

MAGDA BOLUMAR, CONSTELLATIONS. 27.02 - 19.04.2025

Mayoral presents in Paris the first solo exhibition of the Catalan artist Magda Bolumar Chertó, consisting of 11 textile works and 3 drawings, which literally and symbolically reflect the cosmogonies that inspire her, while elevating the harmonious forms found in nature. Elise Lammer, the curator of the exhibition, emphasizes that Bolumar alters the pictorial surface, but the resulting mesh of threads reinforces and enriches the canvas, bringing balance and order to the composition, while highlighting its colour palette.

Trained in painting since the late 1940s, Bolumar (born in 1936) is one of the few women of her time to have achieved critical recognition in Spain. Associated with the Catalan informalist avant-garde through her links with the artist collectives Dau al Set and Club 49, she developed her own language in the late 1950s and began exploring the limits of painting as a medium, approaching her canvases as material objects. In this way, she developed her “arpillera” technique, a textile artwork in which sewing, painting, and collage intertwine to bring the artist’s cosmic visions to life. Each work thus resembles a meticulous construction in which gesture and material are inseparable from the artist’s overall vision.

Bolumar’s methodical work reflects a sensitivity to materials and colours that stands outside the rationalism associated with the Spanish artistic avant-gardes of this era. Her art is not only a response to a historical or cultural context, but also an aesthetic quest for a timeless universe, where each colour and shape acquires a poetic and almost spiritual dimension.

The three-dimensional textile geometries stem from preparatory drawings in which nothing is left to chance. Indeed, it is on paper that the artist lays down her ideas in the form of sketches, which she later translates onto the canvas. Thus, the canvases are stretched on frames or wooden panels, then painted and adorned with various domestic elements, using drawing pins whose heads are painted white, creating a constellation of light points. According to the artist, while sketches are necessary for the spatial organization of each work, it is the materiality of the additional elements that completes the final composition. This meticulous process enhances the visual intensity of her works, giving the impression of a world in perpetual expansion, suspended between abstraction and figuration.

According to Elise Lammer, Bolumar’s work also deserves—if we refer to interpretive criteria based on visionary fiction—to be approached through the



Homenaje a Carl Sagan. 1997

Mixed media on canvas. 122 x 163 cm

lens of figuration. Inspired by astronomy and astrophysics, the artist constantly explores the infinite, the invisible, and the celestial, as evidenced by the moons or planets that almost systematically punctuate her landscapes. A shrewd eye will recognize them in these spheres, often blue or yellow, embedded by threads. Just as the horizon evokes the landscape, Bolumar’s moons signify the celestial space, giving her works an almost mystical dimension. They become symbols of a higher, perfect, and unalterable world, contrasting with the rough and organic textures of the canvas. *Homenaje a Carl Sagan* (*Homage to Carl Sagan*) evokes the artist’s attraction to the cosmos. This piece, in addition to its tribute to the astronomer Carl Sagan (1934-1996), reveals a fascinating dialogue between art and science, matter and spirit.

A selection of drawings and sketches made during her time in Paris is featured in the exhibition. These works represent a key period in her career, marked by the immersion in a new urban environment while remaining faithful to her natural and cosmic sources of inspiration.

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