**1973**

Arras Gallery, New York (USA).

Galería René Metrás, Barcelona (Spain).

Museu Textil, Terrassa (Spain).

#### 1972

Sala del Consell de les Valls, Andorre la Vielle (Andorra).

Galeria Antofñana, Caracas (Venezuela).

#### 1971

Arras Gallery, New York (USA).

The Birmingham Museum of Fine Arts, Birmingham (USA).

#### 1970

The Houston Fine Arts Museum, Houston (USA).

The Córdoba Museum, Lincoln, Massachusetts (USA).

#### 1968

Galerie La Demeure, Paris (France).

Sala F. Domingo, Sao Paulo (Brazil).

#### 1967

Sala de Exposiciones, Dirección General de Bellas Artes, Madrid (Spain).

#### 1964

Sala Gaspar, Barcelona (Spain).

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

#### 2017

Colección permanente. Musée Hyacinthe Rigaud, Perpignan (Francia).

#### 2016

‘Tapisseries nomades. Fondation Toms Pauli. Collection XXe siècle’, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne, Lausanne (Switzerland).

‘Creative Crossroads: The Art of Tapestry’, Denver Art Museum, Denver (USA).

#### 2015

‘Del segundo origen. Artes en Cataluña, 1950-1977’, Museu Nacional d’Art de Catalunya, Barcelona (Spain).

‘Tapisserie: De Picasso à Messenger:’, Musée Jean Lurçat, Angers (France).

ArtBrussels

#### 2013

‘Decorum. Tapis et tapisseries d’artistes’, Musée d’Art moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris (France).

‘Hay más rutas que la nuestra. Las colecciones de Tamayo después de la modernidad.’, Museo Tamayo Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico DF (Mexico).

'Sortir du cadre', Abbaye de Saint Florent-le-Vieil (France).

**2011**

'De l'Ombre à la Lumière, Tapisseries catalanes, de Picasso à Grau-Garriga', Musée Jean Lurçat, Angers (France).

**2000**

'Biennal Mostra d'Art Contemporani Català', Canals Galeria d'Art, Sant Cugat, Touring exhibition (Spain).

**1999**

Festival estival de Trélazé, Trélazé (France).

**1998**

Espacio Mantero, Como (Italy).

**1997**

Espace Pignon, Lille (France).

**1991**

Comune di Vicenza, Vicenza (Italy).

**1990**

VIIIe Salon d'Art Contemporain, Bourg and Bresse (France).

Halle au Bleau, Saint Malo (France).

**1989**

'Pintura Catalana Contemporània', Touring exhibition (Uruguay and Brazil).

Institut Français, Barcelona (Spain).

**1982**

'Biennal Mostra d'Art Contemporani Català', Canals Galeria d'Art, Sant Cugat, Touring exhibition (Spain).

**PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

MACBA - Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, Barcelona (Spain).

Fundació Vila Casas, Barcelona (Spain).

Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Elche (Spain).

Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Sevilla (Spain).

Museo de Bellas Artes Gravina, Alicante (Spain).

Museu Tèxtil, Tarrasa (Spain).

Museo Provincial de Teruel (Spain).

Museu de Villafamès, Castelló (Spain).

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (USA).

The Brooklyn Museum, New York (USA).

The Denver Art Museum, Denver (USA).

The Houston Fine Arts Museum, Houston (USA).

The Cordoba Museum, Lincoln (USA).

The Oklahoma Art Centre, Oklahoma (USA).

Fondation Toms Pauli, Lausanne (Switzerland).

Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris (France).

Musée Jean-Lurçat, Angers (France).

Musée des Beaux Arts, Angers (France).

Musée Goya-Jaurés, Angers (France).

Musée Réattu, Angers (France).

Musée Cantini, Marseille (France).

Musée du château des ducs de Wurtemberg, Montbéliard (France).

Musée de la Ville, Montpellier (France).

Musée Hyacinthe Rigaud, Perpignan (France).

Musée des Beaux Arts, Saint Ló (France).

Frac Ile-de-France, Paris (France).

FRAC Lorraine, Metz (France).

Museo Salvador Allende, Santiago de Chile (Chile).

Museo Rufino Tamayo, Mexico DF (Mexico).