

Miquel Barceló | *Flores, peces, toros*

January 29 – March 29, 2025

"Painting is linked to childhood. It is probably true that we learn what is important before we are ten years old. I have the impression that, in painting, at the age of ten I had already done almost everything I have done and continue to redo. In Mallorca I learned the names of trees, fish, birds. I learned to whistle, throw stones, fish, kill and gut hares and lambs, and cook them. I usually paint what I kill or what I eat".

Galería Elvira González is pleased to announce the fourth exhibition of Miquel Barceló in the gallery which opens on Wednesday, January 29th. *Flores, peces, toros* will feature 9 paintings, 24 ceramics and 13 watercolors with marine topics, bullfighting themes, still life and nature.

The first room revolves around bullfighting. The art of bullfighting is a constant subject in Barceló, who painted his first bullfight in 1980; since then it has been a theme he has obsessively used and worked in detail. From a bird's eye view or as a spectator in the bullring, Barceló's bullfight



Miquel Barceló in his studio, Mallorca, 2004

paintings capture passes and moments that only those who know in depth the universe around bullfighting can describe. Or paint.

Continuing with the exhibition, ceramics with various types of masks and fishes will be on display; masks that may look like the portrait of the artist himself. The sea is another theme widely reflected in his work. "My day to day life is summed up in painting, swimming and reading" the artist stated. Interested in organic life and the passage of time, Barceló considers ceramics an extension of his painting.

The third and last room in the gallery will display still life paintings, flowers, marine and under the water fauna as well as works on paper and ceramics of all kinds, where once again, the *toros*, the marine theme, animals, fauna and flora are intermingled. The artist acts like the prehistoric cave painter who paints out of an imperious need to transmit. In the studio, Barceló cannot refrain from painting what he sees and captures with his art the daily life that surrounds him and in which he is immersed.

Miquel Barceló (Felanitx, 1956) first exhibited in the mid-1970s and quickly gained international recognition. He started his art studies in Barcelona but abandoned soon to start an independent pictorial career. In 1974 he had his first solo exhibition at the Picarol Gallery in Mallorca bursting onto the international scene at the São Paulo Biennial in 1981 and at Documenta VII in Kassel (Germany) in 1982.

Miquel Barceló has had exhibitions in major museums such as the CAPC (Bordeaux), the IVAM (Valencia), the Jeu de Paume, the Centre Pompidou, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, the



Miquel Barceló, *Ensabonados*, 2024.

Bibliothèque Nationale de France and the Musée du Louvre (all five in Paris), The Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna (Rome), the Museu d'Art Contemporani (Barcelona), the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (Madrid), the Museo Nacional de Arte de Osaka (Japan) and recently the Küppersmühle Museum in Duisburg (Germany). He has also made major interventions in public spaces such as the ceramic covering in the Chapel of Sant Pere in the Cathedral of Mallorca or the dome of Room XX of the Palais des Nations Unies in Geneva. Throughout his

career, Miquel Barceló has received awards such as the National Prize for the Arts in Spain 1986 and the Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts in 2003.