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CATALAN MODERNISM

TOWARDS THE END OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, A CULTURAL MOVEMENT APPEARED WHICH WE CALL MODERNISM. LIKE ART NOUVEAU OR JUGENDSTIL, ITS ARCHITECTURE WAS CHARACTERIZED BY THE WEALTH AND DETAIL OF ITS DECORATIVE WORK, AND BY A REFINED AESTHETICISM. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BUILDINGS OF THE CATALAN MODERNIST MOVEMENT IS THE "PALAU DE LA MÚSICA", THE CENTRE OF BARCELONA'S MUSICAL LIFE.

STAINED GLASS FROM THE "PALAU DE LA MÚSICA CATALANA".





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ANTONI GAUDÍ

A LEADING FIGURE OF MODERNISM, ANTONI GAUDÍ WAS CATALONIA'S MOST FAMOUS ARCHITECT AND A LEADING INTERNATIONAL FIGURE IN THE WORLD OF ART. ONE OF HIS MOST IMPORTANT WORKS IS "LA PEDRERA", IN BARCELONA, BUILT 1906/1910 AND INCLUDED IN UNESCO'S WORLD HERITAGE LIST.

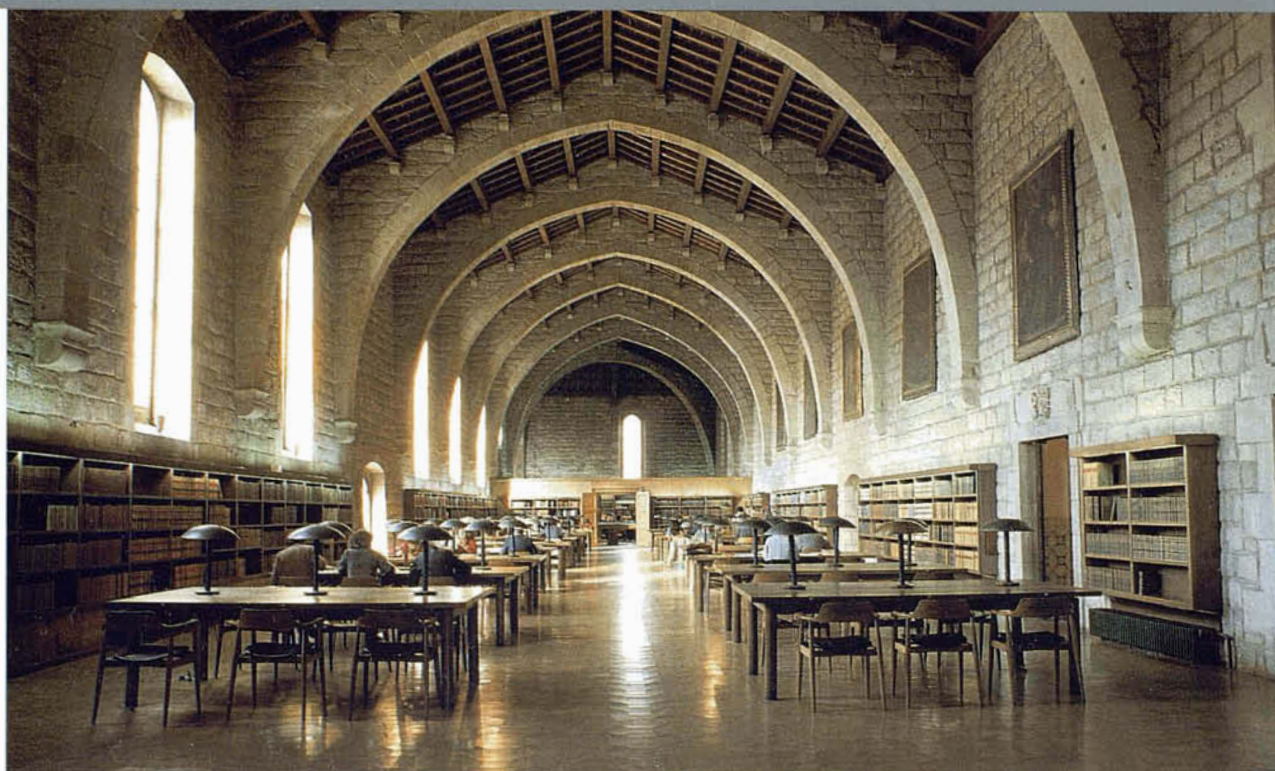
DECORATIVE WORK FROM THE "PARC GÜELL", BARCELONA.



