



*Curriculum vitae, biography,  
exhibitions, some reviews  
and references of a unique  
Catalan artist.*

Barcelona, April 2, 2024

# CARMEN SELVES

*The Painter*



## INTRODUCTION

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The first exhibition in which Selves' work was presented in public was in 1947. She was a professional portrait painter until 1967, when she decided to devote most of her energies to raising her four children. However, her love for art had always been there and - once her children were grown and not so much attention was needed - she became even more active, just like the artist she had been 40 years earlier.

In this document and its links there is only part of the information we have about this artist. Apart from this we also keep explanatory websites with details of the exhibitions made, a catalog of major works, digital things such as video games, videos, cartoons, several virtual 3D spaces, and books, scans that have not yet been transferred to the website, information on the assessment of the work, some didactic works and curiosities.

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# WHO IS CARMEN SELVES?

Maria del Carmen Selves was born in Manresa, province of Barcelona, to a traditional Catalan family. Her father was the farmer, journalist, lawyer and politician [Joan Selves i Carner](#) and her mother, **Carmen Baltierrez Clotet**, of artistic tradition, from whom she learned.

In order to dedicate herself to art, Carmen Selves had to leave the piano a little and prove that it was worth going to live in Barcelona at the biggest art school accessible at the time, which was Sant Jordi. For this, she had to paint several works of great technical difficulty, some of which were copies of classics such as Velazquez and Meng but also works of nature, religious subjects and portraits. The portraits, later, she did not only of his family but also of interested individuals with whom she had no family relationship.

One thing that led her to dedicate herself to this was receiving a special mention from the renowned art masters Díaz and Hurtado in an exhibition in which she participated as a minor. Another factor is that her mother's family came from the dye industry.

Apart from painting and music, Carmen also prepared to work as a bookkeeper and stenographer but she never had to work at that.

When he was already an active member of the Cercle Artístic de Manresa, she went to Barcelona to study Fine Arts at the Sant Jordi school between 1951 and 1954. Then the school was on the Avinyò street and the director was the sculptor [Frederic Marés](#). There she had as teachers [Francesc Ribera Gómez](#), [Josep Puigdengolas Barella](#), [Ernest Santasusagna Santacreu](#) and [Josep Maria Junoy i Muns](#). [Antoni Vila Arrufat](#) was also her teacher of engraving technique. There is a webpage pendent to be much improved with [a little of information more](#).

Carmen had fellow artists, but most did not survive to adulthood. Marta and Maria were two of the most appreciated by Carmen Selves. **Marta Estrada** was a sculptor and came from a family of musicians.

**Maria Estruch** was a painter and was the niece of Estruch who made, among others, [Corpus de Sang](#), 1907 and [l'onze de setembre](#), 1909. Estruch painted these politically charged works from America but as Carmen and Maria lived in Spain, Carmen (and perhaps not Maria) could never meet him. At the time, Carmen had no idea that Maria's uncle was such an outstanding painter. Maria Estruch's mother - considering Carmen's friendship with her daughter - gave her a silver vase when she got married.

Maria Macià, daughter of Francesc Macià, in memory of her parents' friendship, visited Carmen Selves' exhibition at Sala Rovira in 1966. Carmen Selves has never asserted her father's social role in politics for personal reasons. Her father was left-wing and opposed to the Jesuits but deeply Catholic. Carmen, who is Catholic, has donated some of her works to the church for auctions.

While studying Fine Arts, Carmen Selves worked painting porcelain for a year. After Sant Jordi, she learned from [Evarist Bassiana Arbiell](#), [Empar Diaz](#) and [Ferran Hurtado](#).

Being a professional portrait painter, she married the engineer **Josep Maria Vicente Esforzado**, a great person, draftsman and art lover. With four children, the family moved to Barcelona in 1968 due to the father's job.

Carmen worked for an industrial art company in the United States but became bored and left it to her detriment in many ways. Carmen, in addition to oils, also paints other things, such as handkerchiefs, fans, tiles and murals. Professionally, she has been a portraitist, restorer, painter and teacher of art and technical drawing.

She is difficult to classify: you can see impressionism, expressionism, new realism and narrative figuration. Also very diverse types of digital art. Some of his preferences are: Goya, Rembrandt, Renoir, Van Gogh and Zurbaran but she also appreciates the talent of many other artists. She did her degree thesis on the painter [Lluïsa Vidal](#).

