



# FERNANDO VIJANDE

PORTRAIT: 1971-1987

**With the purpose of showing and accentuating the work of the art dealer Fernando Vijande (Barcelona, 1930 – Madrid, 1986), the Fundació Suñol presents a group exhibition with work by numerous artists who exhibited under his guidance during the time he was director of Galería Vandrés and Galería Fernando Vijande, in Madrid. The goal is to explore his artistic sensibility, which many have defined as eclectic and intelligent, and attain a better understanding of his artistic vision during that crucial period.**

Galería Vandrés. © Colita, Madrid 1975

Fernando Vijande began his career in the world of art in 1971, in partnership with Gloria Kirby, with the opening of Galería Vandrés. After a decade of intense activity, that period ended when he opened Galería Fernando Vijande, in 1981. It was active until 1987, giving us a fifteen-year period where Vijande was working as an art dealer. Time and history have shown that Fernando Vijande's contribution was vitally important to the Spanish artistic ecosystem in the period spanning the democratic transition. After more than thirty years since his death in 1987, we have enough distance from which to properly assess the importance of Fernando Vijande's task amidst the new panorama, then emerging amidst high expectations.

The seventies were a time of rupture and agitation in Spain, both socially and politically. In the cultural sphere, desire for change was also seen on a mass scale, with contributions from various fields which unequivocally strove for a break with the past and a commitment to transformation. In this regard, Galería Vandrés and Galería Fernando Vijande were leading settings for contemporary art as it sought to contribute to the process of democratizing and modernizing the Spanish state, in consonance with the international context most relevant to it.

Given the many exhibitions Vijande organized and the lengthy list of artists he worked with, the Fundació Suñol and its curatorial team has chosen to focus on the work of those who did individual shows in either of the galleries, following a chronological order starting with the first exhibition done with Fernando Vijande. This exhibition also draws from a selection of current work from some of the participating artists, by way of reflecting the professional path taken by those who began their careers thanks to the dealer's support. At the same time, with the idea of further complementing this proposal, a catalogue will be published including documentation of Fernando

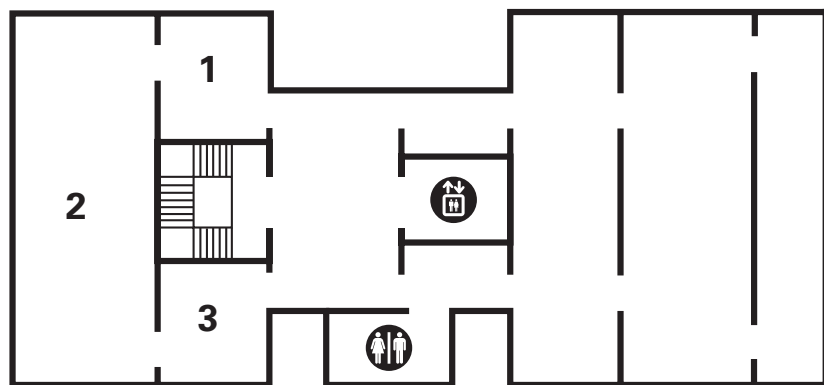
Vijande's career, as well as texts by María Escribano, Fernando Huici and Margit Rowell. Also featured is a list of exhibitions that took place during the almost sixteen years the two spaces were open, thus reflecting the dealer's scope of activity.

The organization of this exhibition at the Fundació Suñol responds to the binding friendship between Josep Suñol and Fernando Vijande, enabling us to define the show as a double homage: on the one hand, their personal relationship; on the other, the professional legacy of Fernando Vijande. During the years Vijande was director of the two galleries, Josep Suñol's collection of contemporary art already featured important work, although the exemplary relationship between the collector and the dealer, their personal and artistic complicity and the constant interchange of ideas between them meant for a fruitful period of collaboration, directly impacting the creative milieu of the time.

