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

Barcelona, April 23, 2024

CARMEN SELVES

The Painter

INTRODUCTION

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.

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 engravint 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 20th 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)

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* New York Art

New York, USA, Doroty Roatz Myers - Octubre 1994

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

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* Gira independent 1995

Pieksämaki, Finlàndia, Etelä Saimaa, Matti Veijalainen - Agost 1995

o 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

o << 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

o << 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

o << 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 paessaggio o le figure. Le sue opere trasmettano 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 cosi 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 personalitá 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 clarobscurs del paisatge més humà de la capital comptal s'immortalitzaven en el llenç de Selves amb les seves precises estàtues humanes, les selves 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 talante 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 to 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 Selves, 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. Selves' figurative paintings and portraits establish an emotional connection to each subject. Selves 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, Selves 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." Selves 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 plàcidas que simplemente regocijan el alma, algo absolutamente imprescindible en estos tiempos de prisas [...] >>

EXHIBITIONS

INDIVIDUAL

*(* = internal link)*

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

COLLECTIVE (some places have more exhibitions)

#	Gallery	Place	Year
1	Centre artístic de Manresa (*1)	Manresa, Spain	19xx
2	Palau de la Virreina (*2)	Barcelona, Spain	19xx
3	Montserrat Gallery	New York, USA	1994
4	Feria Campionaria Silva Marina	Pescara, Italy	1996
5	Galeria Alba (*3)	Ferrara, Italy	199x
6	Expo Padua	Padua, Italy	1998
7	Art Joction: Palais National de l'Art Vivant	Niza, France	1999
8	Eloge du petit format dans l'art d'ajourd-hui (*4)	Paris, France	200x
9	Galeria Llum d'Art	El Vendrell, Spain	2001
10	II Exposició i Mercat d'Art Contemporani (*5)	Blanes, Spain	2001
11	Galeria Rua D'Art	Manresa, Spain	2003
12	Subastes d'obres d'art a St.Teresina (*6)	Barcelona, Spain	2004
13	Index Bonart 2004 (*7)	Castell d'Aro, Spain	2004
14	Homenaje a la mujer artista (*8)	El Vendrell, Spain	2009
15	Sant Joan de Les Fonts (*9)	Girona, Spain	201x
16	Ajuntament de Palau de Saverdera	Empordà, Spain	2010
17	Exposició Internacional Mini-art (*10)	Roquebrune, France	2010
18	Galeria Esart (*11)	Barcelona, Spain	20xx
19	Galeria BCM	Barcelona, Spain	2012
20	Espacio 120 (*12)	Barcelona, Spain	2014
21	New York Agora Gallery	New York, USA	2014
22	Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art	Kyoto, Japan	2015
23	Hiroshima Museum of Art	Hiroshima, Japan	2015
24	The National Art Center	Tokyo, Japan	2015
25	Museu Gustavo de Maetzu	Navarra, Spain	2016
26	Laspadarina	Piazenza, Italy	2018
27	La memoria de la materia, Centro d'Arte San Vidal	Venice, Italy	2018
28	Indagini, ellegalleria.it	Preganziol, Italy	2019
29	Babele, SpazioSV	Venezia, Italy	2020
30	New York Art Expo	New York, USA	2021
31	Fira internacional d'art de Barcelona	Barcelona, Spain	2021
32	Onirica (Juny) i Paradigm (November) (*13)	Venice, Italy	2022
33	VH Miami - video expo	Miami, USA	2022
34	Miscellanea 2, (maig) i Fondamenta (November)	Venice, Italiy	2023
35	VH Florida - 2 exposicions (pendent detalls)	Florida, USA	2023
36	BCM (febrer)	Barcelona, Spain	2024
37	VH Madrid – (Mars)	Madrid, Spain	2024
38	Muisca Art Space	París, France	2024
39	Bank Artfair (August)	Seúl, South Korea	2024
40	World Art Collection (July to September)	Cesenatico, Italy	2024
41	Goba Art & Design (November)	Istambul,	2024
42	Contemporary Art Talent Show (November)	Padua, Italy	2024
43	Consegna Premio Caravaggio - video expo (December)	Bérgamo, Italy	2024

COLLECTIVE TABLE NOTES (untranslated)

***1** Renaixença és l'edifici on es reunia el Cercle Artístic de Manresa del qual Carmen Selves va ser pionera. A cada festa major es feia una exposició. A la parròquia de Sant Josep del Poble Nou també va ser premiada. Podria haver participat, en total, a 5 o 6 exposicions entre 1945 i 1951 fins que va anar a Barcelona a estudiar Belles Arts.