In addition to her degree, she studied mural painting in Sant Cugat in 1972. Later she also did a university study in the restoration of works of art in Sant Jordi in 1977 and another in archeology at the University of Barcelona in 1979 and archaeological drawing in 1992. She worked as a restorer at the Montjuïc Art Museum. Her last work for third parties was for the Generalitat, as a BUP and COU teacher of both art and technical drawing.

Her original works are mainly distributed in the area where she lives, but there are also his paintings in Argentina, Finland, Holland, Italy, Romania, France, and Japan. Most are now privately owned. Some works are given to state museums such as those of Imatra, Sitges and the Manresa Regional Museum.

Her willingness to learn and determination to discover and develop is shown in her work; studies languages, computer mathematics and has written various books not listed here and [screenplays for short stories](#).

You can see a [small sample of her works during the 20<sup>th</sup> century](#). She usually wants to show her latest works rather than those she made between 1950 and 1970 although the work from this period technically has quite a bit of merit. She usually maintains that a more recent work is more representative even if it departs more from academic correctness, the strength of youth and is less figurative.

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## SOME CRITICISM AFTER 1994 (pending +2021)



### New York Art

**New York, USA, Dorothy Roatz Myers - Octubre 1994**

- << Selve's talent is expensive; he is equally capable of rendering convincing street scenes, Landscapes and portraits. >>
- 



### Gira independent 1995

**Pieksämäki, Finlàndia, Etelä Saimaa, Matti Veijalainen - Agost 1995**

- Traducció del suomi : La clara llum del nord evoca alguna cosa especial a una dona del sud, sobre tot quan es veu a través dels ulls d'una pintora mediterrània.
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### Galleria Diocleziano

**Pescara, Itàlia, Silva Marini - Abril 1996**

- << Le pitture di quest'artista mettono a fuoco l'evidenza della luce nei presagi, fondendo i colori e dandogli un cromatismo molto emotivo, sprigionando tutta la tenerezza che ha nel suo spirito. >>
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### Galleria Alba

**Ferrara, Itàlia, Gino Trabini - Novembre 1997**

- << dai forti tratti espressivi, interpretati con particolare attenzione alle vibrazioni della luce. Un figurazione comunque composta ed equilibrata, ove aleggia una sottile vena poetica, sostenuta da una carica interiore che rende percepibili contenuti e valori universali. >>
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## **E.B. Revista d'art**

**Barcelona, nº 38 - 1999**

- << Por eso Carmen, sintiendo una especial ternura hacia ellos, ha representado en sus pinturas las bestias del bosque dentro de su medio natural. >>
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## **Arxiu d'Art**

**Barcelona, Josep Maresma - Juny 1999**

- << Hi ha una mena d'ingenuïtat esclatant. >>
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## **Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona**

**Barcelona, No hay radio! , Fátima Palacios - Juny 2000**

- << En esta exposición la luz de los azules, los rojos y los verdes intensos son los protagonistas. >>
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## **Artisti in Vetrina**

**Vercelli, Itàlia, Fernanda Banchi – Octubre 6, 2002**

- << La pittura di Selvas Carmen evidenzia l'essenzialità e il seguo. L'artista sa cogliere il momento giusto per evidenziare il soggetto, attraverso il paesaggio o le figure. Le sue opere trasmettono all'osservatore un messaggio intenso, romantico e suggestivo. La vitalità delle sue composizioni denotano l'amore de l'autrice sente per la natura, lasciando intravedere una tavolozza ricca e spumeggiante, creando così notevoli effetti di luce e colore. >>
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## **Casa Editrice Alba**

**Ferrara, Itàlia, Antonio Caggiano - 2003/2004**

- << Carmen Selvas, peraltro, che opera in terra di Spagna, aggiunge ai colori adoperati la tensione dei sentimenti in modo che, attraverso l'immagine, si scorga una personalità particolare e l'ambiente andaluso si concretizza visivamente vivo... >>
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## **Bonart**

**Castell de Benedormiens - Girona - 2006**

- << ...transporta l'espectador a un paisatge figuratiu que, sense ser bucòlic, te un deix poètic producte de la fusió de colors i d'una pinzellada enfortida per la llum... >>
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## Regió 7

Manresa - Juny 2011

- << Les llums, els contrallums i els clarobscur del paisatge més humà de la capital comptal s'immortalitzaven en el llenç de Selves amb les seves precises estàtues humanes, les selveis incomptables flors i els seus característics quioscos. >>
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## Bonart

