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The MACBA more accessible with the support of Fundación Repsol

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- In the room, adapted to people with sensory impairment, ten recreations are exhibited that belong to the MACBA Collection and which enable visitors to experience art not only through vision, but also through touch, hearing and smell.

Fundación Repsol and the Fundació MACBA have inaugurated this joint project which enables the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA) to continue to improve accessibility to its exhibitions and activities by minimising the physical, cognitive and financial barriers. This project stems from the agreement signed by the Chairman of the Fundació MACBA, Leopoldo Rodés and that of Repsol and its Foundation, Antonio Brufau, in line with the two organisations' commitment to promoting culture, and which will permit modern art to be brought closer to all public.

Thanks to Fundación Repsol's support, the MACBA Accessibility Programme, which is based on the conviction that art eases and promotes social integration, has been deployed throughout the Museum and has a permanent exhibition hall.

This space lets visitors access modern art and offers them information about the artists and works in the MACBA Collection, as well as encouraging them to approach the works using all the senses. In the hall, adapted to people with sensory impairment, ten recreations are exhibited that belong to the MACBA Collection and which enable visitors to experience art not only through vision, but also through touch, hearing and smell. These recreations have been

prepared by the Museum's Conservation and Restoration team, with the collaboration and participation of the creators of the original works who have supported the project.

The current exhibitions, as in the case of the MACBA Collection's latest reinterpretation, *La herencia inmaterial. Ensayando desde la Colección* (The immaterial legacy. Teaching from the Collection), which opened in May, remove the barriers to increase the number of visitors who can enjoy the experience of art. To this end, they have showcases adapted to the height of wheelchairs, tactile sheets for understanding the composition of the works and posters in Braille.

The guided visits also incorporate resources to reach the different users in an appropriate manner. On the first Sunday of every month, adapted visits are offered to the visually impaired public and on the third, to visitors with hearing impairment. The Museum's educational programmes offer adapted visits to everybody with special needs.

Finally, the Accessibility Project also has a programme of discounts for people in risk of social exclusion, in which entry to the Museum and its activities is offered at a nominal price with the aim of reducing financial barriers through the Apropa Cultural programme.

This agreement reinforces the collaboration that has existed between the MACBA and Fundación Repsol since 2008.

Fundación Repsol

For Fundación Repsol, contributing to the social integration of disabled people is one of the objectives to which it is the most committed, therefore it promotes inclusive activities aimed at the complete integration of this community in a context of equality of opportunities. Over 120,000 people have benefited from the projects undertaken in this field, which encompasses culture, awareness-raising, training and sport.

In the field of art and culture, Fundación Repsol supports education and inclusive culture programmes such as *El Sombrero en Bellas Artes* (The Hat in Fine Arts), aimed at intellectually impaired people, who have the opportunity to take part as students in the classes taught in the Faculty

of Fine Arts at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid. Their work has been shown at the exhibition *La Canción Propia* (The Own Song), which opened recently at the Fine Arts Circle in Madrid.

Other actions in this field include the Arte Down drawing and painting competition, the *Más cultura, Más inclusión* (More culture, More inclusion) project and the theatre and literature adapted workshops.

More information at www.fundacionrepsol.com