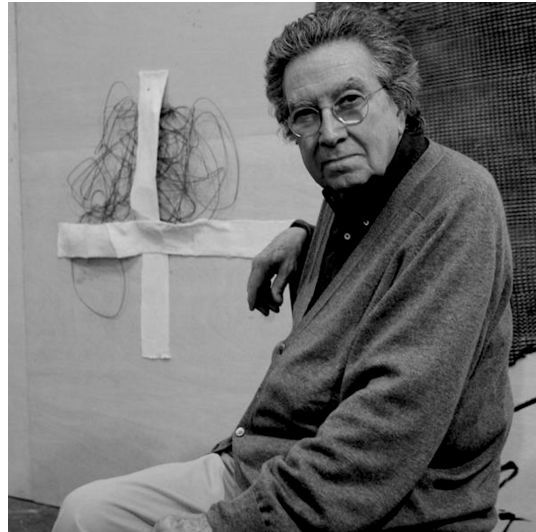


## ANTONI TÀPIES

(Barcelona, Spain, 1923 - 2012)

*I think a work of art should perplex the viewer, make them meditate on the meaning of life.*

Antoni Tàpies was born in Barcelona in 1923. He began as a self-taught artist and left his university studies because of his growing interest in drawing and painting. In 1948 he co-founded the magazine *Dau al Set* and exhibited for the first time in the Saló d' Octubre, this was his starting point on the artistic scene in Barcelona. During this period his work had influences of Joan Miró, Paul Klee and Max Ernst, the oniric and the *Surrealism* as well as oriental philosophies and Martin Heidegger and Jean-Paul Sartre.



Antoni Tàpies at his studio © Carles Mercader

He introduced in his work geometrical elements and colour studies giving also great importance to the medium and to strong textures. Tàpies creates an intense texture on the canvas with strong expressiveness. With these works in the 50's, Tàpies started an international recognition.

From the 1960s he incorporates new iconographic elements (writing signs, anthropomorphic elements, footprints, signs of the daylife) and new technical procedures (marble dust, demolition woods and varnish). The gesture, the stain, the colour or the transparency are the dominant elements of his painting. His work develops his own language of a very recognizable iconography with an enormous plasticity. The elements like crosses, mystical and religious symbols went together with the use of everyday objects and waste which brings him closer to *Art Povera*, *French Informalism* and the new formal explorations of post-war German artists.

His work has been exhibited in public and private institutions around the world such as The Museum of Modern Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, The Institute of Contemporary Arts and The Serpentine Gallery in London, The Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin and The Kunsthaus in Zurich, Musée d'Art moderne de la Ville de Paris, Jeu de Paume and the Centre Pompidou in Paris, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid, the Institut Valencià d'Art Modern in Valencia and the Museu d'Art Contemporani in Barcelona, among many others. Antoni Tàpies also developed a career as a writer: *La pràctica de l'art* (The Practice of Art, 1970), *L'art contra l'estètica* (Art against Aesthetics, 1974), *Memòria personal* (Personal Memory, 1977), *La realitat com a art* (Reality as Art, 1982), *Per un art modern i progressista*

# GALERÍA ELVIRA GONZÁLEZ

Hermanos Álvarez Quintero, 1  
28004 Madrid

T +34 91 319 59 00

[galeriaelvira.com](http://galeriaelvira.com)

(For a Modern and Progressive Art, 1985), *Valor de l'art* (The Value of Art, 1993) and *L'art i els seus llocs* (Art and its Places, 1999).

Antoni Tàpies created Fundació Antoni Tàpies in 1984 with the aim of promoting the study and knowledge of contemporary art, paying special attention to the analysis of the role in the formation of modern conscience. Antoni Tàpies also developed a career as a writer: *La pràctica de l'art* (The Practice of Art, 1970), *L'art contra l'estètica* (Art against Aesthetics, 1974), *Memòria personal* (Personal Memory, 1977), *La realitat com a art* (Reality as Art, 1982), *Per un art modern i progressista* (For a Modern and Progressive Art, 1985), *Valor de l'art* (The Value of Art, 1993) and *L'art i els seus llocs* (Art and its Places, 1999).

Antoni Tàpies created Fundació Antoni Tàpies in 1984 with the aim of promoting the study and knowledge of contemporary art, paying special attention to the analysis of the role in the formation of modern conscience.



@galeriaelvira.com



@galeriaelvira.com



@GalElviraGonzal