Girona - Juny 2011

- << L'obra de Carmen Selves no perd ni la emoció ni l'intimisme >>
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## Galart

Terol, Mario Nicolás - Juny 2011

- << Lo suyo es un realismo íntimo, humano, que se inspira en los espacios abiertos de su ciudad centrándose en este caso en las Ramblas de Barcelona, con su entorno, sus gentes y la luminosidad especial que presenta este lugar tan bello de la Ciudad Condal. >>
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## Revistart

Barcelona, J.U. #165 – 2013

- << Su carrera se forja en el momento de la efervescencia de la postguerra mundial, en las que situamos las segundas vanguardias artísticas, sin embargo, en la obra de Selves encontramos características más cercanas a las primeras vanguardias sin adherirse a ningún movimiento concreto, ya que su técnica y talento confieren a sus obras una personalidad que le ha valido a la artista una buena fortuna crítica, así como cuantiosas exposiciones tanto individuales como colectivas. >>
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## Centre Nacional d'Art del Japó

東京: [「日本の美術館 これからどうする!?」](#) - Octubre 2015

- Translation : ...in the Japan National Art Museum, what will you do now?

Aquesta expressió - literalment - va ser debatuda al dissetè debat del te verd del Museu Nacional del Japó amb una audició de 76 persones. Podria haver estat dirigida, no solament a tots els artistes participants, presents i no presents - entre els quals Carmen Selvés, a uns pocs metres, tenia tres obres - si no, en un sentit més ampli i constructiu, a un col·lectiu molt major.

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## **ArtisSpectrum**

**New York, USA, #33 - Maig 2015**

- << Inspired by the sun, local flora, and the Mediterranean Sea, C. Selvés' figurative paintings and portraits establish an emotional connection to each subject. Selvés approaches color with a reserved style that is at once dreamlike and whimsical. We see a deftness that delights the eye, a dreamlike essence that challenges the imagination. While she draws on perspective and structure to portray reality, the focus is always on the message she seeks to impart: a message that moves hand and brush to highlight the beauty of her subjects. "One of my proudest moments as an artist was when a bee landed on one of my painted flowers, mistaking it for a real bloom!" Born in Manresa, Catalonia, Spain, near the mountains of Montserrat, Selvés admits that her work is representative of her life, her person, her class and her generation. She will often paint in front of a model, but allowing herself the liberty to add imaginative flourishes. "The goal of my work is to stop time [with an] artistic quality." Selvés currently lives in Barcelona. She has exhibited in Finland and throughout Spain and France, and recently has participated in an exhibition in the largest museum in Tokyo. >>
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## **Galart**

**Terol, nº 365, Marta Teixidó - Març 2017**

- << [...] en esta exposición se centra en la figura. Son piezas amables, que dan sensaciones muy cercanas, muy tiernas, basadas en caracteres académicos, siendo visible su faceta de ilustradora. Su composición y estructura huyen de los cánones estrictos tradicionales, por presentar personas, lo más seguro de su entorno, que en un momento dado quiso pintar, como trabajo y recuerdo. Y lo hizo tal como ella las ve o las veía, desde una perspectiva real, pero atendiendo a unos criterios muy singulares, no exentos de idealización, pero a la vez haciendo notorio el deseo de dejar distancia. >>
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## **Revistart**

**Barcelona, #179, A.B. - Maig 2017**

- << [...] obras cálidas, alegres y plácidas que simplemente regocijan el alma, algo absolutamente imprescindible en estos tiempos de prisas [...] >>
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# EXHIBITIONS

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## INDIVIDUAL

( \* = internal link )