***2** A 1955 i a 1972 (dues vegades), Carmen Selves va presentar quadros i les dos vegades va ser seleccionada (el quadre de 1972 té codi intern 452 i el de 1955 no es recorda ara) per a exposar una de les seves pintures al Palau de la Virreina dins el context de dos exposicions col·lectives a la cerca de nous talents pictòrics anomenades Exposició Nacional Espanyola.

***3** El director de Galleria Alba, R. Puviani, va convidar a Carmen Selves a Itàlia a exposar una de les seves obres en dues ocasions a 1997 i 1999 (tinc pendent saber quines obres va portar a Itàlia).

***4** Aquesta exposició van ser després de publicacions a 5 edicions d'algunes de les seves obres (pendent saber quines). Els llibres són pel Centre Culturel Christiane Peugeot. Galerie Le Carré d'Or, 46 Avenue Georges V, 75008 Paris. Les 5 edicions van ser a 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 i 2004. L'artista va ser convidada per a anar personalment però solament va participar amb obra. L'obra que va portar a va ser un parell de dibuixos fets amb ceres en color sobre la setmana santa a Calanda de grups de bateristes tocant el tambor (veure quins eren).

***5** Mostra d'Art de la Mediterrània, es va realitzar la II Exposició-Mercat d'Art Contemporani.

***6** Carmen Selves ha participat tres vegades (2002, 2003 i 2004) a les edicions VI, VII i VIII de les subhastes d'obres d'art cedint un 50% del valor de les vendes a la parròquia de Santa Teresa de l'Infant Jesús.

***7** Castell de Benedormiens de Castell d'Aro (veure que es va exposar).

***8** Sala de l'ajuntament del Vendrell (veure que es va exposar).

***9** Tres participacions fins ara a aquesta organització de La Garrotxa: (1) Premi commemoratiu VI saló internacional de Sant Joan Les Fonts - Centre social de Sant Joan Les Fonts, Girona, del 4 al 12 de desembre de 2009. (2) VII Saló d'hivern al 2010 i (3) X Saló Internacional d'arts plàstiques a 2013.

***10** Exposició Internacional Mini-art, Chapelle Sant Michèl, Roquebrune sur Argens (France) del 31 de Juliol al 7 d'Agost de 2010.

***11** Descoberta per Esart i concedida a ella el 2009 la medalla d'honor a l'XI saló d'hivern a Esart, Carmen selves continua la relació amb Esart i sovint hi participa amb alguna exposició particular o col·lectiva dins els Salons Internacionals d'hivern. També assisteix habitualment a Esart com a públic perquè li agrada veure les obres dels altres artistes. Ha participat en dos exposicions individuals i cinc col·lectives recentment a aquesta sala.

***12** Sota la supervisió d'Espacio 120, Carmen Selves ha exposat als tres museus d'art més importants del Japó com artista convidada d'una petita llista de representants d'Espanya amb altres artistes independents d'altres llocs. Els tres museus a Kyoto, Hiroshima i Tokyo són de gran prestigi i dimensions. A les instal·lacions d'Espacio 120, Carmen Selves també ha exposat quatre vegades a exposicions col·lectives: a 2014, 2017 i dos a 2018.

***13** Pendent documentar de tot el posterior a 2021 (hi ha fotos, bones crítiques i altres coses)

More about my mother:

Carmen Selves is a versatile painter who experiments with various techniques, from oil to acrylic, watercolor, ink, and even digital techniques. She is Catalan and has a personal and diversified vision of art. She flees a little from "chromo" and photography but does not deviate from the figurative way in a point of personal balance.

She usually tries to perceive perspective and proportions intuitively without being guided by an analytical technique as an exact science. She paints not so much to express reality as to visualize the scenes as she feels them. Often she departs from being figurative by focusing more on color than drawing. Sometimes she captures the vivid and animated figures very accurately, in other cases, the drawing is it a little half-done. She do this as she wishes at every moment and in every work.

