

Exhibition: **Colección Caixa Galicia**
 The Caixa Galicia Collection
 (IVAM) Institut Valencià d'Art Modern
 20th September – 29th October 2006

Organised by: Institut Valencià d'Art Modern

Curator: Rosario Sarmiento Escalona

The exhibition that will be shown at the IVAM until 29th October next comprises a selection of the best works in the art collection of Caixa Galicia: 46 works between paintings, sculptures, drawings, photographs, graphic work and installations belonging to the Galician institution.

Among the pieces that have travelled to the IVAM we find precise examples of the different lines that mark the profile of this collection: the most representative Galician art from the start of the 20th century until today (from Arturo Souto or Maruja Mallo to Francisco Leiro or Jorge Barbi, among others) and some works by other artists from outside Galician art history who are the pillars of an international collection (like Picasso or Portuguese artists José Pedro Croft and Rui Chafés).

The catalogue of the exhibition reproduces the works displayed and contains texts by the president of Caixa Galicia, Mauro Varela Pérez, and the director of the IVAM, Consuelo Císcar.

The Development of the Collection

The creation of a collection of a corporation like Caixa Galicia involves the crystallisation of a commitment with a whole community. This collection was born with one fundamental idea, to reflect the history of the Galician art of the 20th century, with contemporaneity as the key referent, at the same time as it was seen as an immediate reality to broaden it to include other geographic areas that would enrich the valuable initial nucleus.

The Caixa Galicia Collection has attempted to select representative names and works that would symbolise trajectories and periods of a country's art history. Within this ambit we can include the figure of Xosé Otero Abeledo, Laxeiro (1908-1996), a faithful exponent of Os Novos, creators who successfully applied the lines of the historic avant-garde in a language closely linked to the most deep-rooted concepts of Galician tradition.

Later, following in the footsteps of Los Renovadores, there appeared in Galicia figures that produced an absolutely unique, personal oeuvre at a period as difficult as the postwar years in Spain. This is the case of Urbano Lugrís (1908-1973), the creator of a dreamlike, oceanic universe with Surrealism as his point of departure. A magnificent painter and draughtsman, he created half-real, half-fantastic landscapes with an almost miniaturist's detail and the sea as a constant feature in his work.

In contrast with this singular vision of the Galician microcosm, Eugenio Granell (1912-2001) occupies a place in the internationally recognised avant-garde. His work manifests a Surrealism that combines the orthodox influences of Europe with his own personal imagery and aesthetic ideas based on his experience in Latin America and his studies of anthropology.

The collection has eight pieces by this creator, who, like most Galician and Spanish artists at the time, produced his works in exile.

After the consolidation of this broad, solid group of Galician artists, the collection opened up to include Spanish and international figures. The definitive leap forward was Picasso (1881-1983), no doubt one of the indisputable referents in any great art collection. Two of the three works by the painter from Málaga currently in the Colección Caixa Galicia will be displayed at the IVAM, the most outstanding of which is *Profil à la fenêtre* (Profile at the Window), a splendid oil painting made in 1934.

Contemporary art in Galicia is represented by the generation of artists from the Atlántica group, who have been producing new aesthetic and conceptual proposals for the art made in this land since the early eighties, which place them on the same level as works made not only in Spain but anywhere in the world.

A member of the latest exhibition of the Atlántica group, Francisco Leiro (Cambados, 1957), is currently the Galician artist best known on an international scale. Leiro has combined traditional Neo-Expressionist wood and stone carving with new plastic materials, commonly found in his work since his discovery of New York.

With the advent of contemporaneity, the Caixa Galicia Collection felt the need to expand its interests to include certain segments of international art. Since the mid eighties, Portugal has been, in this sense, one of the countries that have produced a generation of creators that have made their art transcend their frontiers. Alberto Carneiro (San Mamede, 1937), Rui Chafés (Lisbon, 1966) or José Pedro Croft (Porto, 1957) are some of the indispensable names in contemporary Portuguese art.

Fundación Caixa Galicia

In 1989 Fundación Caixa Galicia was created to forward culture in its multiple facets and manifestations. Therefore its main objectives include the fostering of innovation, the development of creativity, the growth of human capital and the promotion of cultural identity.

Thanks to these initial aims, Fundación Caixa Galicia has consolidated its position as one of the most dynamic cultural agents in Galicia. The decision to collaborate with the most important institutions in the Autonomous Community and the rest of Spain has contributed to its achieving this status as a prestigious reference seeking total involvement in a society whose demands, transformations and expectations for the future it strives to satisfy.

Year after year, large sums of money are allotted to complete an infrastructure that guarantees Fundación Caixa Galicia's steadfast presence in the major Galician cities. For this purpose, its permanent premises in each city have been conditioned to become an indispensable cultural reference in their respective environments.

Whether new constructions of great architectural importance or recuperated emblematic houses of great historic and traditional significance, these buildings are of enormous artistic value and enhance the presence of Fundación Caixa Galicia in every city.