

# ANTONI TÀPIES: 1923-2012 CHRONOLOGY

This chronology includes the most important events in Tàpies' biography. It also mentions several national and international historical events to help contextualise this period.

## 1925-1944

Antoni Tàpies is born in Barcelona on 13 December 1923, the son of Josep Tàpies Mestres and Maria Puig Guerra. His childhood is spent in a strongly social and cultural environment that is largely due to his father's friendship with prominent figures in Catalan public life and Catalan nationalist republicanism at the time, as well as to his maternal grandfather's intense civic and political activity.

He first comes into contact with contemporary art in 1934 through some Catalan publications, especially the special Christmas issue of the magazine *D'Ací i d'Allà*, coordinated by Josep Lluís Sert and Joan Prats, including articles by Zervos, Foix and Gasch, among others, and reproductions of works by Picasso, Braque, Gris, Léger, Mondrian, Brancusi, Kandinsky, Duchamp, Arp, Miró and others.

He continues his studies at Barcelona's Liceu Pràctic during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) and for a few months is a regular visitor to the offices of the Generalitat de Catalunya, where his father works as a legal advisor. He draws and paints in a self-taught manner. The outcome of the war, with the defeat of the democratic and legitimate government of the Second Republic, and beginning of General Franco's dictatorship profoundly influence many aspects of his future life and artistic career.

Due to a lung ailment, he spends a long convalescence period in the Puig d'Olena sanatorium between 1942 and 1943, then later in Puigcerdà and La Garriga. During this time, he draws and makes copies of Van Gogh and Picasso. He is interested in the history of philosophy and

reads Thomas Mann, Nietzsche, Spengler, Ibsen, Stendhal, Proust, Gide and others. He has a predilection for romantic music, especially Wagner and Brahms, as well as for the whole aesthetic ideology of German Romanticism and Post-Romanticism.

In 1944, he begins his Law studies at the University of Barcelona, although he abandons them shortly before finishing. He will above all preserve the memory of several classmates from this period: Carles Barral, Alfonso Costafreda, Jaime Gil de Biedma, Alberto Oliart, Joan Reventós, Josep M. Castellet, Manuel Sacristán, Josep M. Ainaud and others. He studies drawing for two months at Barcelona's Acadèmia Valls, where by chance he meets the poet and art critic Josep M. Junoy, whose encouragement will influence his decision to dedicate himself to art. Several portraits and self-portraits have survived from this year, in addition to some drawings influenced by Picasso and Surrealism.

## 1925

Coup d'état by Miguel Primo de Rivera and beginning of his dictatorship (1923-1930).

## 1929

Crash of 1929.

## 1951

Proclamation of the Second Republic and recognition of universal suffrage for women.

## 1952

Approval of the Statute of Catalonia.

## 1955

Hitler is proclaimed Chancellor of Germany.

## 1956

Military coup led by General Franco and outbreak of the Spanish Civil War.

## 1959

Beginning of the Franco dictatorship.  
Beginning of the Second World War.

## 1940

Execution by firing squad of Lluís Companys, president of the Generalitat de Catalunya.

## 1945

Tàpies becomes increasingly committed to painting. Initial attempts using dense materials, obtained by mixing oil paint with Spanish White. Predominance of the human figure in his works and appearance of first characters with their heads turned. He becomes interested in the philosophy of Heidegger and Sartre and also Eastern thought.

Josep Irla assumes the presidency of the Generalitat in exile and sets up its government.

End of the Second World War.

Beginning of the Nuremberg Trials against the main leaders of the Third Reich, accused of conspiracy, crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

## 1946

Tàpies becomes interested in the scientific discoveries of the atom as well as recent studies on the composition of matter. He reads texts by Einstein, Planck, Schrödinger, Heisenberg and other scientists.

Beginning of his friendship with the poet J. V. Foix, associated with the Surrealism of the 1930s, and also with the young poet Joan Brossa. He meets artists, writers and intellectuals who are looking to resume the thread of the avant-garde, which was cut short by the outbreak of the Civil War.

In addition to the primitivist and expressionist works he creates at this time, there are many abstract paintings characterised by a fundamental interest in the subject matter and a recurring use of collage and *grattage*, or scratching.

The General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation condemns the Franco regime, vetoes Spain's entry and recommends the withdrawal of ambassadors from Madrid.

## 1947

Sebastià Gasch publishes his first article about Tàpies in the magazine *Destino* on 29 March 1947.

Brossa's mediation means that Tàpies also meets Joan Prats, a collector, patron and promoter of the Catalan avant-garde. He provides him with documentation on Surrealism and modern art. He sees the work of Joan Miró and Alexander Calder for the first time at Prats' home.

His production increases considerably throughout this year, continuing his investigations into scraping and scratching. His works from around this time are significant for their use of simple materials that are alien to traditional artistic practice (grains of rice, threads, ropes, toilet paper and the like).

Beginning of the Cold War.

The United States sets up the Marshall Plan to aid Europe.

## 1948

Thanks to Joan Prats, he visits Joan Miró's studio with Joan Brossa, Arnau Puig, Lluís Maria Riera and Joan Ponç. He acquires a greater knowledge of 20th century art and in particular discovers the works of Paul Klee in Prats' library, as well as in the library of Joaquim Gomis, whom he also meets during this period.

The first issue of the magazine *Dau al Set* appears, founded by Antoni Tàpies, Joan Brossa, Arnau Puig, Joan Ponç, Modest Cuixart and Joan-Josep Tharrats. He becomes interested in Surrealism and Dadaism, in Nietzsche, Kant, Hegel and Sartre, in the cinema and in the music of Wagner, Brahms, Stravinsky, Alban Berg, Webern and Schoenberg.

He participates in the first *Saló d'Octubre* at the Galeries Laietanes in Barcelona with two works, *Collage de les creus* (Collage of Crosses) and *Composició* (Composition), both from 1947. It is the first time that Tàpies displays his work in public. The exhibition causes violent reactions on the part of the Spanish University Union (SEU).

The vast majority of the works he produces this year still retain expressionist figures, some of which already herald his surrealist period.

Mahatma Gandhi, one of the fathers of Indian independence, is assassinated.

France opens the border with Spain.  
Creation of the State of Israel.  
Proclamation of the Universal Declaration  
of Human Rights.

## 1949

Tàpies interrupts his Law studies and decides to dedicate himself to painting.

He meets several members of the magazine *Cobalto 49* (which will lead to *Club 49* around 1950), such as the poet João Cabral de Melo Neto, vice-consul of Brazil in Barcelona, who would link him to Marxism; Joan Teixidor; Alexandre Cirici, Xavier Vidal de Llobatera, the first buyer of Tàpies' work; Sixt Illesques, and Rafael Santos Torroella.

He exhibits at the second edition of the *Saló d'Octubre* at the Galeries Laietanes in Barcelona. Together with Cuixart and Ponç, he participates in the exhibition *Un aspecto de la joven pintura catalana*, organised with the support of *Cobalto 49* at the French Institute in Barcelona. He exhibits a dozen paintings – among them *El jardí de Batafra* (The Batafra Garden), *Desconsol lunar* (Lunar Desolation), *Els ulls del fullatge* (The Eyes of the Leaf) and *Parafaragamus* – most of which are titled by Joan Brossa. Eugeni d'Ors visits the exhibition and invites all three of them to participate in the *Salón de los Once* the following year at Galería Biosca in Madrid.

Foundation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Foundation of the Council of Europe, based in Strasbourg.

Mao Zedong proclaims the People's Republic of China.

Division of Germany into two states, the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic.

## 1950

He travels to Madrid to attend the opening of the seventh edition of the *Salón de los Once*, where he meets the sculptor Ángel Ferrant. First solo exhibition in Barcelona at the Galeries Laietanes, organised by Josep Gudiol, in which he presents forty-seven works: on the one hand, a series of aerial or underwater landscapes, in which some references to Klee and Miró can be seen, and on the other hand, a number of more recent paintings depicting closed chiaroscuro spaces and some

figurative yet fragmented elements. Juan Eduardo Cirlot writes the catalogue text. He remains in Paris until July 1951 thanks to a French government scholarship. During his stay in the French capital, he becomes interested in Marxism and witnesses first-hand the controversy surrounding social realism. He produces *Sèrie Història Natural* (Natural History Series). He is chosen to exhibit in Pittsburgh as part of the Carnegie Prize. His first work is exhibited in the United States: *El jardí de Batafra* (The Batafra Garden) (1949).

The Council of Europe adopts the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

## 1951

He visits Picasso in his studio in Rue des Grands-Augustins, where he meets Christian Zervos and Jaume Sabartés. He travels to Belgium and the Netherlands during the spring of this year. Under the influence of Marxist thought, and worried about the political situation in Spain, he produces many social issue paintings: *Homenatge a Federico García Lorca* (Homage to Federico García Lorca), *Ells acusen* (They Accuse), *Homenatge a Miguel Hernández* (Homage to Miguel Hernández), *El monument* (The Monument), *El toro* (The Bull) and *Coral del treball* (Work Choir), among others. He participates in the 1st Biennial of Latin American Art in Madrid.

