



Pérez de Rozas (AFB)

BARCELONA, 1938

Eighty years ago, Barcelona was the centre of all the political authorities of the Second Republic that had resisted fascism for more than a year and a half. It also had the most important war industry and was the main source of economic production of the loyal Spanish territory. The city was in a critical situation due to food scarcity, the loss of territory and the population increase caused by the constant arrival of refugees. It was then that the historic bombings of the month of March took place.

AIR WARFARE: MASS TERRORISM FROM THE AIR

The bloodiest bombings suffered by Barcelona were carried out by the Italian Legionary Air Force on 16, 17 and 18 March 1938. They caused the death of 875 civilians, 118 of them children. The Spanish Civil War marked a turning point in air warfare, which was used for the first time to systematically attack the civilian population. Two security systems were implemented: Active Defence, under the

Republican Army, tried to neutralize the attacking planes, and Passive Defence aimed to protect the population by means of warning and protection systems. Nevertheless, massacres such as the one in Plaça de San Felip Neri could not be avoided.

DRAWING LIFE, DRAWING THE WAR

Many drawings of the Civil War period have been preserved. Some of them were created for pedagogical, psychological and therapeutic purposes. Others were created for propaganda reasons, using children as an instrument for mobilizing international public opinion, or for economic reasons, in order to raise funds for refugee camps and families who gave a home to evacuated children.

SURVIVING THE WAR

Josep Guinovart (1927-2007) was nine years old when the war broke out, and at the age of eleven he left Barcelona with his family, seeking refuge in the town of Agramunt, where they were also bombed by German aircraft on 5 April 1938. Guinovart shaped his memories of the Civil War in several works, establishing a strong link between the past and the present. With the work *Des del Guernica* (1999), Guinovart expressed the strong impact

that Picasso's mural had had on him. His interest in the work was not only creative but was reinforced by his experience as a child who had lived through the war.

WE CANNOT ERASE MEMORY

No esborrem la memòria I (We cannot erase memory I) and *No esborrem la memòria III* (We cannot erase memory III) belong to a series created by Guinovart in 2006 in protest against the bombing of Baghdad and the Iraq war. They fall within his line of commitment and critical awareness, which shuns propaganda and is expressed through loyalty to his own language. Guinovart described his creative work on the Iraq war as the result of an urgent need to express his rage and helplessness in seeing that we become injured to the most unfair situations generated by power and lies.

ÀREA DE SEGURETAT

Àrea de seguretat (Safety Zone) is an interactive installation by Xavier Bové. A map reflects worldwide conflicts reported in the media in 2016, and is activated by the movement of visitors in a delimited area.



Süddeutsche Zeitung Photo/Photoaia

“A childhood under the bombs” gives us an insight into the lives of the many girls and boys who were forced to take part in a war that cut short their childhood before they were able to tell right from wrong. It left permanent—if not always visible—scars on those who managed to survive.

The exhibition is divided into three areas. The first area evokes the Barcelona of 1938 and the impact of bombing on the city and the people. The second area features the boys and girls who witnessed the conflict, presenting their drawings of what they saw and experienced. The last area penetrates the universe of adults who suffered bombardment when they were children and explores the languages they used throughout life to express—as a necessity and a commitment—what it means to have survived the bombs.

This discursive thread connects past and present, and finally invites us to reflect on a world in constant conflict from the viewpoint of today.

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EXHIBITION A CHILDHOOD UNDER THE BOMBS

PRICE

€ 5

SCHEDULE

From October to March, from Tuesday to Sunday and bank holidays,
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

November: from Tuesday to Saturday,
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.;

Sundays and bank holidays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Closed on Mondays, except public holidays.

GUIDED TOUR

€ 7.80

For guided tour times, please see the website.

Bookings: reserveselbornccm@eicub.net
or (+34) 93 256 68 50

ACCESSIBILITY

The exhibition is accessible to people with disabilities. We have audio guides and tablets with audiovisual transcripts in Catalan, Spanish, English and French.

elbornculturaaimemoria.cat
[#unainfanciasotalesbombes](https://twitter.com/unainfanciasotalesbombes)

 Barcelona
Bombardejada

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A CHILDHOOD UNDER THE BOMBS

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Ajuntament de
Barcelona



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