

ALBERT RÀFOLS-CASAMADA

IVAM CENTRE JULIO GONZÁLEZ

12 July - 30 September 2001

After giving up his studies of architecture in 1948, Albert Ràfols-Casamada (Barcelona, 1923) attended classes at the Academia Tàrraga, where he met his future wife, the painter Maria Girona. Before that, he formed part of the group *Els Vuit*, with whom he exhibited his works for the first time in Barcelona in 1946.

He held his first solo exhibition at the Sala Pictòria in Barcelona in 1947. Three years later, he went to France on a French government scholarship, and remained there until 1954. Since then he has had solo exhibitions fairly frequently in galleries in Barcelona (Busquets, Vayreda, Adrià, Joan Prats), Madrid, Santander, Buenos Aires, Cadaqués, Gerona, Valencia, Mexico, Paris, New York, etc. He has held over eighty solo exhibitions and also taken part in important collective shows like *Vanguardia artística y realidad social* at Venice Biennial in 1976, *Maestros de la pintura española de hoy* at the Museo de Arte Moderno in Mexico in 1974, *Le siècle de Picasso* at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 1987, *Naturalezas españolas 1940-1987* at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid, 1988, among others. He has been given many distinctions like the Spanish National Prize for Plastic Arts in 1980, the Sant Jordi Cross by the Generalitat de Catalunya in 1983, and he was appointed Chevalier des Ordres des Arts et des Lettres in 1985.

He has been carrying out important work since 1961 as a teacher and director at the Elisava and EINA schools in Barcelona, both especially dedicated to graphic design. In 1980 he became a member of the Miró Foundation in Barcelona.

This prolific artist started out his artistic life as a figurative painter, and evolved towards a style of abstraction characterized by plays of colour and the creation of a geometric structure until the late fifties and early sixties, when he began to apply a certain chromatic austerity with a predominance of whites, coinciding with the appearance of his first collages. He later went back to incorporating in his work realistic signs, which played a balanced symbolic and aesthetic role.

Ràfols-Casamada's work is not confined to the field of painting, but ramifies off in a natural way in a fruitful dialogue with life and the other arts. As well as his painting, collages and objects, his oeuvre includes the design of stained glass windows, theatre sets and graphic work.

He is also the author of some books of poems like *Notes Nocturnes*, 1976, *Territori de Temps*, 1979, *Angle de Llum*, 1984, *Els colors de les pedres*, 1989 and the book of essays *Sobre Pintura*, 1985, an excellent critical and personal reflection about art, culture and life. In 1998 he published the Spanish version of *Huésped del día. Dietario (1975-1984)*, a volume that contained a broad selection from the earlier books *L'escorça dels dies (1975-1977)* and *D'un mateix traç. Full de dietari 1978-1983*, of 1984 and 1994 respectively.

This retrospective exhibition will show the public a selection of paintings and work on paper made between the sixties and the present day. Many of the drawings are shown here for the first time.

The publication prepared by the Institut Valencià d'Art Modern on the occasion of the retrospective exhibition of Ràfols-Casamada's work includes contributions by prestigious specialists in the artist's extensive work. There are texts by Victoria Combalía, Jean-Pascal Léger, Georges Raillard and José Francisco Yvars on Ràfols-Casamada's plastic work and others by Andrés Sánchez-Robayna, Alfonso Alegre-Heitzman and Enrique Juncosa on the artist's poetic and literary work. It is worth emphasizing the fact that a selection of poems by Ràfols-Casamada have been translated for the first time into Spanish by Alfonso Alegre-Heitzman and Victoria Pradilla, thus permitting a broader reading to enhance his creative dimension. The catalogue of the exhibition is completed and updated with a detailed chronology by Nuria Casellas.

IVAM CENTRE JULIO GONZÁLEZ

Guillem de Castro, 118 - 46003 Valencia
Tel. 96 386 30 00 - Fax 96 392 10 94 - E-mail: ivam@ivam.es - <http://www.ivam.es>

Tuesday to Sunday, 10 am to 10 pm
Sunday, Museum Open Day, admission free
Monday, closed

 GENERALITAT VALENCIANA
CONSELLERIA DE CULTURA I EDUCACIÓ

