

MANIFESTA 15 Barcelona 2024

Annexe 1: Venues



Barcelona: Gustavo Gili

The former Gustavo Gili publishing house is currently Manifesta 15 Barcelona's headquarters in L'Esquerra de l'Eixample district, Barcelona.

A remarkable example of Catalan architecture from the 1950s, the building was designed by the architects Joaquim Gili and Francesc Bassó, members of Grup R. The publishing house Editorial Gustavo Gili is well-known for being the first to publish authors in the field of visual culture, such as John Berger, Milton Glaser, Rem Koolhaas, Bruno Munari, Joan Fontcuberta and Ellen Lupton, in Spanish.

Old Gustavo Gili publishing house ©
Manifesta 15 Barcelona / Inti Gajardo

This architectural work, that follows a rationalist style (a movement focused on neatly combining design and functionality), was awarded the FAD Prize for architecture in 1961. Used as a publishing house until 2016, the building is characterised by the use of symmetry and geometrically defined structures with low ornamentation.

Currently a wide array of pre-biennial events organised by Manifesta 15 have been taking place in the Gustavo Gili. It represents a very strategic point in the city for Manifesta 15 Barcelona and it will be the nucleus of the biennial programme.

CLUSTER I:

Imagining Futures



Three Chimneys ©
Manifesta 15 Barcelona / Eva Carasol



Three Chimneys ©
Manifesta 15 Barcelona / Víctor Gill

Sant Adrià de Besòs: The Three Chimneys (Tres Xemeneies)

The Three Chimneys is a staggering landmark of the coastal landscape of Barcelona. Built in the 1970s, it was previously used as a thermal power station located on the left bank of the Besòs River. It closed in 2011 and to this day remains inactive. These chimneys are a monument for the people who built them - a symbol of the recent industrial past.

The Three Chimneys will undergo necessary works to reopen this highly visible icon of Barcelona for the first time in its history for Manifesta 15 Barcelona visitors. The location will be one of the main venues for Manifesta 15 with presentations both inside the former turbine hall, as well as outside in its surrounding areas.

Santa Coloma de Gramenet: Besòs River

The Besòs River, one of the two main rivers flanking the city of Barcelona, became highly contaminated due to urban and industrial waste during the 1980s. During this time, the outskirts of Barcelona were subjected to profound urbanisation, linked to the population growth that took place from the 1950s to the 1980s as a result of the industrialisation of Catalonia.

With a history marked by ecological destruction and pollution, the Besòs River is currently being transformed into a park that is under environmental protection. Titled “BesArt”, a local project will see the river convert into the “largest urban art museum in the world” (spanning more than 18 km from El Vallès to the Mediterranean Sea). This regeneration of a public space into an open-air museum aligns with Manifesta 15 Barcelona’s goal of bringing life to the river through artistic interventions.



Besòs River ©
Manifesta 15 Barcelona / Eva Carasol



MAC Presó ©
Manifesta 15 Barcelona

Mataró: MAC Presó (Mataró Prison)

The Mataró Prison (Elies Rogent, 1863) is a construction of great relevance in the history of contemporary prison architecture because it constitutes the first example of the panoptic model in Spain. It housed many political prisoners in Francoist Spain and remained in use until 1967.

Since the beginning of 2022, the building has been converted into the Mataró Art Contemporani (M|A|C), the contemporary art centre of the city. It was transformed from a former centre of repression into a point of cultural freedom: an ideal point of departure for one of the objectives of Manifesta 15 Barcelona, which is to activate new cultural spaces linked to Catalan social history.

CLUSTER II:

Cure and Care



Monestir de Sant Cugat ©
Ajuntament de Sant Cugat /Mané Espinosa



Monestir de Sant Cugat ©
Ajuntament de Sant Cugat /Mané Espinosa

Sant Cugat del Vallès: Monestir de Sant Cugat

The Monastery of Sant Cugat is a Benedictine Abbey that was founded in the 9th century. Completed in the 14th century, the monastery, one of the most significant in the region, includes Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque elements. It became an epicentre of power and culture in the 11th century, a time when the monks lived following the Benedictine lifestyle whilst also managing extensive properties in the area.

Its most notable feature is a Romanesque cloister which dates to the 12th century and houses the Museum of Sant Cugat. With a length of more than 30 metres, it has a square plan with semi-circular arches supported by pairs of columns which present finely decorated capitals.

The Monastery of Sant Cugat is located within the Collserola Mountain Range. The spirituality of the monastery is reflective of the Manifesta 15 Cure and Care theme, that is, the importance of caring for ourselves, each other and the natural environment.