#	Gallery	Place	Year
1	<a href="#">Galeria Torra</a>	Manresa, Barcelona	1962
2	<a href="#">Col·lectiu Fotogràfic d'Igualada</a>	Igualada, Barcelona	1966
3	<a href="#">Palau de Maricel (15p)</a>	Sitges, Barcelona	1966
4	<a href="#">Sala Xipell (1967, 1972)</a>	Manresa, Barcelona	19xx
5	<a href="#">Sala Rovira</a>	Barcelona	1968
6	<a href="#">Galeria Àgora 3</a>	Sitges, Barcelona	1972
7	<a href="#">Real Círculo artístico de Barcelona</a>	Barcelona	1971
8	<a href="#">Galeria d'art del Vallès</a>	Barcelona	1974
9	<a href="#">Sala Al-Andalus (de Víctor Barrera)</a>	Sevilla	1994
10	<a href="#">Pieksämäen Malaiskunta</a>	Pieksämäki, Finlandia	1995
11	<a href="#">Imatran Kultuurikeskus</a>	Imatra, Finlandia	1995
12	<a href="#">E D'A Estudi D'Art</a>	Barcelona	1999
13	<a href="#">Hotel Mercure</a>	Barcelona	1999
14	<a href="#">Galeria Topaz</a>	Barcelona	2000
15	<a href="#">Galeria LLUM D'ART</a>	Ei Vendrell, Tarragona	2000
16	<a href="#">Galeria TORANTO</a>	Barcelona	2005
17 *	<a href="#">Galeria Esart: Les Rambles</a>	Barcelona	2011
18 *	<a href="#">Galeria Esart: Retrats</a>	Barcelona	2017

## COLLECTIVE

(some are various exhibitions, \* = ask us for details )

#	Gallery	Place	Year
1	<a href="#">Centre artístic de Manresa (*1)</a>	Manresa, Spain	19xx
2	<a href="#">Palau de la Virreina (*2)</a>	Barcelona, Spain	19xx
3	<a href="#">Montserrat Gallery</a>	New York, USA	1994
4	<a href="#">Feria Campionaria Silva Marina</a>	Pescara, Italy	1996
5	<a href="#">Galeria Alba (*3)</a>	Ferrara, Italy	199x
6	<a href="#">Expo Padua</a>	Padua, Italy	1998
7	<a href="#">Art Joction: Palais National de l'Art Vivant</a>	Niza, France	1999

8	<a href="#"><u>Eloge du petit format dans l'art d'aujourd'hui (*4)</u></a>	Paris, France	200x
9	<a href="#"><u>Galeria Lum d'Art</u></a>	El Vendrell, Spain	2001
10	<a href="#"><u>II Exposició i Mercat d'Art Contemporani (*5)</u></a>	Blanes, Spain	2001
11	<a href="#"><u>Galeria Rua D'Art</u></a>	Manresa, Spain	2003
12	<a href="#"><u>Subastes d'obres d'art a St.Teresina (*6)</u></a>	Barcelona, Spain	2004
13	<a href="#"><u>Index Bonart 2004 (*7)</u></a>	Castell d'Aro, Spain	2004
14	<a href="#"><u>Homenaje a la mujer artista (*8)</u></a>	El Vendrell, Spain	2009
15	<a href="#"><u>Sant Joan de Les Fonts (*9)</u></a>	Girona, Spain	201x
16	<a href="#"><u>Ajuntament de Palau de Saverdera</u></a>	Empordà, Spain	2010
17	<a href="#"><u>Exposició Internacional Mini-art (*10)</u></a>	Roquebrune, France	2010
18	<a href="#"><u>Galeria Esart (*11)</u></a>	Barcelona, Spain	20xx
19	<a href="#"><u>Galeria BCM</u></a>	Barcelona, Spain	2012
20	<a href="#"><u>Espacio 120 (*12)</u></a>	Barcelona, Spain	2014
21	<a href="#"><u>New York Agora Gallery</u></a>	New York, USA	2014
22	<a href="#"><u>Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art</u></a>	Kyoto, Japan	2015
23	<a href="#"><u>Hiroshima Museum of Art</u></a>	Hiroshima, Japan	2015
24	<a href="#"><u>The National Art Center</u></a>	Tokyo, Japan	2015
25	<a href="#"><u>Museu Gustavo de Maetzu</u></a>	Navarra, Spain	2016
26	<a href="#"><u>Laspadarina</u></a>	Piacenza, Italy	2018
27	<a href="#"><u>La memoria della materia.</u></a> Centro d'Arte San Vidal	Venice, Italy	2018
28	<a href="#"><u>Indagini, ellegalleria.it</u></a>	Preganziol, Italy	2019
29	<a href="#"><u>Babele, SpazioSV</u></a>	Venezia, Italy	2020
30	<a href="#"><u>New York Art Expo</u></a>	New York, USA	2021
31	<a href="#"><u>Fira internacional d'art de Barcelona</u></a>	Barcelona, Spain	2021
32	<a href="#"><u>Onirica</u> (Juny) i Paradigm (November) (*13)</a>	Venice, Italy	2022
33	<a href="#"><u>VH Miami - video expo</u></a>	Miami, USA	2022
34	<a href="#"><u>Miscellanea 2, (maig) i Fondamenta (November)</u></a>	Venice, Italiy	2023
35	<a href="#"><u>VH Florida - 2 exposicions (pendent detalls)</u></a>	Florida, USA	2023
36	<a href="#"><u>BCM (febrer)</u></a>	Barcelona, Spain	2024
37	<a href="#"><u>VH Madrid – (Mars)</u></a>	Madrid, Spain	2024
38	<a href="#"><u>Muisca Art Space</u></a>	París, France	2024
39	<a href="#"><u>Bank Art Fair (August)</u></a>	Seúl, South Korea	2024