PAU PICASSO

PAU PICASSO. PAINTER, DRAUGHTSMAN, ENGRAVER, SCULPTOR AND POTTER, SUMS UP THE WHOLE HISTORY OF MODERN ART: REALISM, EXPRESSIONISM, CUBISM, SURREALISM. THREE ELEMENTS SEEM TO MAKE UP HIS PERSONALITY: HIS UNDERLYING ANDALUSIAN CHARACTER, HIS CATALAN UPBRINGING AND HIS PARISIAN DEVELOPMENT.

THE FORSAKEN. 1903.



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ENRIC PRAT DE LA RIBA

1914 SAW THE FOUNDATION OF THE *MANCOMUNITAT DE CATALUNYA*, AN ATTEMPT TO RESTORE CATALAN POLITICAL POWER. ITS FIRST PRESIDENT WAS ENRIC PRAT DE LA RIBA, WHO MANAGED TO USE THE ORGANISM'S LIMITED POWERS TO BRING A SPIRIT OF NATIONAL RENOVATION AND POLITICAL PROGRESS TO CATALAN SOCIETY. HE ALSO FOUNDED THE "BIBLIOTECA DE CATALUNYA".

READING ROOM OF THE LIBRARY OF CATALONIA, BARCELONA.



PROCLAMATION OF THE REPUBLIC

THE LOCAL ELECTIONS OF 1931 LED TO THE DOWNFALL OF ALFONSO XIII'S MONARCHY. THE POLITICIAN FRANCESC MACIÀ PROCLAIMED THE CATALAN REPUBLIC, WHICH WAS LATER REPLACED BY A SYSTEM OF POLITICAL AUTONOMY WITHIN THE SPANISH REPUBLIC. CATALONIA RECOVERED ITS OWN GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION, KNOWN AS THE *GENERALITAT*.

FRANCESC MACIÀ AT THE "PALAU DE LA GENERALITAT".

