



1974-2024 | 50 ANYS **CÀNEM GALERIA**
BOIX - HERAS - ARMENGOL

Cànem Gallery opened in 1974 with the inaugural exhibition "Boix, Heras and Armengol". The three young and emerging creators of the Valencian artistic scene embodied the precise, courageous and free gaze that the moment of political and cultural effervescence needed. The same line of reflection, commitment and coherence has been present over 50 years in their work and at the gallery as well.

The names of Boix, Heras and Armengol are linked to the significant formal renewal of the artistic scene in our country in the sixties and seventies, to the ideology and the imaginative repertoire that supported the groundbreaking radicalism. Their creativity opened in that manner the roads of plural proposals that form our current artistic panorama.

Boix, Heras and Armengol outlined in common, although with a very different artistic style, a clear and resounding alternative, adapting the development of the international Avant -garde to our social and political reality. They researched the iconography and the techniques that defined Pop art, the challenging visual tendency at that moment, to boldly structure a new realism, a new figuration, which expressed both their political commitment and the unequivocal option for modern art, in tune with international proposals. During the 1980s, the three artists, while focused on the investigation of their own language, strengthened their different and personal voices. They always defended the idea of art as a commitment. They explored even further the style, each one with their unique artistic perspective, in three different but complementary versions of the same poetic prone to transform the most immediate cultural environment into the work of art.

In the following decades, Boix, Heras and Armengol ventured with a resounding confidence in their forces, compatible and shared. They remain united by a basic similarity of geographical, social, and to some extent, historical origins. They share endemic opinions, which allow them to reflect in common and to develop separately.

Boix's pictorial creation is characterized by the constant question between the artistic trade, the visual statement and the context, until reaching the formulation, successful and productive in the elements that revolve around the reflections on death, expiry and degradation of the material, *vanitas* of the Baroque, victim of the decay of matter and ideas.

Armengol takes up images of Renaissance paintings, classical sculptures, and baroque interiors to manipulate them, creating some unusual associations. Under the appearance of cold objectivity, his work contains an obvious power of social and political critique, under the solemn judgment of beauty.

Heras is the most conceptual, even sentimental, of the three artists. The feelings that we wish permanent are present in his oncoming and vital work. His interest in the substance and the support, without ever abandoning the figurative element, is close to figuration. The essential is not the work itself, but the ideas.

The three artists perceive intensely the concerns of the people. At the same time, they are aware of the need to use art as a protest tool, as an act of sentimental bond and as a motivation for action.

Their artistic perspective has been dismantled and rebuilt, rising to celebrate the passion for art, territory and life, at the same compass as Cànem gallery. A path that is now reunited and shown in its 50th anniversary. An invitation to celebrate and continue.

R.L.L.M. Based on texts from the exhibition catalogue *BOIX, HERAS, ARMENGOL Institut València d'Art Modern, 1995*