Sabadell: Vapor Buxeda Vell

Vapor Buxeda Vell is a former textile factory from 1852 founded by the brothers Buxeda in Sabadell. Sabadell was one of the pioneers of the Industrial Revolution in Catalonia and became one of the most important textile cities in Spain.

Commonly known as Can Buxeda, this 19th century mill is a symbol of the city's industrial heritage. It was the first industrial establishment in Sabadell that produced electric lighting by its steam engine, which is still preserved today. The former factory is currently a heritage site open to the public.



Vapor Buxeda Vell ©
Manifesta 15 Barcelona /
Juanma Peláez, Ajuntament de Sabadell



The See of Ègara ©
Manifesta 15 Barcelona

Terrassa: La Seu d'Ègara (The See of Ègara)

The episcopal complex of Ègara includes the churches of Sant Pere, Sant Miquel and Santa Maria, and held the seat of the Bishopric of Ègara during the 5th century, which marked the start of its golden age. It is a vital landmark in understanding the historical cultural transfers which took place between the 5th and 6th centuries in the territory. The survival of the artistic, architectural and archaeological elements from the 6th to the 8th century, along with the pictorial decoration, makes this complex an exceptional testimony to the artistic culture of the 6th century.

Granollers: **Roca Umbert. Fàbrica de les Arts**

The Roca Umbert Factory is a former textile factory that has been transformed into an arts and culture centre. Its origins date back to 1904, when the first looms were installed. Commissioned by Josep Umbert, the company grew steadily amid industrialisation and the rapid consolidation of the Catalan textile sector.

Roca Umbert has two buildings dedicated to contemporary artistic research and production: Espai d'Arts, dedicated to visual arts, and Centre d'Arts en Moviment. Another notable element of the factory is the Tèrmica, a space built in the 1950s which created a direct electricity supply to avoid production interruptions caused by constant power cuts. This space will open in December 2023 as a museum.

The Roca Umbert Factory has been renovated as a symbol of Granollers' industrial past and turned into a so-called Factory of the Arts. This is a cultural space in constant transformation and at the service of creative processes and the artistic training of citizens.



Roca Umbert. Fàbrica de les Arts ©
Manifesta 15 Barcelona

CLUSTER III:

Balancing Conflicts



Casa Gomis ©
Manifesta 15 Barcelona / Nomad Studio



El Prat de Llobregat: Casa Gomis

Casa Gomis, also known as La Ricarda, is a family house located in a protected natural environment which is next to the Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat Airport. Built in 1963 by the renowned architect Antoni Bonet in close collaboration with its owners, the house follows the principles of rationalist architecture. It was declared a Cultural Interest Asset in 2021.

Ricardo Gomis was a member of the groups ADLAN (Amics de l'Art Nou, which translates to Friends of the New Arts), and CLUB49, a collective of artists and intellectuals (including John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Antoni Tàpies, Joan Miró and Joan Brossa). CLUB49 was founded with the intention of recovering the artistic avant-garde born during the 2nd Republic and abruptly interrupted by the subsequent Spanish Civil War. Given the lack of public support and space, Gomis turned his house into a meeting place for artistic experimentation, which became a refuge for Catalan art during the last 15 years of the Francoist regime.

Casa Gomis is immersed in a large plot of land in front of the La Ricarda pond and the Mediterranean Sea, surrounded by a pine forest. Linking to the theme of Balancing Conflicts, Casa Gomis and its surrounding areas are subject to the ongoing dialogue concerning the expansion of industries and the protection of the natural environment, as well as the house itself.

L'Hospitalet de Llobregat: Can Trinxet

Can Trinxet is a former textile factory. It was first occupied in 1890 and later became the largest industrial complex in L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, a city with magnificent industrial heritage. Often shortened to L'Hospitalet or just L'H, it is the second most populated city of Catalonia, where a great deal of Spanish workers migrated to throughout the 20th century searching for employment.

The owner which gives name to the factory, Avel·lí Trinxet Casas, commissioned the project in 1905. The property was expanded shortly after its founding due to the growing activity of the business, up to the point where Can Trinxet absorbed the adjacent factory, Can Gras, which is the only building that remains today. This mill is one of the many architectural examples of the growing industrialisation that took place in Catalonia throughout the 19th century, a moment in which the textile industry was the leading socio-economic force in Catalonia, as well as in Spain.



Can Trinxet ©
Manifesta 15 Barcelona

Notes for the editors:

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