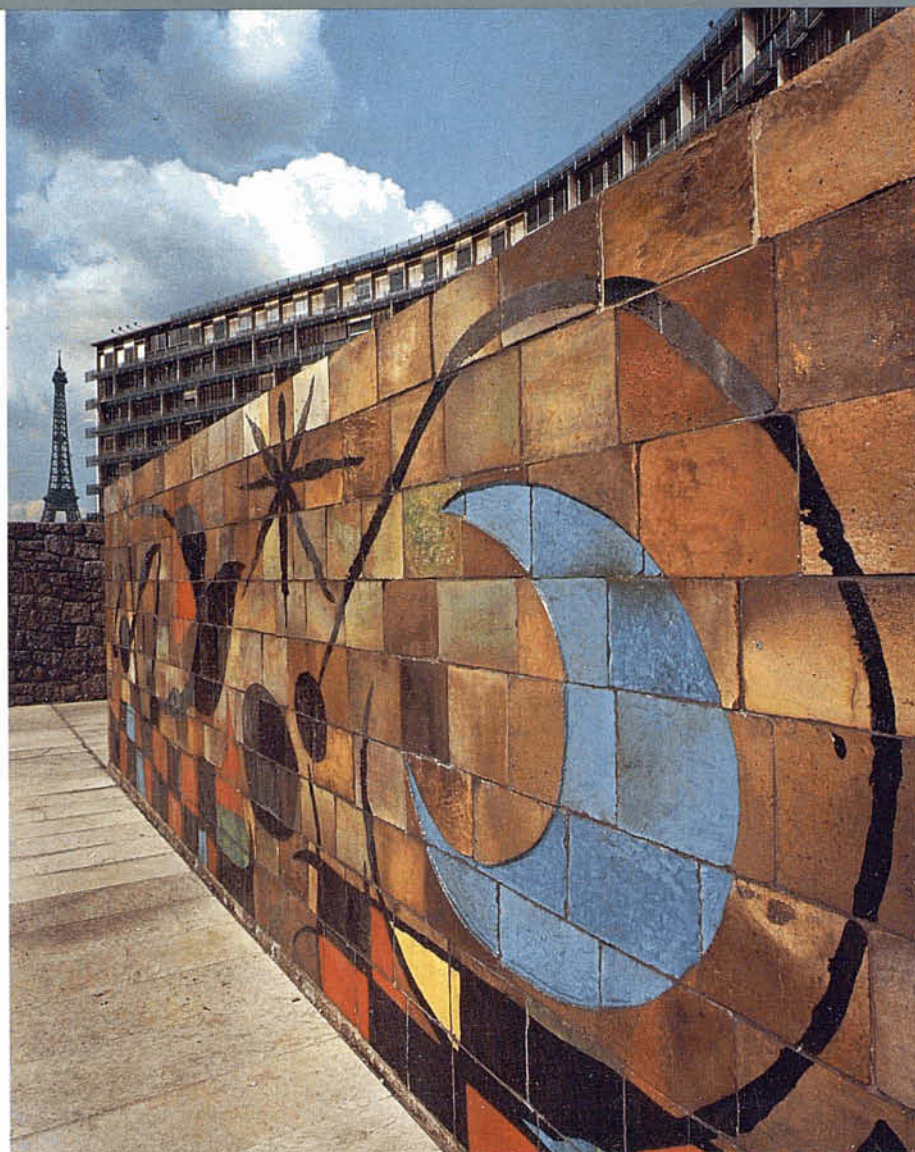


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THE CIVIL WAR

IN 1934, THE CATALAN GOVERNMENT ELECTED LLUÍS COMPANYS TO SUCCEED FRANCESC MACIÀ AS PRESIDENT OF THE *GENERALITAT*. WHEN THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR BROKE OUT, IN 1936, CATALONIA REMAINED LOYAL TO THE REPUBLIC. IN 1939, GENERAL FRANCO'S TROOPS OCCUPIED CATALONIA, AND HER HOME-RULE INSTITUTIONS WERE ABOLISHED. PRESIDENT COMPANYS WAS ARRESTED AND, ON 15TH OCTOBER 1940, AFTER A SUMMARY COURT MARTIAL, HE WAS SHOT. HIS EXECUTION SYMBOLIZES THE INTENTION OF GENERAL FRANCO'S DICTATORSHIP TO DESTROY THE NATIONAL IDENTITY OF CATALONIA.

BARCELONA. 19th JULY 1936.



© CATALÀ-ROCA

JOAN MIRÓ

JOAN MIRÓ IS ONE OF CATALONIA'S BEST-KNOWN ARTISTS ABROAD. HIS WORK HAS AN EXTRAORDINARY CREATIVE ENERGY AND IS FILLED WITH COLOUR. THE MOST REMARKABLE ASPECT OF HIS LEGACY IS THE FOUNDATION NAMED AFTER HIM, A MUST FOR STUDENTS OF CONTEMPORARY ART IN GENERAL AND OF JOAN MIRÓ'S WORK IN PARTICULAR.

CERAMIC MURAL. UNESCO, PARIS.



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TOURISM

SINCE THE SIXTIES, TOURISM HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE MODERNIZATION AND RELAUNCHING OF THE CATALAN ECONOMY. HER SITUATION, HER CLIMATE AND HER CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE HAVE MADE CATALONIA ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR AREAS FOR VISITORS TO SPAIN.

CALELLA. COSTA BRAVA.



PAU CASALS

PAU CASALS, COMPOSER AND 'CELLIST, WAS A KEY FIGURE IN THE HISTORY OF MUSIC, AS WELL AS AN UNTIRING DEFENDER OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND THE OPPRESSED MINORITIES. ON 24TH OCTOBER, 1971, AT THE FIRST PERFORMANCE OF HIS "HYMN OF PEACE", HE APPEARED BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS, WHERE HE SPOKE UP IN DEFENCE OF HIS COUNTRY AND OF THE NEED TO DEFEND PEACE ALL OVER THE WORLD.

PAU CASALS AT THE UNITED NATIONS.





© SERRA D'OR

MERCÈ RODOREDÀ

MERCÈ RODOREDÀ IS AN ADMIRER AND WELL-KNOWN WRITER. HER NOVEL *LA PLAÇA DEL DIAMANT* HAS BEEN TRANSLATED INTO MANY LANGUAGES. IN 1980, MERCÈ RODOREDÀ RECEIVED THE "PREMI D'HONOR DE LES LLETRES CATALANES", THE HIGHEST AWARD IN CATALAN LITERATURE.