40	<b>World Art Collection</b> (July to September)	Cesenatico, Italy	2024
41	<b>Pioneres – Ajuntament de Manresa</b>	Manresa, Spain	2024
42	<b>Goba Art &amp; Design</b> (November)	Istambul,	2024
43	<b>Contemporary Art Talent Show</b> (November)	Padua, Italy	2024
44	<b>Premio Caravaggio</b> - video	Bérgamo, Italy	2024
45	<b>Bank Art Fair (BAF)</b> (December)	Singapore	2024
46	<b>Premio Leonardo da Vinci "Magister Artium"</b> - video	Cesenatico, Italy	2025
47	<b>ARTE è DONNA</b> - video	Terni, Italy	2025
48	<b>Fiera di Forlì – Vernice Art Fair</b>	Forlì, Italy	2025
49	<b>Caminando juntos</b> - Casa de Cantabria	Madrid, Spain	2025
50	XIII Mostra Internacional - Agrupació d'aquarel·listes de Catalunya	Barcelona, Spain	2025
51	Artista dell'anno 2025	Cesenatico, Italy	2025
52	La sublime ossessione	Venezia, Italy	2025
53	Premio Oscar della Creatività	Monte-Carlo, Monte-Carlo	2025

## BIBLIOGRAPHY ( some of it )

#	Book or web	Editions
1	<b>Art a Manresa, segles XIX i XX</b> Joan Vilaró i Llach - Manresa	1983
2	<b>Les Grandes Oeuvres d'hier et aujourd'hui</b> Les Editions Arts et images du Monde - Paris	1991
3	<b>Le Livre d'or des collectionneurs</b> Who's Who in international Art, Paris	1992,1993
4	<b>International Biographical Art Dictionary</b> Who's Who in international Art, Suissa	1994 to 2004
5	<b>Dizionario Enciclopedico D'Arte Contemporanea</b> Casa Editrice Alba, Itàlia	1995 to 2004
6	<b>Sólo Arte. Catalogo Europeo D'Arte Contemporanea</b> Casa Editrice Alba, Itàlia	1996, 1997
7	<b>CDROM Catálogos Nacionales de Arte</b> CANART, Barcelona	From 1997
8	<b>Diccionari Anual d'Arts plàstiques de Catalunya i Andorra</b> Galart, Terol	1998
9	<b>Index Bonart 2004</b> Bonart, Girona	2004
10	<b>Homenaje a la mujer artista</b> Ediciones Ecuador 21 SL. Sant Joan de Les Fonts, Girona	2009
11	<b>Artistas de Nuestro Tiempo 2011</b> GLOBUS Ediciones, C/Marín 6, Barcelona	2011
12	<b>Revistart</b> Revista de las Artes , Barcelona	From 2011

13	<b>Bonart</b> Maig, Girona	From 2011
14	<b>Galart</b> Mario Nicolás Losada, La Fresneda, Terol	From 2011
15	<b>Regio 7</b> Diari de la Catalunya Central, Manresa	2011
16	<b>Esart</b> Anuario de Arte Internacional, Barcelona	2009 to 2017
17	<b>Agora Gallery NY</b> Agora Gallery ( to link ) #32 i #33 – New York, USA	2014 to 2016
18	<b>Cuadros de una exposición</b> Marta Teixidor ( to link ), Mataró	2015 to 2018
19	<b>Laspadarina</b> Rosario Scrivano ( to link ), Piacenza, Itàlia	2015 to 2025
20	<b>Spotlight 30</b> ( to link ) Circle Arts	2022
21	<b>NEBULAE</b> ( to link ) Christian Palazzo	2022
22	<b>Grandes creadores de arte</b> Editorial Oliveras	2025



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