Tram strike in Barcelona, one of the first mass demonstrations against the Franco regime. The Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg constitute the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), the embryo of the European Community.

## 1952

New solo exhibition in Barcelona at the Galeries Laietanes, where he shows the works he produced in Paris the previous year. He exhibits for the first time at the Venice Biennale, during its 26th edition. He shows six of the paintings presented at the Galeries Laietanes in this same year: *L'accident* (The Accident), *Ofrena* (Offering), *L'atropellament* (Run Over), *El toro* (The Bull), *El monument* (The Monument) and *Coral del treball* (Work Choir), all from 1951. He is invited again to participate in the Carnegie Prize in Pittsburgh,

along with Pierre Alechinsky, Jean Dubuffet, Tal Coat, Ben Nicholson, Karel Appel, Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning and Robert Motherwell, among others. The work *Homenatge a Federico García Lorca* (Homage to Federico García Lorca) (1951) is censored by Franco's authorities and is replaced by the painting *Galanteig* (Courtship). He also presents the work *Les construccions de Shah Abbas* (Constructions of Shah Abbas) (1950), acquired by the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, thereby becoming the first museum in the world to include a work by Tàpies in its permanent collection.

**Last executions at Camp de la Bota in Barcelona. A total of 1,076 people were executed there between 1939 and 1952.**

### 1955

First solo exhibition in the United States, at Marshall Field and Company in Chicago, organised by Josep Gudiol, where he exhibits thirty-two works produced between 1949 and 1950, such as *L'escarnidor de diademes* (The Scoffer at Diadems), *El rapte de Batafra* (The Abduction of Batafra) and others. He travels to New York for his exhibition at the Martha Jackson Gallery, where he shows twenty paintings, most of which are from the Chicago exhibition. He acquires a greater knowledge of American Abstract Expressionism during his stay in New York, discovering affinities and coincidences with his own work. He resumes his research into materials that he began eight years earlier, working with soil, collages, incisions, etc. He travels to Madrid for his exhibition at the Galería Biosca, where he meets Vicente Aleixandre. He receives an award at the 2nd Biennial of São Paulo.

**Signing of the Concordat between the Holy See and the Franco government.**

### 1954

New solo exhibition in Barcelona at the Galeries Laietanes. He participates in the 27th Venice Biennale with five new works: *El crit. Groc i violeta* (The Cry: Yellow and Violet), *Himne* (Hymn), *Coral* (Choral), *Amorós* (Amorous) and *Orfeu* (Orpheus). He also participates in the 64th Annual Exhibition of the Nebraska Art Association and the exhibition *Reality and Fantasy 1900-1954* at the Walker Art Centre in Minneapolis. He marries Teresa Barba Fàbregas.

**Josep Tarradellas is elected president of the Generalitat in exile.**

**Outbreak of the Vietnam War.**

### 1955

He travels to Paris to present several works – the first time in the French capital – in the *Phases de l'art contemporain* exhibition at the Galerie R. Creuze, invited by the poet and critic Édouard Jaguer. Thanks to a letter of introduction from Martha Jackson, he meets Michel Tapié, with whose aesthetic thinking he sympathises, as a result of this trip. Tapié suggests that he be part of Rodolphe Stadler's gallery, which is to be officially opened in the autumn. He visits the exhibition *50 ans d'Art aux États-Unis* at the Musée National d'Art Moderne, organised by the Museum of Modern Art in New York and displaying works by Clyfford Still, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Franz Kline, Mark Tobey, Willem de Kooning and Robert Motherwell, among others. He takes part in debates on art organised by the Menéndez Pelayo International University. He receives the Republic of Colombia prize at the 3rd Biennial of Latin American Art in Barcelona. At the end of the year, he participates in the inaugural exhibition of the Galerie Stadler in Paris. He presents the work *Vençut* (Defeated) (1953) at the *Pittsburgh International Exhibition of Contemporary Painting*. He holds other solo exhibitions in Stockholm, Santander and Barcelona.

**The Warsaw Pact is signed.**

**Spain joins the United Nations Organisation.**

### 1956

First solo exhibition in Paris at the Galerie Stadler, where his characteristic material paintings of this period are on display. Michel Tapié publishes the monograph *Antonio Tàpies et l'œuvre complète* (sic), the first to be dedicated to him. He participates in the 28th Venice Biennale with three material paintings and takes the opportunity to travel to Italy for the first time. In December, he produces a first version of *Porta metàl·lica i violí* (Metal Shutter and Violin) for the shop window of Gales in Barcelona, organised by Alexandre Cirici. He participates in the exhibition *Recent Abstract Painting* at the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester, together with Karel Appel, Alberto Burri, Hans Hartung, Franz Kline, Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko, among others. He is selected for the *Pentagone* exhibition, organised by the magazine *Cimaise* at Galerie Arnaud in Paris. His son Antoni is born.

Soviet troops invade Hungary.  
Suez Crisis: Israel, Great Britain and France invade Egypt.

## 1957

Together with Michel Tapié, he promotes the exhibition *Art autre* at the Sala Gaspar in Barcelona, presenting in Spain the work of Karel Appel, Alberto Burri, Jean Dubuffet, Jean Fautrier, Jackson Pollock, Franz Kline and Lucio Fontana, among others. In Milan, he receives the 10th Premio Internazionale per la Pittura de Lissone. In Paris, he meets Roland Penrose and Lee Miller. He exhibits again at the Martha Jackson Gallery in New York, where he shows his most recent works for the first time. He holds a solo exhibition in Paris at the Galerie Stadler and stages his first exhibition in Germany, at the recently opened Galerie Schmela in Düsseldorf. He participates in the 9th Biennial of São Paulo.

Treaty of Rome. The European Economic Community is created.  
The USSR puts Sputnik, the first artificial satellite, into orbit.

## 1958

He takes part in the exhibition *The Exploration of Form* at the Arthur Tooth & Sons Ltd gallery in London, whose catalogue includes a text by Lawrence Alloway. He is represented with three paintings in the touring exhibition *Neue Malerei in Frankreich*, which will travel to several German cities. At this time, Tapié is often included in the so-called 'School of Paris'. Under this label, he participates in the exhibition *Nouvelle École de Paris. Französische Malerei der Gegenwart* at the Kunsthalle in the German city of Mannheim. He opens his first solo exhibition in Italy, at the Galleria dell'Ariete in Milan, presented by the poet and art critic Jacques Dupin, with whom he establishes a long-lasting friendship. It is there that he meets the painters Lucio Fontana and Emilio Scanavino and also the photographer Ugo Mulas. He participates in the 29th Venice Biennale with fifteen works and is awarded the UNESCO Prize and the David Bright Foundation Award. He meets Luigi Nono and Nuria Schoenberg, Emilio Vedova, Will Grohmann, Alberto Burri, Shuzo Takiguchi, Yoshiaki Tono, the Basque sculptor Eduardo Chillida and the collector Giuseppe Panza di Biumo. He wins the Carnegie Prize in Pittsburgh with the work *Composició grisa* (Grey Composition) (1958) and meets Marcel Duchamp,

a member of the jury. He takes part in the Osaka Festival. His daughter Clara is born.

The United States puts the Explorer 1 satellite into orbit.

## 1959

He travels to New York with Stadler and Tapié for his new solo exhibition at the Martha Jackson Gallery. He meets the painters Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning, Robert Motherwell, Hans Hoffman, Saul Steinberg and Fritz Bultmann. The monograph *Antonio Tapiés* (sic) is published, with a text by Michel Tapié, photographs by Joaquim Gomis, and selection and photographic sequence by Joan Prats. He holds exhibitions at the Galerie Van de Loo in Munich with Antonio Saura and at the Galerie Stadler in Paris. He is on the jury of the Premio Selezione Biennale di Pittura Internazionale, organised by the Galleria dell'Ariete in Milan, where he coincides with Herbert Read. He is selected for the 2nd Documenta in Kassel, where he presents two material paintings and participates in the group exhibitions *4 Maler* at the Kunsthalle in Bern, *15 Maler in Paris* at the Kölnischer Kunstverein in Cologne, *Arte Nuova. Esposizione Internazionale di Pittura e Cultura* at the Palazzo Graneri in Turin and *European Art Today: 35 Painters and Sculptors* in Minneapolis, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York, among other cities. He is part of the inaugural exhibition of the new building of the Guggenheim Museum in New York. He participates in exhibitions at the Museum Morsbroich in Leverkusen and the Galerie Beyeler in Basel. He refuses to participate in the exhibition *13 peintres espagnols actuels* at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, produced by the Spanish government.