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11th SEPTEMBER 1977

THE NATIONAL DAY OF CATALONIA, CELEBRATED ON 11TH SEPTEMBER AND FORBIDDEN SINCE 1939, HAS, THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, BEEN AN OCCASION FOR ACTS IN SUPPORT OF POLITICAL OR SOCIAL DEMANDS. ON 11TH SEPTEMBER 1977, FOLLOWING ITS LEGALIZATION IN 1976, ONE MILLION DEMONSTRATORS PEACEFULLY DEMANDED THE RIGHTS OF THE CATALAN PEOPLE AND THE RETURN OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERALITAT FROM EXILE IN FRANCE.

DEMONSTRATION.



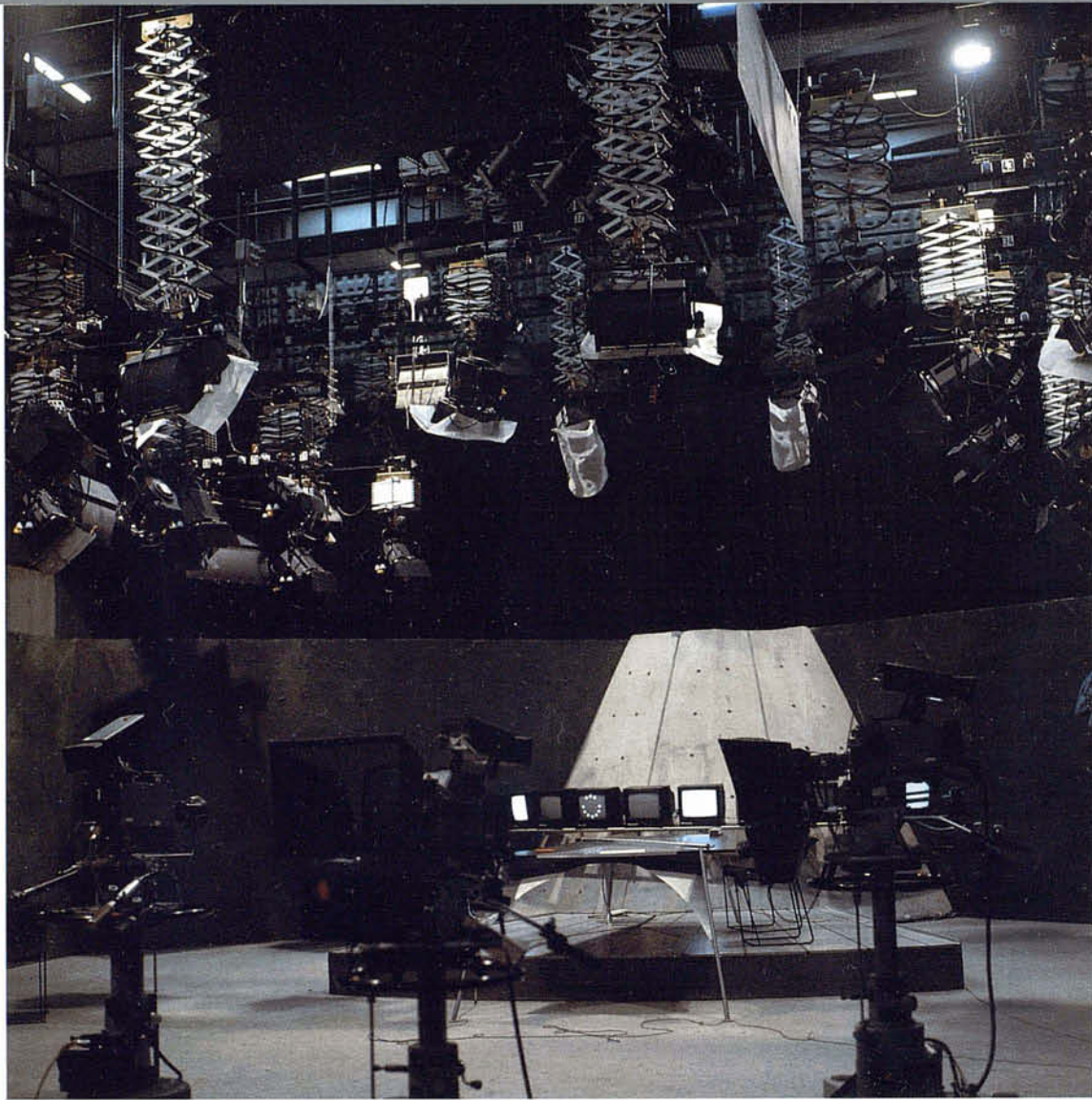


© FUNDACIÓ TÀPIES

ANTONI TÀPIES

TÀPIES IS ALREADY A CLASSIC OF NEW CONTEMPORARY PAINTING. THE TÀPIES FOUNDATION IN BARCELONA CONTAINS AN IMPORTANT COLLECTION OF HIS WORK.

