



## Joan Miró: The Ladder of Escape

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**Joan Miró: The Ladder of Escape** From Brand: Thames Hudson

**A superbly illustrated, retrospective survey that focuses on Miró's politically engaged art, published to accompany a major touring exhibition.**

Joan Miró's paintings are among the most widely recognized of any modern artist, reproduced everywhere from books to T-shirts to posters. While he is most often seen as a surrealist or a postwar abstract painter, terms he rejected, this book brings new insights into Miró's work by framing it in the context of the turbulent times in which he lived.

Miró's contemporary Picasso left Spain, promising never to return under a Fascist government. In contrast, Miró chose internal exile, removing himself to the island of Mallorca, a decision that has led to him being viewed as a less political artist. This book challenges that impression by focusing on Miró's politically engaged works, from the rural, anarchist tradition and strong Catalan nationalism reflected in early paintings like *The Farm* and *Head of a Catalan Peasant* to the triptych *The Hope of a Condemned Man* (1974) through which he publicly declared his opposition to Franco.

Drawing on new scholarship from an international group of experts, the book accompanies the first exhibition in nearly half a century to show work from throughout Miró's career. It sheds new light on the life and achievements of one of the greatest artists of the twentieth century.

200 color illustrations

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## Joan Miro: The Ladder of Escape From Brand: Thames Hudson Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“A new exhibition at the National Gallery of Art...makes a spirited attempt to find and explore the politics.”  
- *Los Angeles Times*

“Through the critical writing...[Miró] emerges as a consistently moral force...what speaks loudest is the portrait of Miró as an artist as committed to liberty and social transformation as to art itself.”

- *Publishers Weekly*

“The National Gallery’s Miro exhibit is an artist’s astonishing chronological journey through the major movements of modern art.”

- *The Washington Times*

“Sometimes an art exhibit comes along that is so stunning it becomes a travel destination. Such is *Joan Miró: The Ladder of Escape* at the National Gallery of Art.”

- *Chicago Examiner*

“*Joan Miró: The Ladder of Escape* is a beautiful book, and its essays are both informative and thought-provoking....”

- *International Sculpture Center Book Reviews*

“To say that the show is grand in scale?with pieces dating from 1918 to 1974?is an understatement...”

- *The Washingtonian*

“The exhibition’s layout, together with the accompanying scholarly catalog, enables one to begin to understand Miró’s progression from an art of detailed realism...through a later phase of expressionistic and Fauve-like paintings, and then into a burst of surrealistic excess...”

- *The InTowner*

“An illustrated retrospective survey focuses on Miró’s politically engaged art.”

- *Publishers Weekly*

#### About the Author

Marko Daniel is Curator of Public Programmes, Tate Modern.

Matthew Gale is Head of Displays and Curator at Tate Modern.

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