Victory of the Cuban Revolution.  
Foundation of the organisation ETA (Euskadi ta Askatasuna).  
Approval of the Economic Stabilisation and Liberalisation Plan, beginning of the social and economic transformations of the second Franco regime.  
Launch of the Catalan magazine *Serra d'Or*, produced by Publications de l'Abadia de Montserrat at the behest of a group of university students.

## 1960

Solo exhibitions at the Sala Gaspar in Barcelona, the Martha Jackson Gallery in New York and the

Galerie Blanche in Stockholm. Juan Eduardo Cirlot publishes the monograph *Tapiés* (sic), and the magazine *Papeles de Son Armadans*, directed by Camilo José Cela, dedicates a monographic issue to him, including contributions from Giulio Carlo Argan, Umbro Apollonio, Jacques Dupin, Pierre Restany, Herbert Read and Joan Teixidor, among many others. He participates in the group exhibitions *Neue Malerei. Form, Struktur, Bedeutung* at the Städtische Galerie in Munich, *New Spanish Painting and Sculpture* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and *Before Picasso, After Miró* at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York. The exhibition *New Forms-New Media* at the Martha Jackson Gallery in New York displays his works together with others by Arp, Burri, Calder, Chamberlain, Cornell, Dine, Dubuffet, Flavin, Johns, Kaprow, Klein, Nevelson, Oldenburg and Rauschenberg. He receives the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Prize at the Tokyo Biennale. He produces a poster – the first of many he will make throughout his career – to announce the creation of the Contemporary Art Museum of Barcelona (1960-1963), directed by Alexandre Cirici Pellicer. He asks Francesc Vicens to edit an anthology of texts by Michel Tapié, which will be published in Barcelona. He buys a farmhouse in Campins, Montseny. His son Miquel is born.

**Incident at the Palau de la Música Catalana. The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is adopted by the United Nations Organisation.**

## 1961

He travels to New York for a new exhibition at the Martha Jackson Gallery, which is marked by the publication of *Tàpies: A Catalog of Paintings in America*, with a text by James J. Sweeney. Together with Tapié, he visits the composer Edgar Varèse, whose work he has long admired. During this year, various museums and galleries in Europe and America host exhibitions of his work: the Gres Gallery in Washington, the Folkwang-Museum in Essen, the Galerie Stadler in Paris and the Fine Arts Museum in Buenos Aires. He participates in the group exhibitions *Arte e Contemplazione* at the Palazzo Grassi in Venice and *Paris, carrefour de la peinture 1945-1961* at the Stedelijk Van Abbe-Museum in Eindhoven. He creates the sets for Joan Brossa's play *Or i sal*, which is performed at the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona. Hans Namuth photographs him in Campins in the summer.

**Òmnium Cultural is set up. Construction begins of the Berlin Wall.**

## 1962

First retrospective exhibitions dedicated to his work at the Kestner Gesellschaft in Hannover, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York and the Kunsthaus Zürich in Zurich, organised by Werner Schmalenbach, Thomas Messer and Eduard Hüttinger, respectively. He joins the Congress for Peace that Bertrand Russell presides over in Moscow. He moves to the Swiss city of Sankt Gallen for the summer months and there paints a large mural for the library of the Handelshochschule, currently the University of Sankt Gallen. He produces a work to help those affected by the Vallès floods, *Dominant gris-morat* (Dominant Grey-Purple). J. E. Cirlot publishes *Significación de la pintura de Tapiés* (sic). The Tate Gallery in London organises the *Modern Spanish Painting* exhibition in collaboration with the Spanish government. A collector from Barcelona lends several works to the exhibition against the will of the artist, who refuses to participate. Tapiés denounces him, relying on a law that gives the artist the right to public exhibition of his work, and he wins the case in 1963.

**Strike movement in Asturias, the Basque Country and Catalonia.**

Edigsa publishes the first *Nova Cançó* (New Song) album: *Espinàs canta Brassens*. Edicions 62 publishes its first volume: *Nosaltres, els valencians* by Joan Fuster. Cuban Missile Crisis.

## 1965

He moves into a new house-studio in Carrer de Saragossa in Barcelona, built according to a project by José Antonio Coderch. Having more space, he begins to create large-format works that typify this period. He is presented with the Providence Art Club Award in Rhode Island. He publishes *El pa a la barca* together with Joan Brossa, a collector's book for which he produces twenty-five lithographs-collages. He stages his first solo exhibition at the Galerie Im Erker in Sankt Gallen, with which he establishes a long professional relationship and in which he will often coincide with Eugène Ionesco, Friedrich Dürrenmatt and Hans Hartung, among others. He signs a petition to the government on full rights for the Catalan language. In October, he signs a manifesto against torture and for an investigation into the repression against the vindictive movement of the Asturian

miners. He holds other solo exhibitions in New York, Turin and Paris.

Execution by firing squad of the Spanish communist leader Julián Grimau.

Creation of Spain's Court of Public Order (TOP).

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom takes place to defend the civil and economic rights of African Americans. Martin Luther King gives his "I have a dream" speech.

President John F. Kennedy is assassinated.

The Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States sign the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

### 1964

He exhibits eight works produced between 1955 and 1964 at the 3rd Documenta in Kassel.

Publication of the monographs *Tàpies* by Blai Bonet, *Tàpies 1954-1964* by Alexandre Cirici and *Antoni Tàpies. Fustes, papers, cartons i collages*

by Joan Teixidor. He participates in the group exhibitions *Painting and Sculpture of a Decade* at the Tate Gallery in London and *España libre*.

*Esposizione d'arte spagnola contemporanea*. *Celebrazioni del ventennale della Resistenza* in Rimini, Florence, Reggio Emilia, Venice and Ferrara. He holds other solo exhibitions in Cologne, Rome, Paris, Toronto, Barcelona and Montreal.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation is created.

The civil rights law against racial discrimination is passed in the United States.

Nelson Mandela is sentenced to life imprisonment.

The Comissions Obreres de Catalunya trade union is founded in Barcelona in the parish of Sant Medir in the Bordeta neighbourhood.

### 1965

Retrospective exhibition at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London organised by Roland Penrose. He makes thirty-six lithographs for *Novel·la*, a new collector's book in collaboration with Brossa. He participates in the exhibitions *Collages and Constructions. 4 Internationals: Burri, Nevelson, Tàpies, Van Leyden* at the Martha Jackson Gallery in New York and *Weiss-Weiss* at the Galerie Schmela in Düsseldorf, together with Joseph Beuys, Lucio Fontana, Yves Klein, Piero

Manzoni, Jean Tinguely and Günther Uecker, among others. He holds other solo exhibitions in Switzerland, in the cities of Solothurn and Sankt Gallen.

Malcolm X is assassinated.

Expulsion of the abbot of Montserrat, Aureli Maria Escarré, for statements in *Le Monde* opposing the dictatorship.

### 1966

He participates in a secret meeting at the Capuchin convent in Sarrià in Barcelona, where students and intellectuals discuss the creation of the first democratic university union since the end of the Civil War. He is arrested by the police after several days of confinement along with the other participants and subsequently fined. He begins to write his memoirs. He makes the sets for *Semimaru*, a Noh play by Yuzaki Motokiyo Zeami (1363-1443) that premieres at the Teatre de l'Aliança del Poblenou in Barcelona. He wins the Grand Prix du Président de la République Française at the 6th Menton Biennale. The 15th International Congress of Art Critics, held in Rimini, awards him the Gold Medal for the artistic and moral value of his work. He takes part in the exhibition *Tradition und Gegenwart* at the Museum Morsbroich in Leverkusen. He holds other solo exhibitions in Madrid, Toulouse, Paris and Stockholm.

Referendum on the Organic Law of Spain.

Mao Zedong begins the Cultural Revolution in China.

### 1967

He travels to Paris, where his first solo exhibition opens at the Galerie Maeght, with which he establishes a professional relationship that will endure over the years. In Slovenia, he receives the Grand Prize for Printmaking at the *7th International Exhibition of Modern Printmaking* in Ljubljana. Giuseppe Gatt publishes the monograph *Tàpies*, which includes contributions by Giulio Carlo Argan, Renato Barilli, Maurizio Calvesi, Filiberto Menna, Nello Ponente and Italo Tomassoni. *Antoni Tàpies o l'escarnidor de diademes* is also published, with contributions from Joan Brossa, Joaquim Gomis, Joan Prats and Francesc Vicens. He holds an anthological exhibition of his graphic work at the Kunstmuseum in Sankt Gallen. He exhibits again at the Martha Jackson Gallery in New York.

Coup d'état in Greece and beginning of the Colonels' dictatorship.  
Six Day War in the Middle East.  
The General Assembly of the United Nations approves the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

## 1968

*Tàpies. Encres i collages* exhibition at Galerie Maeght in Paris. He collaborates with Jacques Dupin in the collector's book *La Nuit grandissante*. He creates screens for three windows of the Capuchin monastery of Sion using folded and stitched sheets. New anthological exhibitions at the Kunstverein in Hamburg and the Kölnischer Kunstverein in Cologne. He holds other solo exhibitions in New York, Paris and Düsseldorf.

