



**MEMORIES  
OF THE LAND**

**LEÓNIDAS  
GAMBARTES**

**MuseoRalli**  
Marbella

In the work of Leónidas Gambartes (Rosario, 1909-1963) we find the essence of indigenous spirituality and rituality.

The works on display here come under the theme of *Figuras y paisajes* ("Figures and landscapes") (which Gambartes worked on between 1950 and 1963), in which he represents landscapes and people in everyday attitudes. These pieces condense the depiction of Amerindian identity through memory and land, traditions, and rituality in everyday life.

In his work, Gambartes makes visible what cannot be seen by the naked eye, but that is latent in the reality that surrounds these inhabitants of the land, representing both everyday life and everything magical that is implicit in them. He uses telluric aspects, relating to the earth, to depict these people's relationship with the land and their past.

In this series, Gambartes does not choose just any places or people; he paints scenarios linked to the autochthonous, the original and the marginal. In doing so, he gives visibility to the daily reality lived in Argentine coastal areas, intentionally focusing on people living in the periphery or *negradas*, to use the derogatory name given by city-dwellers.

He mainly depicts women working the land or going about their work; of particular note are his series showing *yuyeras* (medicine women) and washerwomen, as well as motherhood.

Gambartes places his characters on flat landscapes, with a high level of schematisation and planimetry in the backgrounds. His figures are shown hieratically, either standing, sitting or squatting. As for his palette, his use of colour ranges between sombre and warm.

Virtual assistant



Biography



Catalogue





His vision problems affected him for life and would also be a major influence in his work. Unable to see a surface larger than 30x40cm without deformation, Gambartes usually worked in small formats, although he was not limited to them. For works that exceeded his field of vision, the artist painted fragments that were joined together in a final composition, with him never seeing the whole work at any time.

The works exhibited here also demonstrate Gambartes' experimentation with plasticity, material and language throughout his last -and longest- stage. This includes the invention of the pictorial technique *cromo al yeso* ("plaster chrome"), the application of the principles of Constructive Universalism in his compositions, and direct influences from Antonio Berni, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Joaquín Torres García himself and Paul Klee.

They clearly show us why Gambartes is considered one of the great painters with regional roots, along with artists of the calibre of Rufino Tamayo, Carlos Mérida and Wifredo Lam.

The exhibition *Memories of the land. Leónidas Gambartes* has been conceived as a pedagogical curatorial project which seeks to generate collective learning processes from collaborative creative practice.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of activities based on collaborative participation and artistic creation. With these proposals in mind, we invite you to reflect on the central themes raised by Gambartes' work: memory, identity, territory and rituality.

We encourage you to take part and interact with the different facilities and resources available in the exhibition space and on our website to be a part of the life of this project.



# Free entrance

## Opening times

Tuesday to Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

including holidays

## Closed

From 22 Dec. to 31 Jan.

## Address

Urb. Coral Beach, Nat. Road N-340.

Km. 176, 29600, Marbella, Málaga.

## Contact

[www.museoralli.es](http://www.museoralli.es)

[marbella@museoralli.es](mailto:marbella@museoralli.es)

Tlf. 952 857 923

## How to get

· By bus. Lines 1, 12, 13, 79

(Hotel Coral Beach stop)

· Walking. The Ralli Museums has a direct access from the seafront, just 50 metres away

· Own vehicle. The surroundings of the museum have free parking areas

 @mrallimarbella

 @museorallimarbella

# MuseosRalli

Punta del Este - Santiago de Chile - Caesarea Ralli 1 y 2 - Marbella

Fundadores: Harry y Martine Recanati