

Barcelona galleries Recent openings

An exhibition about Barcelona honors the forgotten photographer Martí Gasull i Coral

Graphic arts meeting of artists from Leipzig and Barcelona at Círculo del Arte

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Martí Gasull i Coral (Barcelona, 1919-1994) belongs to that still unfinished or unfinished list of Catalan photographers worthy of recognition. He is an artist whose work deserves greater attention than it has received, as well as institutional support, since it has not been sufficiently disseminated to date. Even many photography specialists in his own country are unfamiliar with him, and without awareness, there can be no recognition.

In 1988, her work was featured in a good exhibition at the Pisco-lab gallery, which launched the careers of several artists who later went on to have brilliant careers (the painter Jordina Orbañanos, for example). At that time, I was

struck by the quality of some of her photographs, but since then her work has rarely been exhibited. The new gallery El Quadern Robat presents a selection of 26 of his photographs, all in black and white, taken in the late 1940s and throughout the 1950s, the period in which he produced the majority and best of his photographic work. In 1960, he abandoned photography for family reasons, and one of his sons took over. In Barcelona's art world, the name Martí Gasull is also known for the work that his namesake son, Gasull i Coral, carried out until recently in his studio near the Palau de la Música Catalana, as he was one of the finest photographers of artworks for catalogs and archives of institutions, artists, and galleries.

The current exhibition, titled

Barcelona i la llum d'aquells anys (Barcelona and the light of those years), focuses on landscapes of the city, with or without figures, although there are also some close-up images, and even a brilliant backlit spiderweb, not necessarily from Barcelona. Gasull i Coral often sought out and found backlighting, which he modulated to his liking in the prints, a phase of photographic creation in which he excelled, as can be seen in this exhibition of unique, original prints. In the 1950s, many photographers turned to Gasull for their print runs.

The Barcelona depicted in his photographs no longer exists. In *Filtered Light*, we see sunlight seem to burst in beams from different centers, filtered through the vaulted ceiling and skylights of France Station, in a backlighting effect where the dark element is a train carriage. It's a Portuguese express, as can be read in the bold, embossed lettering. In another image, the urban night appears silent, in the form of the stillness of parked cars and absence: there are no human figures, only the memory of movement, traces of light drawn



Filtered Light, by Martí Gasull i Coral, from the late 1940s

GASULL PHOTOGRAPHY / MARTÍ GASULL I CORAL

the title of the exhibition of original graphic works presented by Círculo del Arte. It is curated by the artist Maribel Mas. She has been the bridge between the two cities, which stand out for their artistic creation and the importance of their publishing, printing and graphic arts industries. This exhibition introduces us to the Leipziger Baumwollspinnerei, a new center for creation, production and dissemination that is operating in a former textile factory in Leipzig, where artists of different styles and generations, as well as technicians and other professionals related to the arts, mainly visual arts, work. In this exhibition, graphic works created in Leipzig are in dialogue with

works engraved in different workshops in Barcelona. Although the Leipzig school is figurative, abstraction predominates here. Some works stand out, created and signed by various artists, resulting from graphic jam sessions equivalent to musical ones: graphic jazz. Círculo del Arte. Princesa, 52. Until August 31 (closed from August 10 to 23).

Grafik Barcelona-Leipzig. This is

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