

# SERRA DE RIVERA

## “PAINTINGS”

5th DEC 2018 / 17th MAR 2019

On December 15th PALMADOTZE opened an individual exhibition by the artist **Xavier Serra de Rivera (San Juan Despi, 1946)**, the first in the space of the gallery in Mas Pujó. The exhibition brings together a selection of recent oil paintings on canvas, some of them unpublished and seeing the light for the first time.

Although he began his career in the artistic context of a certain modernity of the sixties, and which initially felt influenced by Magritte, Serra de Rivera gradually turned towards an increasingly traditional figuration. Thus, we must enlist his work within what we know as “new realism”, around a theme of interiors, figures and landscapes. Over time, his style has been refined and entrenched in his fundamental features: the craftsmanship of drawing and painting, the treatment and importance of light that shapes the figures and shows them in their transcendence and corporeity, the vibrant brushstroke, a just arrangement of warm and cold tones, the presence of few elements and an orderly composition. The atmosphere of the works surrounds people and objects, adding them in environments of almost magical and silent climate, which gives them at the same time a poetic dimension and that borders a mental and plastic distance between the emitter and the receiver. Distance that is overcome by calm, intimate and patient care. Attention and patience exercised by the painter himself in the act of looking, of recognizing the unique value of things looks and of people who fully exist, as he expresses: *“At the other end of the corridor, the sun lights a room, while I watch as the Light extends over the model revealing the color and outright shape of grenades, the silky white of a garlic head and the perfect geometry of a hat. And so, almost without realizing it, I start painting.”*

Xavier Serra de Rivera was educated at the School of Fine Arts of San Jorge and the Conservatory of the Arts of the Book of Barcelona (1960-65). Initially dedicated to engraving, in 1969 he made the first solo exhibition with works of this discipline, in the Room of Modern Art of Barcelona, later cultivated the painting, together with the drawing. In 1970 he obtained the “Castellblanch” scholarship to study in Florence. Five years later he was invited to the XLII Biennale of Art in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Individually he continued to become known in the Salas Adria (1973 and 1976), Thirteen (1981, 2000), Vayreda (1983) and Artur Ramon (1988, 1999, 2001) of Barcelona, as well as vic, Valencia, Paris or Munich. He has also participated in the fairs FIAC (Paris) or Arco (Madrid). He has received several awards and his work is in public and private collections, including those of the Centre National Georges Pompidou de Paris, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Seville, the Cabinet of Stamps, the Museum of Modern Art of Madrid or the Foundation Vilacasas.