Prague Spring.

French May.

Martin Luther King is assassinated.

First assassination by ETA in Spain.

## 1969

He joins the World Assembly for Peace in Berlin. During this year, he writes several texts for a variety of media in which he reflects on the role of contemporary art in society. Michel Tapié publishes the monograph *Tàpies*. A retrospective exhibition of his graphic work is held at the Kunstverein in Kassel. Clovis Prévost directs the film *Antoni Tàpies*, produced by the Fondation Maeght, and J.M. Acarín and A. Danhel make *Malir Tàpies*, a documentary for Czechoslovak television. He produces nine lithographs and an etching for *Frègoli*, a collector's book made with Brossa. He takes part in the group exhibition *Artistes espagnols. Gris, Picasso, Miró, Tàpies, Chillida* at the Galerie Beyeler in Basel. He holds other solo exhibitions in Barcelona, Paris, Munich, New York and Toronto.

First landing on the Moon by the Apollo 11 American lunar mission.

Franco appoints Juan Carlos of Bourbon as his successor at the head of the Spanish State.

The first Catalan Summer University is celebrated in Prada de Conflent.

## 1970

He attends a secret assembly held in the monastery of Montserrat to protest against the so-called 'Burgos trials' and signs the Montserrat manifesto.

He intensifies his production with objects and increases the number of experiences in the field of assembly throughout the year. In a similar vein, he creates the mural *Gran esquinçall* (Large Tatter) for the new theatre in Sankt Gallen. Publication of *La pràctica de l'art*, a compilation of his writings and statements. Alexandre Cirici publishes *Tàpies, testimoni del silenci*. He holds other solo exhibitions in New York, Baden-Baden, Stockholm, Barcelona and Milan.

Salvador Allende is elected president of Chile.  
Burgos trials: council of war that tries sixteen people accused of belonging to ETA.

## 1971

He produces the suite of drawings and collages *Cartes per a la Teresa* (Letters to Teresa). He presents his recent production of assemblages and objects at the Galerie Maeght in Zurich, produced between 1968 and 1970. The San Francisco Museum hosts a sample of his graphic work. Spain's Supreme Court confirms the fine of 200,000 pesetas imposed on him for having participated in the Caputxinada (1966). Sebastià Gasch publishes the monograph *Tàpies*. The Il Collezionista d'Arte Contemporanea gallery in Rome hosts the exhibition *Antoni Tàpies. Opere 1946-1970*. He participates in various group exhibitions: *Aspetti della grafica europea 1971*, organised by the Venice Biennale at the Ca' Pesaro Galleria Internazionale d'Arte Moderna in Venice, *Aspetti dell'Informale* at the Pinacoteca Provinciale in Bari, and *Europa* at the Galerie Beyeler in Basel. He holds other solo exhibitions in London, Balsthal, Palma, Malmö and Barcelona.

Pau Casals receives the United Nations Peace Medal and premieres the work "Hymn to the United Nations". He declares his commitment to Catalonia and peace in his speech.

Constitution of the Assembly of Catalonia in the parish of Sant Agustí Vell in Barcelona.

## 1972

He produces a lithograph to help pay the bails and defence of the one hundred and thirteen people arrested following the constitution of the Assembly of Catalonia. He also creates the series *Suite catalana* (Catalan Suite), five etchings that have as their motif the colours of the Catalan flag. He participates in the exhibition *Amnistia. Que trata de Spagna* at the Palazzo Reale in Milan,



bringing together Pablo Picasso, Pablo Neruda, Rafael Alberti and hundreds of visual artists, musicians and poets in order to raise funds for the underground labour movement in Spain. He is awarded the Rubens Prize in Siegen. A retrospective exhibition of his work opens at the Städtische Galerie Haus Seel in Siegen. Joan Miró appoints him a member of the board of trustees of the foundation he has just created. He attends the opening of the exhibition *Tàpies. Objets et grands formats* at the Galerie Maeght in Paris. Vera Linhartova publishes the monograph *Tàpies*. Together with John Cage and Bob Thompson, he participates in the exhibition *Concept and Content* at the Martha Jackson Gallery in New York, and in the exhibition *From Venus to Venus* at the Galerie Beyeler in Basel. He holds a solo exhibition in Rome.

**Bloody Sunday in Derry (Northern Ireland).  
Massacre in Munich during the celebration of  
the Olympic Games.**

### **1975**

Back in Paris, he attends the opening of his retrospective exhibition at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, which later travels to the Musée Rath in Geneva and the Palais de Beaux-Arts in Charleroi. He intensifies his activity as an essayist. He produces a series of lithographs for the book *La clau del foc*, with a foreword and a selection of texts by Pere Gimferrer. He also creates the first projects for *Llull-Tàpies* and takes part in the Joan Miró tribute book *L'Émerveille méerveilleux*. Mariuccia Galfetti publishes *Tàpies. Obra gràfica 1947-1972*. He holds solo exhibitions in Barcelona, Los Angeles, Seville, Bonn, Malmö, New York and Madrid.

**Coup d'état in Chile led by the commander-in-chief of the army, Augusto Pinochet.  
War between Israel and the Arab States.  
Lluís Maria Xirinacs embarks on a third  
hunger strike to obtain the release of the one  
hundred and thirteen arrested and imprisoned  
members of the Assembly of Catalonia.  
ETA assassinates Luis Carrero Blanco,  
president of the Spanish government.  
Beginning of the oil crisis.**

### **1974**

He gives the still underground trade union Comissions Obreres de Catalunya *Empremta de mà* (Handprint) (1974), produced to collect money

to help the Vietnamese people. He receives the British Arts Council Award on the occasion of the *International Exhibition of Printmaking*, and is awarded the Stephan Lochner Medaille in Cologne. He publishes *L'art contra l'estètica*. Publication of the monographs *Antoni Tàpies i l'esperit català* by Pere Gimferrer and *Antoni Tàpies. Zeichen und Strukturen* by Werner Schmalenbach. He holds retrospective exhibitions at the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Humlebæk, Denmark, the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin, the Hayward Gallery in London, the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery in Swansea (Wales) and the Galerie Maeght in Paris. He paints *A la memòria de Salvador Puig Antich* (In Memory of Salvador Puig Antich), *Companys* (Companions) and *Coratge del poble* (Courage of the People). He holds other solo exhibitions in Düsseldorf, Toronto, Gothenburg, Mexico City and New York.

**Execution of Salvador Puig Antich.  
Carnation Revolution in Portugal.**

### **1975**

He contributes a lithograph and a poster to the campaign promoted by several civic organizations to request the abolition of the death penalty in Spain, and he participates in various actions organised by opponents of the Franco regime for the amnesty of political prisoners and a definitive return of democratic freedoms. He signs a manifesto of solidarity with the Assembly of Catalonia. He produces five etchings for Edmond Jabès' book *Ça suit son cours* and collaborates with Shuzo Takiguchi on the work *Llambrec material*. Other solo exhibitions are held in Barcelona, Zurich, New York, Basel, Los Angeles, Palma and Paris.

**The Vietnam War ends.  
Last executions of the Franco regime: three  
militants of the FRAP (Frente Revolucionario  
Antifascista y Patriótico) and two of ETA are  
executed by firing squad in Madrid, Burgos  
and Barcelona.  
Green March and end of Spanish rule in the  
Sahara.  
General Franco dies and Juan Carlos I of  
Bourbon is proclaimed king of Spain.**

### **1976**

Together with more than one hundred and fifty personalities from political parties, trade unions and civic organisations, he signs a petition to

organise the first demonstration for amnesty. He also signs a manifesto congratulating the Unified Socialist Party of Catalonia (PSUC) on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of its constitution. He visits the Venice Biennale, where he participates in the exhibition *Spagna. Avanguardia artistica e realtà sociale*. He reflects on the condition of the artist, politics and the ethical commitments of 'cultural workers' in several texts written throughout the year. He paints *Composició amb números* (Composition with Numbers), which refers to the Segovia prison escape and murder of Oriol Solé Sugranyes. He makes the poster commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Assembly of Catalonia (1971-1976) and the posters announcing the Freedom March and World Songs for a People festival organised by the Congress of Catalan Culture. He produces a poster to cover the fine imposed by the civil governor of Valencia on the organisers of the Premis Octubre in 1976. Together with Joan Brossa, he produces the portfolio *Oda a Lluís Maria Xirinacs* (Ode to Lluís Maria Xirinacs) in order to help finance the activities of this pacifist. New retrospective exhibition at the Seibu Museum of Art in Tokyo. Georges Raillard publishes the monograph *Tàpies*. He holds other solo exhibitions in Paris and Barcelona.

The first newspaper in the Catalan language, *Avui*, is published on 23 April.

