

Arts & Travel Guide

SPAIN

EXHIBITIONS

» **ARCOMADRID** The capital's international contemporary art fair celebrates its 30th edition with new director Carlos Urroz facing the tough challenge of having to restore some of the event's former glory. With 197 galleries from 26 countries taking part in the general exhibition, the focus this year is on collecting, while Russia is the guest country.

ARCOMadrid. Until February 20 at Feria de Madrid, Madrid. See www.arco.ifema.es for more information.



Work by Fabrizio Cornelli at ARCO.

» **LET US FACE THE FUTURE** Taking its name from the Labour Party's 1945 election-winning slogan, this journey through British art from the end of World War II until the late 1960s features 88 works from stars such as Francis Bacon, David Hockney, Henry Moore and Lucian Freud.

Let Us Face the Future. *Arte Británico 1945-1968.* Until February 20 at Fundació Joan Miró, Parc de Montjuïc s/n, Barcelona. See www.fundacionmiro-bcn.org for more information.

» **ROBERT CAPA** "If your pictures aren't good enough, you're not close enough." That was the philosophy of the great Hungarian photojournalist Robert Capa (1913-1954). And this retrospective, held to celebrate CajaCanarias' centenary, bears testament to it by showcasing a selection of his revealing, intimate shots from the Spanish Civil War, the Omaha beach landings and other conflicts.

Robert Capa. Retrospectiva. Until March 12 at Espacio Cultural CajaCanarias, Plaza del Patriotismo 1, Santa Cruz de Tenerife. See www.cajacanarias.org for more information.

» **DESAPARECIDOS** Photographer and journalist Gervasio Sánchez presents this extensive project documenting the forced disappearances of people in 10 countries in Latin America, Asia and Europe via 255 photos, eight murals of 80 portraits and audiovisual recordings. Previously shown at MUSAC and CCCB, the exhibition is now at



A woman observes a 15th-century wedding tray at the exhibition in Bilbao *Hay más en tí.* / EPI

Real medieval women?

Female depictions divided between the saintly and

EVA LARRAURI, Bilbao

Louis de Bruges, a famous collector of manuscripts in 15th-century Flanders, used to say "Plus est en vous" (There is more within you (than you know)), in reference to his own wife. That motto has now become the title of a new exhibition at the Bilbao Museum of Fine Arts, which reviews how women were seen in the Middle Ages through 48 works of art and artifacts of everyday use ranging from the 13th to the 15th centuries.

The items on display depict the ideal woman at the time, be it the Virgin Mary or the heroines of courtly poetry. But they also represent the sinners, the prostitutes and the workers who represented the other end of the black-or-white criteria the Catholic Church used to define all females.

The curator of the show, the Swiss-born Corinne Charles, puts forward "an ambiguous and polyhedral vision" of the numer-

ous depictions of women in medieval societies. The goal is to show that in the late Middle Ages, women were not just seen as the classic lady in an ivory tower who was not allowed to choose her own husband or who was forced to remain shut indoors and wear a chastity belt in her spouse's absence.

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Nuptial pleasures

In opposition to the virtuous Virgin Mary, women in the Middle Ages also represented all the sins in the book, especially lust. Throughout the show, Charles contrasts pieces that revere women with others that denigrate them. The last part of the exhibition features an anonymous manuscript written in old French and titled *The Fifteen Pleasures of Matrimony*, in which women are cruelly satirized.

Charles spent four years researching medieval representations of women to put together a show that features items on

loan from stellar institutions such as the French Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris' Museum and London's National Gallery. The scientific side is captured in a catalog containing 16 essays by specialists who address such as girls' education, erotic fantasies of the Middle Ages.

Even though the Church encouraged a negative view of women, Charles claims that the exhibition offers more positive images than might be expected. "The end of the Middle Ages is characterized by a period of improvement in women's positions within the family," she says that trend was short-lived as medieval women were those of the following Renaissance.

Jasper Johns. Las huellas de la memoria.

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Hay más en tí. Until 10 March at BBK, Plaza del Museo 2, Bilbao. See museobilbao.com

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Dorit Margreiter. Debut at Museo Reial Isabel 52, Madrid. See www.asofia.es for more information.

MUSIC

» **CHRISTINA FERRELL** The Spanish singer takes her dreamy road after the release of her new album.