MONTSENY-MONTNEGRE. 1988.

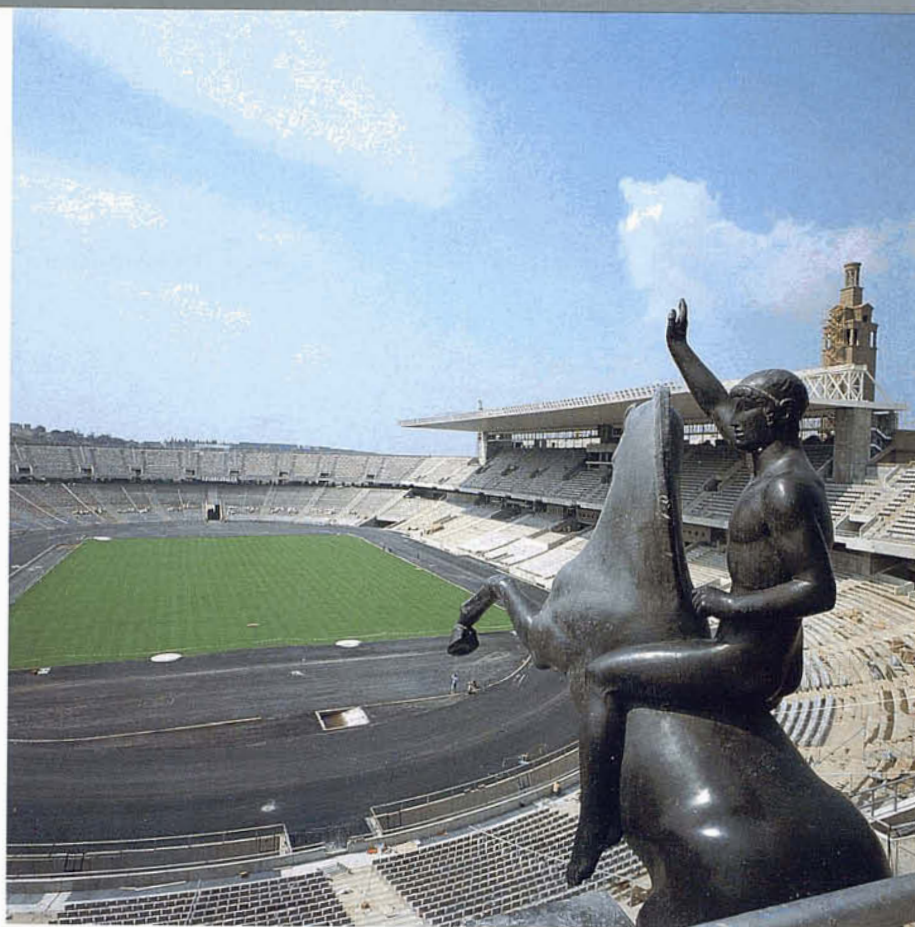


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TELEVISIÓ DE CATALUNYA-TV3

CATALAN TELEVISION (TV3) STARTED BROADCASTS ON 16TH JANUARY 1984. TV3 IS AN INSTRUMENT FOR LINGUISTIC NORMALIZATION, WHICH IS COMPLEMENTED BY THE CATALAN AUTONOMIC GOVERNMENT'S RADIO AND OTHER, PRIVATE OR PUBLIC NETWORKS.

TELEVISION STUDIO.



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THE OLYMPIC GAMES

ON 17TH OCTOBER 1986, BARCELONA WAS CHOSEN TO HOST THE 1992 OLYMPIC GAMES. THE CITY, AND ALL OF CATALONIA, ARE PREPARING THIS EVENT AS YET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERNATIONAL PROJECTION.

BARCELONA STADIUM.