Celebration of the first Catalan Women's Days.

The Freedom March takes place in summer. 11 September celebrations in Sant Boi de Llobregat, the first Diada after the Franco dictatorship.

### 1977

He makes posters for various civic and cultural activities, such as the Congress of Catalan Culture, the Poets of Exile and Freedom Meeting, the First Congress of the International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, and the Catalan Youth Congress. He joins the campaign for the Unified Socialist Party of Catalonia (PSUC) in the first general elections after the dictatorship. Publication of *Memòria personal. Fragment per a una autobiografia*. The exhibition *Antoni Tàpies: Thirty-three Years of His Work* opens at the Albright-Knox Gallery in Buffalo in January. The book *Drei Reden über Antoni Tàpies* by Werner Schmalenbach is published in Sankt Gallen. The exhibition *Antoni Tàpies. Handzeichnungen,*

*Aquarelle, Gouachen, Collagen 1944-1976*. The book *Retornos de lo vivo lejano* by Rafael Alberti is presented at the Ignacio de Lassaletta gallery in Barcelona, including fifteen lithographs by Tàpies.

First Spanish general elections after the dictatorship. Adolfo Suárez, leader of UCD, is appointed president of the government. Re-establishment of the Generalitat de Catalunya and return of Josep Tarradellas, president in exile, demonstration of a million people in Barcelona.

The United Nations declares March 8 to be International Women's Day.

### 1978

He contributes a serigraph to the Salvador Allende International Museum of Resistance and an engraving to the *International Art Exhibition in Solidarity with Palestine* in Beirut. He makes a poster announcing the roundtable discussions organised by the Cultural Commission of the Unified Socialist Party of Catalonia (PSUC) under the generic title *Lluita, cultura, socialisme* (Struggle, Culture, Socialism). He holds a retrospective exhibition of works on paper at the Abbaye Sainte-Croix in Les Sables-d'Olonne. He collaborates with Alexander Mitscherlich on the book *Sinnieren über Schmutz* and produces eight engravings for *Petrificada petrificante*, a collector's book with poems by Octavio Paz. The play *L'armari en el mar* by Joan Brossa and Josep M. Mestres Quadreny premieres at the Teatre Lliure in Barcelona, with musical direction by Carles Santos and sets by Tàpies. He is represented in the exhibition *Katalanische Kunst des 20. Jahrhunderts* at the Staatliche Kunsthalle, as part of the Catalan Weeks in Berlin, for which he designs a poster. He holds solo exhibitions in Basel, Madrid, Paris, Düsseldorf, Isernhagen, Sankt Gallen, Hamburg, Zurich and Barcelona.

Egypt and Israel sign the Camp David Accords, which conclude with a peace treaty between the two countries. The new Spanish Constitution is approved.

### 1979

His book *Mèmoría personal* receives the Ciutat de Barcelona and Pablo Antonio Olavide prizes. He is elected an honorary member of the Akademie der Künste in Berlin. He holds a travelling retrospective exhibition at the Badischer Kunstverein in Karlsruhe and the Neue Galerie der

Stadt Linz Wolfgang-Gurlitt-Museum in Linz. Andreas Franzke and Michael Schwarz mark the occasion by publishing the monograph *Antoni Tàpies. Werk und Zeit*. He produces, among others, the posters for the *Mostra de Cultura Catalana a Perpinyà*, *Amnistía Uruguay*, to announce the campaign for the amnesty of political prisoners in Uruguay, and *No centrals nuclears*. He holds solo exhibitions in Mexico City, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Cologne, Miami, Girona, Valencia, Stuttgart and Paris.

First Spanish municipal elections after the death of General Franco. Return of Ayatollah Khomeini to Iran and proclamation of an Islamic republic.

The Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia is approved in a referendum.

## 1980

During this year, various European museums host retrospective exhibitions of his work: the Spanish Museum of Contemporary Art in Madrid, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and the Kunsthalle in Kiel. He presents the paper "Art and human rights" at the Study Sessions on Human Rights organised by the Red Cross at the Montserrat monastery. He collaborates with Jorge Guillén on the collector's edition of the book *Repertorio de junio* and presents it at Galería Carmen Durango in Valladolid. He holds other solo exhibitions in Zurich, Rome, Lugano, Salzburg and Vienna.

First Catalan parliamentary elections after the dictatorship.

Jordi Pujol is sworn in as president of the Generalitat de Catalunya and Heribert Barrera as speaker of the parliament.

## 1981

He creates his first ceramic sculptures in Saint-Paul-de-Vence. King Juan Carlos I presents him with the Gold Medal of Fine Arts in Madrid, and he is awarded an honorary doctorate by the Royal College of Art in London. He collaborates again in the field of collector's books: *Anular* with José-Miguel Ullán, *Tàpies, replica* with Jean Daive, and *La pierre trouant le sens mais, plus tard, le ciel au fond de l'entaille* with Yves Bonnefoy. The Maeght Gallery in Barcelona brings together more than a hundred paintings and drawings produced in the year 1980. He makes a poster to announce a public event against Spain's entry into NATO at the Palau

dels Esports in Barcelona and another to announce an education campaign for human rights organised by the Red Cross of Barcelona. He holds other solo exhibitions in Tokyo, Sankt Gallen, San Francisco, Madrid, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Osaka and Zurich.

An attempted coup, known as 23-F, led by Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Tejero of the Civil Guard.

Mass event called by the organisation Call to Solidarity in Defence of Catalan Language, Culture and Nation.

The first cases of AIDS are detected in the United States.

## 1982

Publication of *La realitat com a art*. He designs the sets for Jacques Dupin's play *L'Éboulement*. He and Marc Chagall receive the Wolf Foundation prize in Jerusalem, and he is awarded the medal of Barcelona's Promotion of the Decorative Arts (FAD) organisation. He attends the opening of his retrospective exhibition at the Scuola di San Giovanni Evangelista in Venice. He collaborates with Pere Gimferrer in the collector's book *Aparicions*. He produces three etchings for José Ángel Valente's *El péndulo inmóvil*. He participates in the collective exhibitions *Portraits et figures* at the Galerie Beyeler in Basel and *L'Univers d'Aimé et Marguerite Maeght* at the Fondation Maeght in Saint-Paul-de-Vence. He holds other solo exhibitions in Rome, Zaragoza, Stuttgart, Paris, Los Angeles, New York, Salzburg and Munich.

Spain joins NATO.

The PSOE wins the elections and Felipe González is appointed president of the government.

## 1985

His monumental sculpture in homage to Picasso is inaugurated in Barcelona. He designs the paving of Plaça de Catalunya in Sant Boi de Llobregat, assisted by Joan Gardy Artigas. The Generalitat de Catalunya awards him its Gold Medal. He is appointed Officier des Arts et des Lettres by the French government. He produces a poster for the World Committee of Artists against Apartheid to help fight against racial discrimination in the world for the Catalan Action Committee for Peace and Disarmament and another poster to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the death of Salvador

Allende. Barcelona's Joan Miró Foundation hosts an anthological exhibition of posters, book covers and album covers. He holds other solo exhibitions in Hanover, Zurich, Paris and Barcelona.

**The Catalan parliament unanimously approves the first linguistic standardisation law.**

**First broadcast of Televisió de Catalunya (TV3).**

**Many protests against nuclear disarmament take place in the United States.**

## **1984**

He attends the opening of his exhibition of ceramic sculptures produced between 1981 and 1983 at the Galerie Maeght Lelong in Zurich. He travels to Sant Sebastià for his anthological exhibition at the San Telmo Museum. The United Nations Association of Spain awards him the Peace Prize, and the Johann Wolfgang von Goethe-Stiftung in Basel awards him the Rembrandt Prize.

Publication of the collector's book *L'estació*, with a text by J.V. Foix and engravings by Tàpies.

He collaborates with Edmond Jabès on the book *Dans la double dépendance du dit*. Victòria Combalia publishes the monograph *Tàpies*. The Antoni Tàpies Foundation is set up in Barcelona.

He creates a poster to commemorate the first anniversary of the creation of TV3-Televisió de Catalunya. He holds other solo exhibitions in West Berlin, Paris, Madrid, Cologne, Stockholm, Seoul, Tokyo, New York and Frankfurt.

## **1985**

He publishes *Per un art modern i progressista*. He travels to Milan for his retrospective exhibition at the Palazzo Reale, organised by the City Council. He attends the opening of a new anthological exhibition of his work at the Musée d'Art Moderne in Brussels. The French government awards him the Prix National de Peinture, and he is named a member of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Stockholm. He receives the Prize of the Internationale Triennale für farbige Originalgrafik from the city of Grenchen, Switzerland. Publication of *Llull-Tàpies*, including engravings by the artist. He holds other solo exhibitions in Barcelona, San Francisco, Madrid, Milan, Düsseldorf, Helsinki, Knokke-Le-Zoute and Paris.

