



Barcelona 1900

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Barcelona is well known as a center of contemporary art and architecture, but that prominence owes much to the creative outpouring it witnessed at the dawn of the twentieth century, when it was known as the "rose of fire." The physical city was transformed by the civil engineer Ildefonso Cerdà and the architects Antoni Gaudí and Lluís Domènech. As Barcelona changed around them, modernist artists including Pablo Picasso, Isidre Nonell, and Ramon Casas produced work fueled by and focused on political and humanitarian concerns.

Barcelona 1900 portrays the artistic, cultural, social, and political history of the city at this crucial turning point. Featuring more than 192 color and black-and-white illustrations—paintings, sculptures, drawings, and objects of applied art—the book illustrates the development of the modern city, Art Nouveau, and modernism alongside Barcelona's tumultuous social conflicts, the daily life of the middle classes, the anarchist movement, and the anticlerical sentiment of the day. In a series of thematic chapters, *Barcelona 1900* explores the city's artistic flowering in all its dimensions: paintings by Picasso, Casas, and Santiago Rusiñol; the Art Nouveau jewelry of Lluís Masriera; public and domestic architecture by Gaudí, Domènech, and Josep Puig; posters, advertisements, and other ephemera by Casas and other proponents of modernisme; and works of Catalan literature.

Accompanied by a wealth of historical and contemporary photographs of the cityscape, this book—which also serves as the catalog for a landmark exhibition of the same name organized by the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam—invites the reader to promenade along the most remarkable spots in the city, from Las Ramblas, the Gran Teatre del Liceu, and the Palau de la Musica; to Els Quatres Gats, the cafe where Picasso and his friends met; and Parc Güell and Gaudí's Sagrada Família.

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