

WHY WE CHOSE THIS MASTERPIECE

Joan Miró

Together with Salvador Dalí and René Magritte, Joan Miró today is known as a leader of the Surrealist movement and one of the most important artists of the 20th century. His unique style shaped the term *Modern art* and his relevance for art history is echoed in the art market where Miró keeps taking center stage with artist greats like Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol and Claude Monet: Since 2020, works by Miró sold for over 248 million USD at auction and the artist confidently maintains his place in the list of the Top 25 artists by value and by volume.

Works on paper

Miró experimented with many different mediums throughout his career and famously pushed each technique to new dimensions, fully exploring the surrealist theme in all layers of his artworks. His works on paper often served as preparation for a larger piece or were the immediate material response to the inspiration from his surroundings. Over 247 million USD worth of Miró's works on paper sold at auction in the last 20 years for an average price per work of almost 200 thousand USD. Despite an overall contracting art market in 2023, the Miró works on paper index reached its second highest result since 2000 and suggests great resilience in times of a cautious market climate.

Composition

Similar to his use of medium and technique, many of the titles of Miró's works followed the ideas of Surrealism and embodied the surrealist philosophy eroding the traditionally descriptive function of an artwork's title. Prices for comparable artworks to the present drawing in terms of medium, content, technique, and year increase on average 16% sale-to-sale with prices of up to 417'000 USD and result in a current market valuation of the present artwork significantly higher than its purchase price.

Tapís de Tarragona

The Tarragona Tapestry, known as *Tapís de Tarragona*, was Miró's first and one of his finest textile creations. After Miró's daughter, who had suffered a train accident, was successfully treated by Dr. Rafel Orozco, the artist decided to thank him with a gift: a monumental tapestry of 2.80 x 4.20 meters. Miró, who was new to tapestry production but admired the Catalan textile tradition, collaborated with the young artist Josep Royo to help create the masterpiece. Together they developed an experimental technique using wools of different thickness and different knotworks to give greater plasticity to the tapestry. As preparatory work, Miró draw his ideas on a series of papers which then freely merged into the final composition of the tapestry. Other than most of the preliminary drawings that are preserved privately, today the tapestry is accessible to the public as it forms part of the Modern Art Museum of Tarragona, Spain. This connection to one of Miró's key artworks adds value to the present drawing as it places it art historically in an important position.

(Sources: Artemundi 2024, Artprice 2024)