**The Lasa and Zabala case: two ETA members, José Antonio Lasa and José Ignacio Zabala, are kidnapped, tortured and killed by the Antiterrorist Liberation Groups (GAL).**

## **1986**

He attends the opening of his anthological exhibition at the Wiener Künstlerhaus in Vienna, which later travels to the Stedelijk Van Abbe-Museum in Eindhoven. He exhibits new sculptures and ceramic mural reliefs at the Montmajour Abbey in Arles. He attends the opening of his new exhibition at Galerie Maeght Lelong in New York. He actively collaborates with the Coordinating Committee for the Safeguard of Montseny. He holds other solo exhibitions in Madrid, Paris and Barcelona.

**Chernobyl nuclear accident.**

**Spain and Portugal become members of the European Economic Community.**

## **1987**

Publication of *Équation*, a collector's book in collaboration with Jean Frémon. Barbara Catoir publishes *Gespräche mit Antoni Tàpies*. He participates in the exhibition *El siglo de Picasso* at the Reina Sofía National Museum and Art Centre in Madrid. He holds other solo exhibitions in Barcelona, New York, Madrid, Zurich, Valencia, Cologne and Hanover.

**ETA attack at the Hipercor supermarket in Barcelona.**

## **1988**

He is awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Barcelona. He produces preliminary sketches for his monumental sculpture *Núvol i cadira* (Cloud and Chair), which in 1990 will crown the new headquarters of the Antoni Tàpies Foundation. Publication of *Carrer de Wagner*, with engravings by Tàpies and poems by Brossa. He is appointed Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres by the French government. He makes a poster to commemorate the millennium of Catalonia. New anthological exhibitions at the Saló del Tinell in Barcelona and the Musée Cantini in Marseille. A retrospective exhibition of his graphic work organised by Maine's Portland School of Art begins touring through different cities in the United States. Anna Agustí publishes *Tàpies. Obra completa, 1943-1960*. He participates in the exhibition *Aspects of Collage, Assemblage and the Found Object in Twentieth-Century Art* at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York. He holds other solo exhibitions in Paris, Basel, Wolfenbüttel, Berlin, Barcelona, Rome and London.

General strike in Spain against the labour reform of the Socialist government of Felipe González.

Mikhail Gorbachev is appointed president of the Soviet Union.

### 1989

He is named an honorary member of the Gesellschaft Bildender Künstler in Vienna and the Catalan Centre of the PEN Club. He holds a retrospective exhibition of his graphic work at the Palace of Fine Arts in Beijing. He produces three etchings for the collector's book *El árbol de la vida. La sierpe*, featuring texts by María Zambrano. He travels to Düsseldorf for his anthological exhibition at the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen and presents his most recent production of sculptures and works on cardboard at the Galerie Lelong in Zurich. He designs the set for *Johnny va agafar el seu fusell*, a stage adaptation of the anti-war novel *Johnny Got His Gun* by Dalton Trumbo. He holds other solo exhibitions in New York, Buenos Aires, Porto and Düsseldorf.

End of the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile.  
Tiananmen Square Massacre in Beijing.  
Revolutions of 1989 or Autumn of Nations, end of communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe.  
Fall of the Berlin Wall.

### 1990

The monumental sculpture *Núvol i cadira* (Cloud and Chair) is inaugurated. It crowns the building of the former Montaner i Simon publishing house, headquarters of the Antoni Tàpies Foundation. The Sala Antoni Tàpies is inaugurated in the Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya, for which he designs the mural *Les quatre cròniques*. Lluís Pasqual, director of the Théâtre de l'Europe in Paris, commissions him to create a new logo for this institution. He is awarded the Prince of Asturias Prize for the Arts. He travels to Tokyo, where he receives the Praemium Imperiale awarded by the Japan Art Association. He is awarded an honorary doctorate by the universities of Glasgow – alongside Václav Havel, Umberto Eco and James Stirling – and the Balearic Islands. He collaborates with Pere Gimferrer on the book *La llum*, for which he produces eight etchings. He attends the opening of his retrospective exhibition at the Reina Sofía National Museum and Art Centre in Madrid, which later travels to Barcelona's Joan Miró Foundation.

Together with other artists, he collaborates with Amnesty International on the book *Por un mundo sin ejecuciones*. He is named an honorary member of Madrid's San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts. Gregory Rood directs the BBC-produced documentary *Antoni Tàpies*. He participates in the exhibition *High and Low: Modern Art, Popular Culture* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He holds other solo exhibitions in New York, Milan, Brussels, Marseille, Barcelona, Oviedo, Madrid, Paris and Chicago.

Nelson Mandela is released from prison after 27 years of captivity.

Reunification of Germany.

End of the Cold War.

Dissolution of the USSR, culminating in the independence of fifteen republics of the Soviet Union.

Beginning of the Gulf War.

### 1991

He travels to Prague, where he attends the opening of his exhibition in the Royal Garden of that city's castle. The exhibition *Tàpies und die Bücher* opens at the Schirn Kunsthalle in Frankfurt. The exhibition *Tàpies. Celebració de la mel* begins its tour at the Atlantic Centre of Modern Art in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. *Tàpies. Certeses sentides* is presented at Barcelona's Antoni Tàpies Foundation. He travels to Paris, where the Galerie Lelong shows a wide range of his ceramic works produced between 1981 and 1991. Publication of the collector's books *Matière du souffle*, made in collaboration with Jacques Dupin, and *La Substance et les Accidents*, in collaboration with Jean Frémon. His *Mitjó* (Sock) monumental sculpture proposal for the Oval Hall of the National Museum of Art of Catalonia (MNAC) is announced, arousing a lively controversy that leads to the project being vetoed. The exhibition *Antoni Tàpies in Print* begins its tour at the Contemporary Art Cultural Centre in Mexico City and at the Long Beach Museum of Art in California. He participates in the group exhibition *Contemporary Illustrated Books: Word and Image, 1967-1988*, organised by the association Independent Curators International (ICI) and presented at the University of Iowa Museum of Art in Iowa City. He holds other solo exhibitions in Zurich, London, San Sebastián, Burgos, Tokyo and New York.

ETA attack against the headquarters of the Civil Guard in Vic.

Val d'Aran regains its autonomous government: the Conselh Generau d'Aran. Beginning of the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia.

## 1992

The exhibition *Tàpies. Comunicació sobre el mur* is presented at the Antoni Tàpies Foundation, subsequently travelling to the Valencia Institute of Modern Art (IVAM) and the Serpentine Gallery in London. He attends the opening of his retrospective exhibition of graphic work entitled *Antoni Tàpies in Print* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The exhibition was seen at the beginning of the year at the Meadows Museum of Southern Methodist University, in Dallas, and then travelled to the Art Museum of Florida International University in Miami and the Detroit Institute of Arts. He is named an honorary member of the Royal Academy of Arts in London and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, the United States. The mural commissioned by the Musée d'Art Moderne in Céret is unveiled in this city. He also receives several public commissions, notable among which are the murals for the International Olympic Pavilion and the Catalan Pavilion at the Universal Exhibition in Seville. Barcelona City Council awards him the city's Gold Medal. He holds other solo exhibitions in Lisbon, Zurich, Barcelona, London, Valencia, Girona, Buenos Aires, Vienna, Madrid and Zaragoza.

The siege of Sarajevo begins.  
The Olympic Games of the 25th Olympiad are held in Barcelona in July.  
The creation of the European Union is established by the Treaty of Maastricht.

## 1995

He travels to New York to attend the opening of his solo exhibition at the Pace Wildenstein gallery. He attends the opening of the 45th Venice Biennale in June and presents his Rinzen installation in the Spanish Pavilion, which will win the Golden Lion of this competition. Frankfurt's Schirn Kunsthalle presents a retrospective exhibition of his work. Publication of *Valor de l'art*, a new collection of articles by the artist. UNESCO awards him the Picasso Medal. He participates in the exhibition *Manifeste. Une histoire parallèle. 1960-1990* at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris. He holds other solo exhibitions in Sankt Gallen, Leipzig, Caracas, Narbonne, Vaduz, Girona and Lund.

The European Economic Community (EEC) creates the European Common Market.  
Oslo Accords to resolve the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

## 1994

He travels to Stockholm for the opening of his retrospective exhibition at the Prins Eugens Waldemarsudde. A selection of his recent work is on view at the Waddington Galleries in London. He is awarded an honorary doctorate by the Rovira i Virgili University in Tarragona, for which he will design its logo, and an honorary member of the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh. He is awarded the Herbert-Boeckl-Preis in Salzburg. He also receives the European Grand Prix for Graphic Work at the Graphic Arts Biennial in Slovenia. He travels to Paris to attend the opening of his retrospective exhibition at the Galerie nationale du Jeu de Paume. Together with a hundred intellectuals, he signs a manifesto promoted by the Civic Entity Coordinator that calls for an end to the environmental degradation of Montseny. He produces the work *Embolcall* (Wrapping), a reference to the war in Rwanda. He makes a poster to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the October Revolution of 1934 in Asturias. Two monographs are published: *Tàpies. Objets del tiempo* by Gloria Moure and *Tàpies* by Démosthènes Davvetas. He holds other solo exhibitions in Stockholm, Hannover, Essen, Barcelona and Salzburg.

