



FONDATION
GANDUR
POUR L'ART



FUNDACIÓN JUAN MARCH

Press release

EUROPEAN ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM

THE JUAN MARCH FOUNDATION IN MADRID EXHIBITS 32 ABSTRACT MASTERPIECES FROM THE FONDATION GANDUR POUR L'ART

Geneva/Madrid, 26 February 2016 – The Fondation Gandur pour l'Art is the principal lender to the temporary exhibition *LO NUNCA VISTO. De la pintura informalista al fotolibro de postguerra (1945-1965)*, which opens today at the Juan March Foundation in Madrid in the presence of Jean Claude Gandur. The loan of 32 representative works of European post-war painting is taken from the fine arts collection of the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art, one of the world's largest privately-owned collections devoted to this period.

Jean Claude Gandur, chairman of the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art, explains his interest in the post-war era: *"I have been a connoisseur of this genre of European painting for a very long time; I grew up with it and enjoy it. I wanted to bring together a major body of significant post-war works in order to restore European Abstract Expressionism to favour, as it has been unjustly overshadowed by its American counterpart. "*

The 160 works on display in Madrid bring together painting, photography and books. Of these, the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art has loaned 32 major canvases by renowned artists, who include Jean Dubuffet, Alberto Burri, Hans Hartung, Georges Mathieu, Pierre Soulages and Nicolas de Stael, among others. These artists represent an abundant scene characterized by a vitality, despite bearing the scars of war.

As they emerged from the Second World War, numerous artists – marked by hardships and traumas – found it impossible to pursue their practice as they did before the war and, in particular, to have recourse to figuration as an artistic language. In a movement of creative rupture, abstraction would focus on the liberation of form and composition and the use of expressive gestures. As the atrocities produced by the war came to the world's attention, abstraction would take on the unrepresentable.

The exhibition *LO NUNCA VISTO. De la pintura informalista al fotolibro de postguerra (1945-1965)* runs until 5 June 2016.



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About the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art:

The Fondation Gandur pour l'Art was founded in Geneva by Swiss art collector and entrepreneur Jean Claude Gandur in 2010 with the aim of conserving, enriching and exhibiting the collections developed for over 40 years. Its mission includes making the collections available to museums, the academic world and the general public. Reflecting Jean Claude Gandur's conviction that culture should be accessible to all, the Foundation encourages access to art through temporary exhibitions, loans, online access and, more recently, the publication of reference catalogues. The Foundation has also developed a number of partnerships, notably with Geneva's Art and History Museum (Switzerland), the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL – Switzerland) and the National Museum Centre for Arts Reina Sofia (Spain). The Foundation strictly adheres to the code of ethics established by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

The Foundation's collections cover three distinct areas: an archaeology collection with over 1,200 works of art from Ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome and the Near East; a collection with more than 750 European paintings, mostly post-war, considered as the most important one after the great Paris and London museums; a decorative arts collection with over 400 pieces, including decorative objects and pieces of art from the twelfth to the eighteenth century, as well as furniture by master cabinetmakers from the eighteenth century.

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