

FROM 21 JUNE TO 17 SEPTEMBER

"Picasso's Will. The Ceramics that Inspired the Artist" exhibition will be on at the Museu del Disseny in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Picasso's death

- From 21 June to 17 September 2023, the Museu del Disseny will be hosting the exhibition curated by Isabel Cendoya and Isabel Fernández del Moral, both curators at the museum
- The exhibition includes extensive documentation and around 70 ceramic pieces, four of which are loans, while the rest of the works form part of the Museu del Disseny's own collection
- With this exhibition, the Museu del Disseny, which houses a significant and representative set of ceramics by Picasso as well as a rich collection of Spanish pottery, highlights the value of its collections and shows the importance of Spanish pottery in Picasso's ceramic work



Mermaid càntir. Pablo Picasso France, 1957. MCB 64668.

Photography: Guillem Fernández-Huerta © VEGAP

In an article from 13 April 1957, the newspaper *La Vanguardia* said that Picasso exclaimed: **“But is it really possible that they did this before me?”** when he saw the selection of ceramics from the 13th to the 19th century that was on display at the exhibition *La Céramique espagnole du XIIIème siècle à nos jours* held at the Palais Miramar in Cannes that spring. This admiration and his meeting with Lluís Maria Llubia led to the artist's **donation of 16 ceramic**

works to the Museu d'Art de Barcelona. These are currently part of the Museu del Disseny de Barcelona's permanent collections. Picasso attached only one condition to his donation, he insisted that his pieces "should be exhibited alongside an important collection owned by these museums".

On the occasion of the **Celebració Picasso 1973 - 2023**, the Museu del Disseny aims to continue fulfilling this wish by exhibiting all 16 pieces donated by the artist alongside its own collection of historical ceramics. The exhibition also tells the story of the donation to the Museu d'Art de Barcelona, a story that began at the Spanish ceramics exhibition in Cannes in 1957.

Perhaps unknown to many Barcelona residents, this is a story about **Picasso's love for the city's museums**, and his vision of his work as a continuation of the Spanish ceramic tradition.



The exhibition is divided into **4 sections**:

1. "But is it possible that they did this before me?": the story of the exhibition is based on Picasso's exclamation according to a *La Vanguardia* journalist when he visited the exhibition *La Céramique espagnole du XIIIème siècle à nos jours* in Cannes in 1957.

2. La Céramique espagnole, du XIIIème siècle a nos jours: this space includes a selection of works from the Museu del Disseny's collection that were part of the exhibition in Cannes, *La Céramique espagnole, du XIIIème siècle a nos jours* in 1957.

3. The History of a Donation: the third section contains documentation related to the donation, photographs of the exhibition of Picasso's ceramic works at different times and in different museums, and images and documents connected with Picasso's creation of his ceramic work and with the exhibition on 30 July 1957 of his donation to the Museu d'Art de Barcelona.

4. Picasso's Will: the last space is dedicated to the links between 16 of Picasso's ceramic

works, and a selection of Spanish ceramics that includes both antique and modern pieces.

The exhibition "Picasso's Will. The Ceramics that Inspired the Artist" is organised by the **Museu del Disseny** with the support of the **National Commission for the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Pablo Picasso's Death**.

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