

# Joan Furriols

## 17 untitled works



Untitled 2012, cork, wood and pigments, variable sizes

Joan Furriols (Vic, Barcelona 1937) should be considered, without any doubt, one of the leading artists of the Catalan avant-garde art. Instead of this, he is still an unknown artist for collectors and art enthusiasts. Over the years, his work has followed the evolution of the different trends developed during the second half of the twentieth century, without being on the front line, and we could even say, just staying at home. In Spain, and for many years, it was very difficult to do art for a living, and Furriols had to combine creative activity with working in a family business. Since the very beginnings, he admired all those artists who opened new ways of expression. He also participated in the activities organized at the *Cercle Maillol*, at the French Institute of Barcelona and Club 49. His works were exhibited at the *Salon de Octubre*, next to works by other artists, as Joan Ponç, Josep Guinovart, Antoni Tàpies, Josep Maria de Sucre, Enrique Tabara and Romà Vallès, among others. Furriols has been engaged to art in a more private way than other artists, but with perseverance and remarkable rigor, building an extensive and solid work that reveals his great artistic dimension.



Untitled 1960, iron plate, 41 x 45 cm (16,1 x 17,7 in)

The exhibition *17 untitled works*, wants to show not only his recent works, but also some older ones that are important to understand the particular background of his poetic and the coherence of his career. He is still an artist to be discovered, and because of the interest and relevance of these previous works, it seems essential to show them. Joan Furriol's work is difficult to classify in a particular discipline, but it corresponds exactly to his aesthetic and

conceptual ideas. It could be considered a permanent reflection about the space and its limits, and also about time and how it passes by. His particular way of disposing the different elements in his works, shows also his very special concept of order. His research process leads him to drill iron sheets, to make incisions on wood, to fold paper of different qualities. The result is always a transfigured space that can seem



Untitled 1994, foam, inkpots, cork and pigments, 20,5 x 45,5 x 16,5 cm

both real and metaphysical. In its objectual works, built as if they were still lives, Furriols gives a new life to objects that far from being obvious, become deeply enigmatic.

The work of Joan Furriols has a fragile and intimate nature, as the result perhaps of his silent and solitary process. His poetry transmits a severe and transcendent austerity. It could be related to minimalism, spatialism or poetic essentialism. Recently, it has been shown in three retrospective exhibitions: *Joan Furriols. Thinking space*, organized by various entities of Vic (Barcelona) in 2007, *Joan Furriols. The place of time*, Centre d'Art Tecla Sala, Hospitalet de Llobregat (Barcelona) 2010, and *The sense of emptiness*, Museo de Montserrat (Barcelona) 2013.

The exhibition will be opened until **September 30, 2016**

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