

# JAUME PLENSA, Murmuri

Galeria SENDA presents an exhibition that shows the mastery of the Catalan artist Jaume Plensa (Barcelona, 1955) in the exploration of various artistic techniques, highlighting his ability to transform materials into works of deep meaning.

# Opening with the presence of the artist: Wednesday, February 19th, 2025 at 7 pm at galeria SENDA (Trafalgar, 32, Barcelona)



"SILENT HORTENSIA" (2024) 185 x 85 x 70 cm Bronze

"FLORA (nest)" (2021) 150 x 106 x 54 cm Alabaster

"FLORA" (2024) 120 x 53 x 48 cm

White painted bronze

# **ABOUT THE EXHIBITION**

Galeria SENDA opens *Murmuri*, an exhibition by artist Jaume Plensa, whose title in Catalan, which means «murmur/whisper», reflects the subtlety and depth of his work. In this show, Plensa evidences **his mastery of diverse materials** such as alabaster, bronze, iron, Murano glass or paper, and gives life to a series of pieces that make up an exhibition that plays with the ability to create in multiple formats. Faithful to his **search for beauty in simplicity**, the artist presents pieces that intertwine his characteristic busts and sculptures of letters, universal symbols of communication and reflection.

Two alabaster sculptures from the *Nest* series are the focus of the exhibition: "FLORA (nest)" and "LUCIA (nest)". This collection offers a striking **dialogue between the materiality of alabaster and figurative representation**, with faces that emerge and invite introspection. In the figures of Flora and Lucia we find a polished surface on which emerge neat and candid faces that contrast with the use on the reverse side of an ancient material stark and raw.

Complementing the *Nest* family are four works on paper, three Murano glass sculptures and two bronze busts: "FLORA", painted in white; and "SILENT HORTENSIA", in its natural finish. In addition to these pieces, there is a painted iron study of his work "THE HOUSE OF LIGHT AND LOVE", currently on display at the Fubon Art Museum in Taipei (Taiwan); and two bronze studies of the sculpture "ENDLESS", located at the Raclin Murphy Museum of Art (United States).

In *Murmuri*, Jaume Plensa establishes a profound **link between the meaning and musicality of the word that gives the exhibition its title, and the imaginary that defines his artistic practice**. Whispers, like Plensa's sculptures, are presented as delicate expressions but charged with emotional intensity, capable of resonating in those who perceive them. This exhibition **invites** 



the viewer to listen to what is not said, reaffirming Plensa's commitment to an aesthetic that celebrates both the fragility and the depth of the human experience.

«<u>I have always been fascinated by the concept of the other. This idea that when you are in front of a mirror you look at yourself [...]. But when you are in front of another person, I think so too.</u>»

- Jaume Plensa -

#### ABOUT JAUME PLENSA

Jaume Plensa (Barcelona, 1955) is one of the most prominent contemporary artists internationally, known for his **ability to explore concepts such as communication, spirituality and humanity** through a diversity of materials and formats. He studied at Llotja. Escuela de Arte y Superior de Diseño and at the Escuela Superior de Bellas Artes Sant Jordi in Barcelona, and he began his exhibition career in 1980 in his hometown. Since then, his career has taken him to live and work in places such as Berlin, Brussels, France, England, and the United States, although he currently lives in Barcelona.

Plensa's work ranges **from monumental sculptures in public spaces to more intimate projects**. His work, characterized by the use of materials such as alabaster, marble, glass, bronze and iron, reflects a deep interest in the emotional connection with the viewer. Among his most emblematic works, we point out the "Crown Fountain" (2004) in Chicago's Millennium Park, one of his most ambitious creations that consolidated him as a reference in international public art. Other recent projects include "Water's Soul" (2020) in Newport and "Endless" (2023) in front of the Raclin Murphy Museum of Art in the University of Notre Dame, Indiana.

Plensa has exhibited at prestigious institutions such as the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas, the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in England and the Fundació Joan Miró in Barcelona. **His work has traveled to galleries and museums in Europe, the United States and Asia**, with recent exhibitions such as *Materia Interior* (2024) at the Espacio Fundación Telefónica, *Mirall* (2024) at La Llotja of Palma de Mallorca, and *La part du Sacré* in Mons, Belgium (2023). He has been awarded numerous prizes, including the National Prize for Plastic Arts (2012), the Velázquez Prize for Plastic Arts (2013) and, most recently, the Gold Medal for Cultural Merit (2024) awarded by the Barcelona City Council. He also **holds five honorary doctorates from renowned institutions**: School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2005), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (2018), Universidad Internacional Méndez Pelayo (2022), University of Notre-Dame (2024) and Universitat de Barcelona (2024).

In addition to his facet as a sculptor, **Plensa has explored scenographic design**, standing out as a set designer and director of plays and operas, such as his direction of *Macbeth* at the Gran Teatre del Liceu (2023). He has also made **important contributions to the graphic arts**, being recognized with the National Engraving Award (2013).

Jaume Plensa continues to challenge the boundaries of contemporary art with a work that celebrates the connection between individuals and cultures, and continues to resonate with audiences through his exhibitions and projects in public spaces around the world.

## **ABOUT GALERIA SENDA**

Founded in 1991, galeria SENDA is one of the most important galleries in Barcelona nowadays. It has a passion for creation, values and supports the talent, risk and uniqueness of young and established artists both nationally and internationally, defending the individual value of each one and fleeing from closed programs or unidirectional lines of thought. It identifies with the value of diversity and the richness of multiple languages. In addition, it is closely related to other projects such as LOOP Barcelona, the international benchmark video art fair, and Talking Galleries, a project that promotes debate and discussions on the development of the art industry.

## **CONTACT**

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#### **PRESS KIT**