Very benevolent with other artists, she values both the classics and the contemporary. Even Banksy and other artists of complicated classification such as Yoko Ono who are not disqualified. She also watches some art YouTubers. She recognizes and values computer art, video games, science, and the contributions of gallerists and artisans. She masters perspective, geometry and even artificial intelligence quite well.

She appreciates many forms of art but does not like scatological, feisty, pornographic or hard or violent works and never goes into hard sensationalism. Sometimes, she is not critical, but when she's critical, she's usually subtle and does her criticisms without offending to much anyone.

When making portraits of people, she usually tries to stick to figurative art, trying not to fall into a photographic style. She already showed in his early years to be able to make portraits which looks like photographs. No need to do it again. Her work could be classified in a weighted way with components of expressionism, surrealism and impressionism, even art brut, but there are fundamental elements of Christian art, subject to family values. This brings an even deeper and more personal conceptual dimension to her work.

Her works are not commercial or intended to raise any kind of reaction; rather, she practices a personal philosophy based on values he shares with others she sees as equals. They could be described as a balanced ethical-aesthetic orientation, according to Kirkegaard's ideas.

She has made (or rather suffered) artistic promotions, products of commercial marketing offers that have turned out very badly, undermining her credibility, being aware of this risk, but at no time has she been deceived. She has valued the investment in lost funds that artistic promotion represents as a duty and considers the work of promoters as worthy as any other. Knowing that this promotions do not work, she always insists and continues to participate from time to time in social networks and promotion platforms. However, she values the service received and the effort, sometimes sincere, shown by gallerists and elevates this effort to the same category as that offered by the inaccessible and sickeningly speculative sacred cows of the art world.

Perhaps partly because she is a woman, she has a very conciliatory attitude and sometimes takes the blame of others.

In short, I believe that Carmen is a versatile artist with a personal vision of art that values diversity and multiple forms of artistic expression. Being brave, she is part of an emerging current of artists who are looking for new forms of visibility in their work.

Joan Ignasi,

SOME BIBLIOGRAPHY (there are more on magazines)

#	Book or web	Editions
1	**Art a Manresa, segles XIX i XX** Joan Vilaró i Llach - Manresa	1983
2	**Les Grandes Oeuvres d'hier et ajourd'hui** Les Editions Arts et images du Monde - Paris	1991
3	**Le Livre d'or des collectioneurs** Who's Who in international Art, Paris	1992,1993
4	**International Biographical Art Dictionary** Who's Who in international Art, Suïssa	1994 to 2004
5	**Dizionario Enciclopedico D'Arte Contemporanea** Casa Editrice Alba, Itàlia	1995 to 2004
6	**Sólo Arte. Catalogo Europeo D'Arte Contemporanea** Casa Editrice Alba, Itàlia	1996, 1997
7	**CDROM Catálogos Nacionales de Arte** CANART, Barcelona	From 1997
8	**Diccionari Anual d'Arts plàstiques de Catalunya i Andorra** Galart, Terol	1998
9	**Index Bonart 2004** Bonart, Girona	2004
10	**Homenaje a la mujer artista** Ediciones Ecuador 21 SL. Sant Joan de Les Fonts, Girona	2009
11	**Artistas de Nuestro Tiempo 2011** GLOBUS Ediciones, C/Marín 6, Barcelona	2011
12	**Revistart** Revista de las Artes , Barcelona	Various articles from 2011
13	**Bonart** Maig, Girona	Various articles from 2011
14	**Galart** Mario Nicolás Losada, La Fresneda, Terol	Various articles from 2011
15	**Regio 7** Diari de la Catalunya Central, Manresa	2011
16	**Esart** Anuario de Arte Internacional, Barcelona	2009 to 2017
17	**Agora Gallery NY** Agora Gallery (to link) #32 i #33 – New York, USA	2014 to 2016
18	**Cuadros de una exposición** Marta Teixidor (to link), Mataró	2015 to 2018
19	**Laspadarina** Rosario Scrivano (to link), Piazenza, Itàlia	2015 to 2021
20	**Spotlight** 30 (to link) - Circle Arts	2022
21	**NEBULAE** (to link)- Christian Palazzo	2022

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