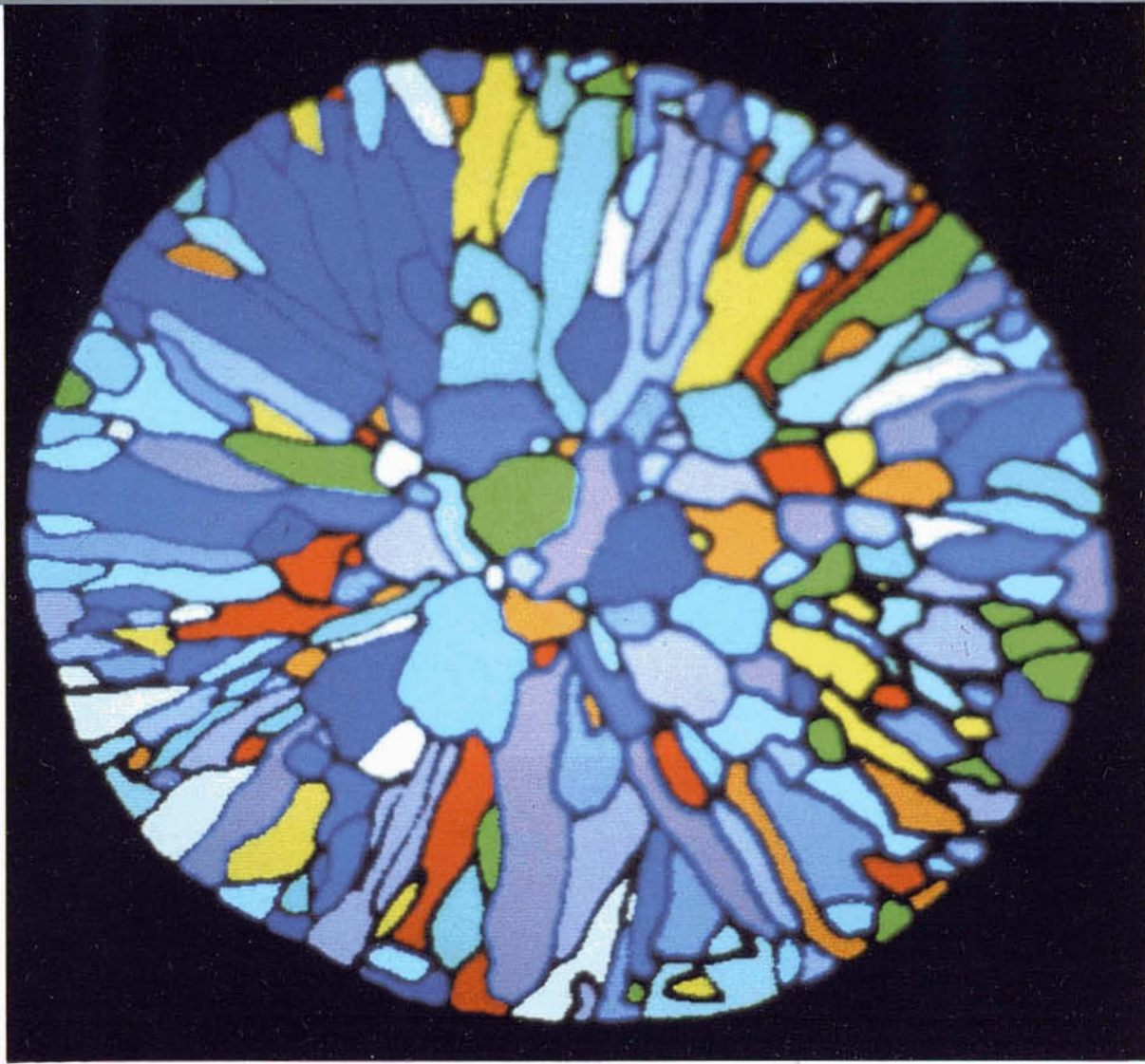
© ALBERT T. ESTÉVEZ

CATALAN DESIGN

CATALAN DESIGN IS ONE OF THE BEST KNOWN IN EUROPE AT PRESENT. ARCHITECTURE, FURNITURE, GRAPHICS AND FASHION ARE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE NEW CATALAN DESIGN. THE BCD (BARCELONA DESIGN CENTRE) PAYS PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN.

“ANDREA” CHAIR, BY JOSEP LLUSCA, BUTTERFLY WRITING DESK, BY JAUME TRESSERRA, OPTICIAN’S, BY A. T. ESTÉVEZ, J. COLOMER, X. OLIVELLA.





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TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

CATALONIA IS PREPARING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY WITH A REMARKABLE EFFORT IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION, TECHNOLOGICAL RENOVATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

DIGITALIZED, FALSE-COLOUR IMAGE OF A POLYCRYSTALLINE ALLOY OF COPPER, ALUMINIUM AND ZINC, WITH SHAPE MEMORY.

