



Joan Miro: The Ladder of Escape

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A superbly illustrated, retrospective survey that focuses on Miró's politically engaged art, published to accompany a major touring exhibition.

Joan Miró's paintings are among the most widely recognized of any modern artist, reproduced everywhere from books to T-shirts to posters. While he is most often seen as a surrealist or a postwar abstract painter, terms he rejected, this book brings new insights into Miró's work by framing it in the context of the turbulent times in which he lived.

Miró's contemporary Picasso left Spain, promising never to return under a Fascist government. In contrast, Miró chose internal exile, removing himself to the island of Mallorca, a decision that has led to him being viewed as a less political artist. This book challenges that impression by focusing on Miró's politically engaged works, from the rural, anarchist tradition and strong Catalan nationalism reflected in early paintings like *The Farm* and *Head of a Catalan Peasant* to the triptych *The Hope of a Condemned Man* (1974) through which he publicly declared his opposition to Franco.

Drawing on new scholarship from an international group of experts, the book accompanies the first exhibition in nearly half a century to show work from throughout Miró's career. It sheds new light on the life and achievements of one of the greatest artists of the twentieth century.

200 color illustrations

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