

## ***Paul Éluard, Gérald Cramer, Joan Miró | «À toute épreuve»***

14 February - 10 May 2020

Based on the project by Christopher Green in collaboration with the Fundació Joan Miró's Collections Department, shown at the Fundació in 2017.

Curated by Natalia Granero for the Fondation Jan Michalski.

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## **Press release**

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**The exhibition *Paul Éluard, Gérald Cramer, Joan Miró | «À toute épreuve»*, shown at Fundació Joan Miró in 2017, opened at the Fondation Jan Michalski, Montricher, Switzerland.**

**The project focuses on the way in which the artist succeeded in creating a book-object that went beyond simply illustrating the poet's words to become something close to a sculpture.**

**The Fondation Jan Michalski, a renowned institution for writing and literature, will host this project, based on a volume which is considered one of the most beautiful and striking artist's books of the twentieth century.**

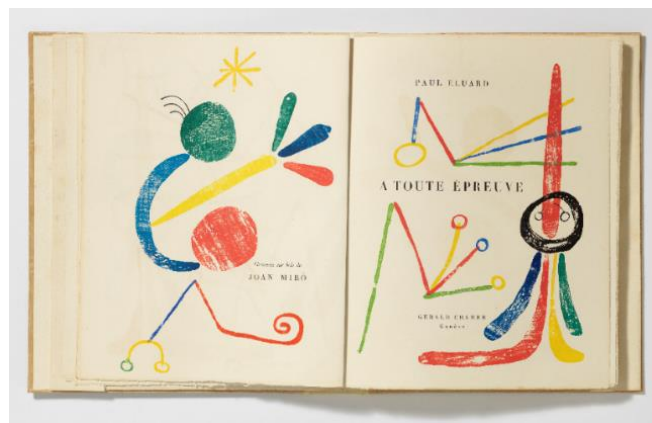
**Barcelona, 13 February 2020.** The Fundació Joan Miró collaborates with the Fondation Jan Michalski for writing and literature who will host, between 14 February and 10 May 2020, in Montricher (Switzerland) the exhibition ***Paul Éluard, Gérald Cramer, Joan Miró | «À toute épreuve»***. Curated by Natalia Granero for the Fondation Jan Michalski, this show reconstructs through correspondence, photographs, woodcuts and the six preserved models the history of this collector's edition, a veritable milestone in Miró's artistic career, which is considered to be one of the most beautiful and striking artist's books of the twentieth century.

The exhibition also includes over thirty of the wood blocks, carved by Miró, which were used to print the 80 woodcuts in the book. The project is rounded off by a wealth of documents which serve to recreate the process involved in conceiving and producing this book, the result of a remarkable collaboration between the poet Paul Éluard, the artist Joan Miró and the publisher Gérald Cramer over the course of a decade (1948-58).

# Fundació Joan Miró ✱ Barcelona

The collection of poems was the product of events of nearly thirty years earlier that had passed into Surrealist myth: the breakdown of Éluard's relationship with Gala, who left him for Salvador Dalí. The poems were first published by André Breton's Éditions surréalistes, printed on four folded pages and resembling a leaflet. Working in intense team sessions, Éluard, Cramer and Miró completely re-imagined the collection as an entirely new object, a book as much as a polychromatic sculpture. Unfortunately, having laid the foundations, the poet never saw the finished product. Éluard died in 1952, five years before printing was completed. The completed book was published in 1958. Only 130 copies were printed and displayed for the first time at the Galerie Berggruen in Paris.

The edition was the outcome of a meeting between the poet and the Geneva publisher in Paris early in 1947. It was Éluard, looking back to Stéphane Mallarmé's *Un coup de dés jamais n'abolira le hasard*, who suggested re-distributing the lines of his poems across the page so as to leave blank spaces eloquent enough to demand a response from an artist and offer a new reading of his words. It was also Éluard's idea to turn to his old Catalan friend to transform his little fold-out booklet. For his part, it was Miró who, inspired by Paul Gauguin and Japanese print-making, decided to use woodcut, a demanding and labour-intensive technique he had never used before, turning the printing stage into an intense creative process that lasted all of eleven years.



Front cover of *À toute épreuve*, 1958. Photo: Gasull © Successió Miró, 2020

# Fundació Joan Miró Barcelona

Since the Fundació Joan Miró's opening in 1975, one of its priorities has been to share the artist Joan Miró's work and legacy with the world. For more than thirty years, with support from public and private institutions, the Fundació has been promoting and undertaking international projects which it views as opportunities for broadening awareness of the Fundació Joan Miró worldwide and further pursuing relationships with other museums and institutions. In 2019, the Fundació took a new step in this direction by creating an office aimed specifically at conceptualizing, developing and managing traveling exhibitions based on its holdings.

Images available at: <http://bit.ly/ATouteEpreuve2020>

**Fundació Joan Miró**  Barcelona

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