Fire at the Gran Teatre del Liceu de Barcelona.  
Nelson Mandela is named president of the Republic of South Africa in the first universal suffrage elections.  
Rwanda genocide.  
Srebrenica massacre.

## 1995

He travels to New York, where a retrospective exhibition of his work opens at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. At the same time, the Pace Wildenstein gallery presents a selection of his most recent production. The Musée d'Art Moderne de Céret exhibits a selection of his works produced in recent years. The Generalitat de Catalunya awards him the National Visual Arts Prize. He travels to Paris and attends the donation ceremony of the work *Totes les coses* (1994) to UNESCO. He produces the *Solidaritat amb Bòsnia* poster as a contribution to the solidarity campaigns of Teachers for Bosnia and the Coordinator of

Workers' Aid Committees in Bosnia. He participates in the exhibition *23 Artistas para Médicos del Mundo* at Barcelona's Joan Miró Foundation, which will later travel to the Reina Sofía National Museum and Art Centre in Madrid, and for which Tàpies will make a poster and a lithograph. He holds other solo exhibitions in Barcelona, London, Geneva, São Paulo, Berlin, Marburg, Zug, Madrid and Zurich.

**The Dayton Accords end the Bosnian war.  
Assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.  
Creation of a common European currency, the euro.**

### 1996

An extensive retrospective exhibition of his work travels throughout the year to various Japanese museums, such as the Marugame Genichiro Inokuma in Kagawa, the Nigata City Art Museum in Nigata, the Gunma Museum of Modern Art in Gunma, and the Kirin Art Space Tokyo Harajuku. He travels to Santiago de Compostela, where he attends the opening of his anthological exhibition at the Auditorium of Galicia. He exhibits some new bronze sculptures at the Waddington Galleries in London. Barcelona's Edicions T Galeria d'Art exhibits a sample of his most recent production. He collaborates with the Spanish Commission for Refugees (CEAR) Foundation with the collective book *Érase una vez la paz*. Barcelona's Pompeu Fabra University inaugurates on one of its campuses the *Sala de reflexió* installation, conceived by the artist. He designs the posters to announce the 25th Congress of the International Union of Publishers to mark the celebration of the first World Book Day and the 50th anniversary of UNICEF (1946-1996). He holds other solo exhibitions in Copenhagen, Lanzarote and Paris.

**Yasser Arafat is elected president of the Palestinian National Authority.  
End of the siege of Sarajevo.  
The Popular Party, led by José María Aznar, wins the general elections.**

### 1997

He writes the paper "L'art entre le despotisme et l'anarchie" and presents it the following year at the International Forum on Intolerance, promoted by the Universal Academy of Cultures in Paris. He travels to the Italian city of Prato, where the Centro per l'arte contemporanea Luigi Pecci is hosting a

retrospective exhibition of his work. He receives the Gold Medal from the University of Porto. Hannover's Kestner Gesellschaft exhibits a wide selection of his works produced between 1981 and 1997, presented by Carl Haenlein. He takes part in the group exhibition *Solidaritat i art. Milà, 1972 – Barcelona 1997* at the Museum of the History of Catalonia (MHC) in Barcelona. He holds other solo exhibitions in Milan, Frankfurt, Porto and Zurich.

### 1998

The Antoni Tàpies Foundation hosts the exhibition *Tàpies. El tatuatge i el cos*. He stages a new retrospective exhibition at the Pinacoteca Comunale Casa Rusca in Locarno. He is awarded an honorary doctorate by the Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest. His work *Rinzen* is permanently installed in the Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona (MACBA). He collaborates with Antonio Gamoneda on the book *¿Tú?*, for which he produces seven etchings. He holds other solo exhibitions in Paris, Los Angeles, Soria, Madrid, Miengo and Bilbao.

**Beginning of the Kosovo war.  
The law on stable partnerships in Catalonia is approved, the first in Spain.  
Lizarra Accord between Basque political forces to move towards national independence.**

### 1999

He is awarded the Gold Medal of the Círculo de Bellas Artes de Madrid. The 1st Trobada sobre Poesia, held at the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion, opens with the session "Antoni Tàpies: art poètica", including interventions by Pere Gimferrer, Xavier Antich and Vicenç Altaió, among others. He publishes *L'art i els seus llocs*. He participates in the group exhibitions *L'Art médecin* at the Musée Picasso in Antibes and *À rebours: la rebelión informalista 1939-1968* at the Reina Sofía National Museum and Art Centre in Madrid. He holds other solo exhibitions in New York, Burgos, Logroño, Palma and San Sebastián.

**Outbreak of the Second Chechen War.**

### 2000

He travels to Madrid, where he attends the opening of his retrospective exhibition at the Reina Sofía National Museum and Art Centre, curated by Manuel J. Borja-Villel, later be exhibited at the Haus der Kunst in Munich. He attends the opening

of his exhibition at the monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos. Krakow's Muzeum Narodowe hosts the exhibition *Tàpies. Certeses sentides*. The Pace Wildenstein gallery in New York and the Galerie Lelong in Paris exhibit selections of his most recent work. He participates in the exhibition *Encounters: New Art from Old* at the National Gallery in London, alongside Balthus, Louise Bourgeois, Richard Hamilton, Jasper Johns, Bill Viola and Jeff Wall, among others. He designs a poster commemorating the six hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau. He holds other solo exhibitions in Barcelona, Lüdenscheid, Laval, Arcueil and Malaga.

**Vladimir Putin is appointed President of Russia.**

**ETA assassinates Ernest Lluch.**

## **2001**

He travels to Paris, where the Bibliothèque Nationale de France presents a retrospective exhibition of his graphic work entitled *Antoni Tàpies ou la poésie de la matière*. He designs a poster to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Comte Guifré de Perpinyà secondary school (1991-2001) in Northern Catalonia. Throughout the course of the year, selections of his recent work are exhibited at the Galerie Lelong in Zurich, the Waddington Galleries in London, the Galería Soledad Lorenzo in Madrid and the Galeria Toni Tàpies in Barcelona. He holds other solo exhibitions in Buenos Aires, The Hague, Helsinki, Geneva and Girona.

**Abolition of compulsory military service.**  
**September 11 attacks in the United States.**  
**American invasion of Afghanistan.**

## **2002**

He designs the poster for the Mercè Festival in Barcelona. He receives the National Engraving and Graphic Art Prize from the National Engraving Museum and San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Madrid. He travels to Antibes for the opening of the retrospective exhibition *Tàpies. La peinture au corps à corps* at the Musée Picasso. The Antoni Tàpies Foundation presents *Tàpies. Escritura material. Llibres*. Throughout the year, Rabat, Tangier and Casablanca host the exhibition *Tàpies. Certeses sentides*, which later travels to Tunisia. He holds other solo exhibitions in Lisbon, Porto, Granada,

Madrid, Cascais, Fuendetodos, Pamplona, Oviedo and Paris.

**The euro goes into circulation.**  
**Prestige shipping disaster off the coast of Galicia.**

## **2003**

He attends the opening of the exhibition *Tàpies. Escritura material. Libros* at Madrid's La Casa Encendida. He is appointed Commander of the National Order of the Legion of Honour by decree of the President of the French Republic. He receives the Velazquez Prize for Plastic Arts. He attends the inauguration of the new La Panera Art Centre in Lleida, which begins its activities with the exhibition *L'univers ouvert d'Antoni Tàpies*. He designs the posters for the international symposium "Jorge Semprún o las espirales de la memoria", organised by the University of Girona, and for the International Day of the Imprisoned Writer, commissioned by the Catalan Centre of the PEN Club. The Kunsthalle in the German city of Emden presents the exhibition *Tàpies. Werke auf Papier 1943-2003*. Daniel Hernández's documentary *Alfabet Tàpies* premieres at the International Film Festival of Catalonia in Sitges. He is awarded an honorary doctorate by the Complutense University of Madrid. He holds other solo exhibitions in Paris, Barcelona, New York, London and Madrid.

**First three-party government of the Generalitat, led by Pasqual Maragall.**  
**Outbreak of the Iraq war.**  
**Mass demonstration in Barcelona against the war in Iraq, under the slogan: "No to war".**

## **2004**

The Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona (MACBA) inaugurates the exhibition *Antoni Tàpies. Retrospectiva*. Publication of the collector's book *Cranc-cranc. A quatre mans*, which Tàpies produces together with the composer Josep Maria Mestres Quadreny. The General Foundation of the Complutense University of Madrid commissions him to design the poster for El Escorial's summer courses. He attends the presentation of the documentary *T de Tàpies*, directed by Carolina Tubau and produced by Televisió de Catalunya. The Marcelino Botín Foundation in Santander presents the exhibition *Antoni Tàpies. Una arquitectura de lo visible*. The exhibition *Tàpies. Tierras* at the Reina Sofía National Museum and Art Centre in Madrid.