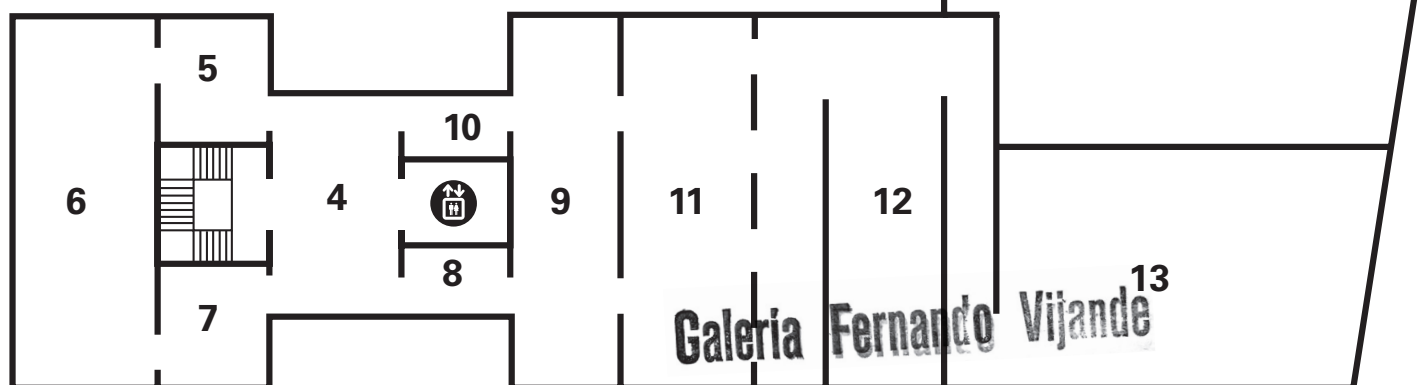
If we establish that contemporary artists during that period distinguished their work with a specific aesthetic and (it could not be otherwise) ethic, it might be equally appropriate to perform a similar analysis when it comes to the mass media, writers, intellectuals, musicians and other groups in society that contributed to the creative optimism of the time. For this reason, and alongside the artwork itself, this exhibition features a set of documents, catalogues, press reports, photographs and other material, in their majority contributed by individuals with connections to the activity of the galleries.

The exhibition the Fundació Suñol is now dedicating to the art dealer Fernando Vijande offers us a complex portrait of a unique and decisive individual in Spanish contemporary art, accentuating the unarguable creative potential of a projected future that was already being played out in the present tense.

## SECOND FLOOR



**V GALERIA VANDRES**



## FIRST FLOOR

## NIVELL ZERO

1. Adolfo Estrada  
Luis Gordillo

2. Juan Giralt  
Joan Miró  
Joaquín Mouliá  
Muntadas  
Robert Smith

3. Eduardo Arranz-Bravo  
Rafael Bartolozzi

4. Robert Llimós  
Luis Lugán

5. Michael Buthe  
Juan Genovés

6. José Luis Alexanco  
Claudio Bravo  
José Ramón Sierra  
Raúl Valdivieso  
Darío Villalba  
Zush

7. Rafael Armengol  
Manolo Boix  
Artur Heras

8. Erwin Bechtold  
Armando Pedrosa

9. Sergi Aguilar  
Carmen Calvo  
Chema Cobo  
Teresa Gancedo  
Carlos León  
Miquel Navarro  
Guillermo Pérez Villalta  
Jordi Teixidor

10. Josep Guinovart  
Joan Hernández Pijuan  
Albert Ràfols-Casamada

11. Juan Bordes  
Ian Breakwell  
Costus  
Karl Horst Hödicke

Jannis Kounellis  
Nino Longobardi  
Susana Solano

12. Manolo Paz

13. Jaume Barrera  
Evaristo Bellotti  
Joan Cardells  
Xavier Franquesa  
Robert Mapplethorpe  
Jonier Marin  
Juan Muñoz  
Andy Warhol

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Saturday, 4 pm to 8 pm. Closed Sundays and Public Holidays.