



Building process of Les Escalles (1975-1976)

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Fundació Suñol

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Chronology

The Fundació Suñol is a non-profit cultural organisation dedicated to advancing the production and promotion of contemporary art through the organisation of exhibitions, activities and educational programmes, focussing on artists, relevant subjects and projects of interest. Furthermore, we curate, preserve and make known the Josep Suñol Collection, which is shown through a variety of formats and readings, whether in the Foundation's main space or in collaboration with other cultural institutions. In 2019 the Fundació Suñol opens its new main space in the Barcelona district of Les Corts, building on a trajectory that began decades ago. Following is an explanation of our history, divided into five stages.

1976 The Beginnings of a Collection Les Escales/Galeria 1

The Josep Suñol Collection is an expression of a special way of understanding the art of collecting, establishing a relationship of warmth and complicity between the collector and artists, with deep commitment to every project a foundational principle. Starting from this personal position, the Collection has been designed by Josep Suñol over a period of more than 40 years of dedication, during which he has also built bonds with art dealers and other professionals connected to the world of art. It is with this spirit that the Collection conceives itself as both a personal and collective legacy.

One of the leading points of reference in the creation of Josep Suñol's collection was Fernando Vijande, a close friend and dealer from the 1970s who ran the galleries Vandrés and Vijande in Madrid. Through him, Josep Suñol became interested in contemporary creation and expanded his collection, which already featured important purchases from the historical avant-garde.

In 1976 Josep Suñol moved his residence to Les Escales, the name by which the building designed by Josep Lluís Sert is known. The building was specifically conceived to house Suñol's growing art collection, and was also known as Galeria 1. It opened with the ritualised festive event entitled Situació Color [Colour Situation], conceived by Miralda and Jaume Xifra, with the participation of important figures in art and culture such as Antoni Muntadas and Jaume Sisa, amongst many others.

1980 A Secret in Les Corts Galeria 2

The building in Les Corts is the current main space, although its history goes back a long way. The Galeria 2, the name given to the space we are now found, was set up in 1980 as a storeroom for the Josep Suñol Collection, responding to the rapid expansion of his purchases. Later, the works that had been added to the collection were shown there on request, so that Galeria 2 would become a key focal point for those seeking to discover the city's artistic scene. In January 1982, ten days before the opening of the first edition of the ARCO art fair in Madrid, a festive event was held to inaugurate the space, presenting the Josep Suñol Collection to visiting representatives of ICOM, comprised of the world's leading museum directors, critics and experts in contemporary art. The intervention, entitled To Suñol&Vijande from Miralda&Gaudí, was conceived by the artist Miralda along with Montse Guillén.

Over the decade of the 1980s, Galeria 2 was also used as an artist studio and residence, with the presence of creators such as Zush, José Noguero, Pablo Maeso and Rosa Amorós. This use was revived more recently with the collaboration

with the Master in Artistic Production and Research ProdArt of the University of Barcelona, featuring artists such as Antònia del Río, Carmen Díaz and Lúa Coderch, held until 2014.

Since 2007, coinciding with the opening of the Fundació Suñol to the public in the building at Passeig de Gràcia 98, Galeria 2 has been used as a reserve space for the Josep Suñol Collection..

1988 Experimental Territory Passeig de Gràcia 98

This family-owned residential building was built in 1906 by the great grandfather of Josep Suñol, and was where the collector was born. Starting at the end of the 1980s, Josep Suñol used the spaces at Passeig de Gràcia 98 to store the latest works of art that he had purchased for his collection. At first he used the building's original spaces, including the basement and the former furnace room, which was conceived as an experimental space, such as for the project done by Antoni Abad in 1993, Mesurament de l'escultura 'La butaca' d'Antoni Tàpies [Measurement of the Sculpture 'The Armchair' by Antoni Tàpies], which related the Tàpies piece from the collection with the exhibition space and Abad's own artistic intervention.

Further to this, Josep Suñol chose to invite a younger generation of artists to participate in the project, selecting pieces for his collection that entered into dialogue with the architectural space and were ultimately exhibited in it, featuring works by Carmen Calvo, Héctor Milla, Tonet Amorós and Jordi Tolosa, amongst others.

Around the year 1988, the space was thoroughly rehabilitated, adding parquet flooring and lighting conditions that enhanced it for the private exhibition of works of art. Slowly but surely the idea was developed to turn this family-owned building into an art centre that would be open to the public.

2007 Opening of the Fundació Suñol Passeig de Gràcia 98 Nivell Zero

In 2002 the Fundació Suñol was officially constituted, and on 21 May 2007 it opened its doors as an art centre. Its public activity was inaugurated with a large group exhibition from the holdings of the Josep Suñol Collection, which for the first time ever was made accessible to a greater number of visitors.

For more than a decade, the programming at Passeig de Gràcia focused on raising the profile of the collection by means of a variety of readings, along with the organisation of many solo exhibitions by the various artists featured in it; it also included the exhibition of co-productions organised in collaboration with recognised cultural institutions.

As a complement to this programming, the Nivell Zero [Level Zero] space was created from the very start. An adjacent space with a street access at Rosselló 240, it was dedicated to emerging creation and was open to a full range of fields. A reference point in the city for contemporary creation, the Nivell Zero would organise some 40 exhibitions by contemporary artists.

In total, the Fundació Suñol organised almost a hundred exhibitions in the two spaces, along with a diverse range of activities that enabled the foundation to take on a fundamental role in the Barcelona cultural scene.

Creation of the Fundació Glòria Soler

In parallel to the activity of the Fundació Suñol, in 2015 the Fundació Glòria Soler was created. A non-profit organisation initiated by Josep Suñol i Soler, its focus was largely philanthropic, with the idea of giving back to society. The Fundació Glòria Soler has the same president, board and head office as the Fundació Suñol, and both foundations work together in the areas of art and society as driving forces for social transformation.

The Fundació Glòria Soler also works to advance programmes based on solidarity, innovation and social impact, working alongside organisations of recognised prestige and history. In the field of health, the Fundació Glòria Soler has collaborated in the development of the Paediatric Palliative Care Unit of the Hospital Sant Joan de Déu, and has contributed to the advancement of knowledge in therapeutic vaccines against the HIV virus and AIDS, under the leadership of the IrsiCaixa team. It has also participated in the Project ARI of Barcelona's Hospital Clínic in the fight against leukaemia, and was a driving force in Torrents d'art [Art Streams], an artistic project at the Mental Health unit in the Sant Joan de Déu Health Park.

2019 A New Main Space for a New Era Mejía Lequerica 14

In 2019 the Fundació Suñol and Fundació Glòria Soler moved their main venue to the historical Galeria 2 space in Barcelona's Les Corts district. This emblematic location connects the project to the foundation's origins as the future project is unfolded.

In this new stage the bonds between the two foundations have been strengthened, as we continue with our commitment to contemporary creation while initiating a broad programme of exhibitions, projects and activities, with the goal of becoming a space dedicated to knowledge, participaton and open debate in concert with all of society.

Consult our programming. fundaciosunol.org | [@fundaciosunol](https://www.instagram.com/fundaciosunol)