He receives the Academic of Honour medal from Barcelona's Sant Jordi Royal Academy of Fine Arts. He holds other solo exhibitions in Rio de Janeiro, Malaga, Bilbao, Nuremberg, Murcia, Olot and Barcelona.

11M attack on several trains of the Madrid suburban network.  
Yasser Arafat dies.

## 2005

The Sammlung Essl in Vienna presents the exhibition *Tàpies-Rainer. porteurs de secret*, curated by Jean Frémon. A joint work by Tàpies and José Saramago created to support Elkarri, a social movement defending a model of a peaceful solution to the Basque conflict based on dialogue, is presented in Sant Sebastián and Barcelona. He donates the work *7 de novembre (7 November)*, made in 1971, to the Catalan parliament to mark the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the re-establishment of this institution and also makes a commemorative screen print. He presents a retrospective exhibition curated by Manuel J. Borja-Villel at the Hara Museum in Tokyo, subsequently travelling to the Singapore Art Museum. He designs the logo for *Avui* newspaper as it embarks on a new stage. He receives the Lissone Prize in recognition of his career. He designs the poster commemorating the 15th anniversary of the Antoni Tàpies Foundation in Barcelona, as well as the poster that introduces the figure of the Síndic de Greuges, or Catalan Ombudsman, of Catalonia. He holds other solo exhibitions in London and Zurich.

Gay marriage is legalised in Spain.  
The IRA (Irish Republican Army) formally announces the end of its armed struggle.  
The United Nations Organisation establishes 27 January as the International Day of Remembrance in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, the date on which the Soviet troops liberated the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp.  
The Kyoto Protocol enters into force.

## 2006

He designs a poster for the Pro-Language Platform, as well as a poster announcing the International Day of Catalonia Abroad. He designs the cover of a edition of the new Statute of Catalonia. Presentation of the collector's book *Le soleil vu de dos*, including texts by Jacques Dupin and

engravings by Tàpies. He attends the opening of the retrospective exhibition *Els cartells de Tàpies i l'esfera pública* at the Antoni Tàpies Foundation in Barcelona. He holds other solo exhibitions in Paris, Madrid, Barcelona, Porto, Lisbon, London, New York and Toulon.

The Congress of Deputies and the Senate approve the new Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia after substantial amendments.  
Independence referendum in Montenegro.  
Beginning of the Somali War: Ethiopian troops, supported by the United States, invade Somalia.

## 2007

The EMMA-Espoo Museum of Modern Art inaugurates the first retrospective exhibition of Tàpies in Finland. He produces three drawings for the sets of the opera *Cap de mirar* by Joan Brossa and Josep Maria Mestres Quadreny, which was supposed to have premiered at the Liceu in 1992 but was ultimately not presented. Presentation of the exhibition *Antoni Tàpies. Zeichen und Materie* at the Museum Schloss Moyland in Bedburg-Hau in Germany. The portfolio *7 poemes a Tàpies* is presented at the Antoni Tàpies Foundation, featuring poems by Jordi Carrió and an engraving by Antoni Tàpies. The exhibition *Els cartells de Tàpies i l'esfera pública*, organised by the Antoni Tàpies Foundation, travels to the Cervantes Institute in Madrid and the Valencian Museum of the Enlightenment and Modernity (MuVIM).

Onset of the global financial crisis.

## 2008

The retrospective exhibition *Els cartells de Tàpies i l'esfera pública* travels to the Instituto Cervantes in Toulouse (Languedoc), Prague and Berlin. In May, the Galerie Lelong in Zurich exhibits a selection of drawings and cartoons from the 1990s and 2000s. At the end of November, the exhibition travels, with a few changes, to the Galerie Lelong in Paris. In December, the Galería Soledad Lorenzo in Madrid opens an exhibition with the work he produced in Campins during the summer months. On the occasion of the artist's 85th birthday, D. Sam Abrams, Jordi Carrió, Marc Cuixart and Enric Satué publish the portfolio *Tàpies escriu*, including a selection of texts by Antoni Tàpies and prints by Antoni Llena, Soledad Sevilla, Manel Esclusa, Pere Formiguera, Joan Fontcuberta and Eulàlia Valldosera. The portfolio

is presented in the Fostering Arts and Design (FAD) auditorium on 13 December. He holds other solo exhibitions in Barcelona, Madrid, Zurich and London.

**Kosovo declares its independence from Serbia.**

**Arrest of Radovan Karadžić in Belgrade (Serbia). On the run since 1996, he is accused of crimes against humanity before the International Criminal Court.**

## 2009

Xavier Antich publishes *Antoni Tàpies. En blanc i negre (1955-2003). Assaigs*, an anthology of the artist's texts. The Antoni Tàpies Foundation publishes, together with the Indiana University Press, *A Personal Memoir: Fragments for an Autobiography (Complete Writings: Volume I)*, the first English version of Antoni Tàpies' book *Memòria personal. Fragment per a una autobiografia* (1977), and the first volume of his complete written work. The exhibition *Antoni Tàpies: The Resources of Rhetoric*, curated by Manuel J. Borja-Villel, is presented at the Dia Beacon in New York. He participates with five works from the Antoni Tàpies Foundation Collection in the visual creation of the show *Event* (2009), which the Merce Cunningham Dance Company presents at Mercat de les Flors. Xavier Barral i Altet publishes *Abecedari Tàpies*. The Museo delle Arti de Catanzaro (MARCA) inaugurates the exhibition *Antoni Tàpies. Materia e tempo*. Filmmaker Jim Jarmusch includes Tàpies' work *Gran llençol* (Large Sheet) (1968) in his film *The Limits of Control*.

**Barack Obama is sworn in as President of the United States.**

## 2010

Barcelona's Antoni Tàpies Foundation reopens its doors after two years of closure due to the renovation works of its headquarters with the exhibition *Antoni Tàpies. Els llocs de l'art*. The work *Mitjó* (Sock) (model, 1991; work, 2010) is installed on the terrace of the foundation to celebrate its reopening. The Antoni Tàpies Foundation publishes in Catalan and Spanish the first volume of the complete written work of Antoni Tàpies: *Memòria personal. Fragment per a una autobiografia (Obra escrita completa. Volum I)*. Juan Carlos I of Spain grants him the title of marquis. He designs the commemorative logo for

the 30th anniversary of the public presentation of the Association of Visual Artists of Catalonia (AAVC), of which he is honorary president. He designs the poster to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Saint Francis Borgia. He is honoured at the 5th Douro International Engraving Biennial. *L'armari en el mar*, a work by Josep Maria Mestres Quadreny, Joan Brossa and Antoni Tàpies (1978), is presented at the Auditori de Barcelona. He holds an exhibition at the Palau Foundation in Caldes d'Estrac, as well as other solo exhibitions in Barcelona, Porto and London.

**More than one million people attend a demonstration in Barcelona promoted by Òmnium Cultural in defense of the Statute and with the slogan: "We are a nation. We decide". The Arab Spring begins in Tunisia.**

## 2011

The Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen in the German city of Siegen stages the retrospective exhibition *Bild, Körper, Pathos*. He designs a poster to announce the 12th Festival of Religious and World Music in Girona. *Collected Essays (Complete Writings, Volume II)* is published by the Antoni Tàpies Foundation publishes, together with the Indiana University Press, Bloomington & Indianapolis. To celebrate its publication, the Antoni Tàpies Foundation and the Ramon Llull Institute organise a symposium entitled "The Critical Reception of the Work of Antoni Tàpies in the United States" at the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University, with Manuel J. Borja-Villel, Serge Guilbaut and Julia E. Robinson as speakers and Robert Lubar as chair. Opening of the exhibition *Louise Bourgeois. Antoni Tàpies. Rencontre* at the Galería Soledad Lorenzo. He participates in the exhibition *Realisme(s) L'empremta de Courbet* at the National Museum of Art of Catalonia (MNAC) in Barcelona. He holds other solo exhibitions in Barcelona, Paris and Cologne.

**ETA announces the definitive end of armed activity.**

**Nuclear accident in Fukushima.**

**The domino effect of the Tunisian revolution reaches Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Syria and Morocco.**

**End of the Iraq war.**

## 2012

Antoni Tàpies dies on 6 February in Barcelona, at the age of 88. As a gesture of mourning, the Antoni

Tàpies Foundation opens the centre's doors for two days in order to facilitate free access to the foundation and the artist's exhibited works for the public.

The Diada Nacional de Catalunya demonstration attracts one and a half million people in Barcelona under the slogan: "Catalonia, new state of Europe".