

GALERIA MARC DOMÈNECH

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PRESS RELEASE

Hernández Pijuan. 1970s

11 May – 30 June 2023

Painting is an act of knowledge

J. Hernández Pijuan

- The first exhibition in more than four decades dedicated exclusively to the artist's work from the 1970s.
- The exhibition includes over forty works, many of them never shown in public before.
- The intention is to review this fascinating period and to analyse its importance.

The Galeria Marc Domènech is pleased to present *Hernández Pijuan.1970s*, an exhibition consisting of over forty works, including paintings, watercolours and drawings, produced by the artist between 1969 and 1980. This is the first exhibition, after the one held at the Galeria Joan Prats (Barcelona) in 1979, dedicated to the work produced by Hernández Pijuan (Barcelona, 1931-2005) in the 1970s. A body of works that he himself described as 'the most radical, the hardest and most uncompromising that emerged from my studio'.

The aim is to look back at this significant period of the artist's career with a view to assessing with hindsight its importance, both in the evolution of his artistic trajectory and in the context of a time when numerous different artistic languages blossomed – Minimalism, Conceptual Art, Spatialism and colour-field painting – that have often been associated with the artist and which he always kept – respectfully – at arm's length.

The 1970s were an extraordinarily fundamental period for Hernández Pijuan, since it was at this time, once he had moved away from informalist and gestural practice (which still held sway among many artistic circles of the day), that he decided to embrace a universe very much his own that

gradually moved towards pared-down, rigorous and almost Minimalist abstraction.

Hernández Pijuan's works between the late sixties and early seventies depict objects – glasses, tumblers, scissors and rulers – which, set against a monochrome background, serve to delimit and mark out the dimensions of an empty space, an 'ambience' as he himself put it. In 1972, his pieces began to evolve, as he explored in depth a subtle, monochrome painting done with slow, often short and dense brushstrokes applied in layers in order to emphasise the idea of process, while at the same time generating delicate lighting effects intended to reinterpret the memory of an experienced landscape. As Carles Guerra says in his essay in the catalogue, 'Hernández Pijuan's painting advanced against the current of the urgent gestures of contemporary art. Slowness, rather than silence, was his watchword.'



Joan Hernández Pijuan, Barcelona, 1970 (©Toni Vidal)

Opening: 11 May at 7.30 pm
Catalogue: 120 pages – three languages