



Antoni Tàpies. *The Catalan spirit*, 1971. © Fundació Antoni Tàpies, Barcelona / VEGAP, 2012.

**INSTITUTIONAL CELEBRATION OF THE 2012 NATIONAL
DAY OF CATALONIA
PRESS FILE**

5 September 2012



PRESENTATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL ACTS

The institutional celebration of the National Day of Catalonia will take place, as in previous years, in Parc de la Ciutadella, and is jointly organized by the Catalan government and the Catalan parliament. The acts will focus, as on earlier occasions, on different highlights relating to events and persons of particular relevance to Catalan culture that have been commemorated in the course of this year. The Catalan language will be the leitmotiv of this year's institutional celebration of Catalonia's National Day.

The creative direction of the event will be in the hands of playwright and theatre director Joan Ollé; the celebration will be presented by journalist Mònica Terribas. The programme includes readings of poems and other texts by Catalan authors, combined with musical pieces interpreted by a selection of well-known artists.

The highlights that will receive special attention during the celebration are the following:

- 150th anniversary of the birth of **Antoni Maria Alcover** (Manacor 1862 - Palma, 1932). Writer, clergyman, linguist and expert in folklore from Majorca.
- 100th anniversary of the birth of **Xavier Montsalvatge** (Girona, 1912 - Barcelona, 2002). Composer and music critic.
- 50th anniversary of the death of **Eduard Toldrà** (Vilanova i la Geltrú, 1895 – Barcelona, 1962). Musician and composer.
- 25th anniversary of the death of **Manuel Blancafort** (La Garriga, 1897- Barcelona, 1987). Composer.
- 25th anniversary of the death of **Frederic Mompou** (Barcelona, 1893 - 1987). Composer.
- 100th anniversary of the birth of **Pere Calders** (Barcelona, 1912 -1994). Writer and artist.
- 100th anniversary of the birth of **Avel·lí Artís Gener (Tísner)** (Barcelona, 1912 – 2000). Journalist and writer.



- 100th anniversary of the birth of **Joan Sales** (Barcelona, 1912 –1983). Writer, poet and translator.
- 50th anniversary of the publication of the novel **La Plaça del Diamant**, by Mercè Rodoreda (Barcelona, 1908 - Girona, 1983). Writer.
- 50th anniversary of the founding of **Edicions 62**. Renowned Catalan publishing house.
- 50th anniversary of the publication of **Nosaltres, els valencians**, by Joan Fuster (Sueca, 1922 - 1992). Writer.
- 25th anniversary of the death of **J.V. Foix** (Barcelona, 1893 - 1987). Poet, journalist and essay writer.
- 40th anniversary of the death of **Gabriel Ferrater** (Reus, 1922 - Sant Cugat del Vallès, 1972). Poet and linguist.
- 50th anniversary of the death of **Francesc Pujols** (Barcelona, 1882 - Martorell, 1962). Writer and philosopher.

As in previous years, the celebration will start with the Full Dress Parade of the Mossos d'Esquadra and the presenting of the national flag by one of the Catalan mayors. On this occasion, this will be done by the mayor of Capmany, one of the municipalities affected by the forest fires in the Empordà region this summer.

Musical interpretations and readings will be offered by Cobla Sant Jordi – Ciutat de Barcelona, the choir Cor Lieder Càmera, the musical quartet Las Migas and mezzo-soprano Marisa Martins; actresses Pepa López, Carme Sansa, Victòria Pagès and Sílvia Munt; actors Pep Tosar and Ivan Benet; singer-songwriter Roger Mas, and literary critic and essay writer Josep Maria Castellet.

As a sign of the international resonance and prestige of our culture, the programme includes a performance by the Portuguese actress, movie director and singer Maria de Medeiros, who will sing a poem of **Ausiàs March**, musically arranged by Raimon.

The image of the Diada is a reproduction of the work *L'esperit català* (The Catalan spirit, 1971) by **Antoni Tàpies**, a leading figure in 20th century art and a universal Catalan artist, who died last February.



The eleventh of September is Catalonia's National Day. It commemorates the Catalans' fierce desire to reinstate self-government after their defeat in 1714 by Philip V's Spanish army. Catalonia, which had until that date been a sovereign nation, lost its national freedoms, its political institutions, its laws, and the Catalan language was banned.

[http://www20.gencat.cat/docs/Departament de la Vicepresidencia/0-WEB AEC CHCC/Afers Exteriors Cooperacio/Documents/Fulleto Catalunya/fulleto_exteriors EN.pdf](http://www20.gencat.cat/docs/Departament_de_la_Vicepresidencia/0-WEB_AEC_CHCC/Afers_Exteriors_Cooperacio/Documents/Fulleto_Catalunya/fulleto_exteriors_EN.pdf)



OTHER ACTS ORGANIZED ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF CATALONIA

Monday, September 11th

8.30 PM. Auditorium of Parliament. Presentation of the Medal of Honour of Parliament, golden category, to **Òmnium Cultural** and **Càritas Catalunya**.

9.45 PM. At the front of the Parliament building. Reinstatement of the Catalan coat of arms at the main façade of the Palau del Parlament on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the inauguration of Parliament in 1932.

Evening. Transmission by Televisió de Catalunya of the speech of the President of the Generalitat on the occasion of the national day of Catalonia.

Tuesday, September 11th

9.00 AM - Floral tribute by the Government, headed by President Mas, at the monument of Rafael Casanova.

9.05 AM - Floral tribute by the Bureau of Parliament, headed by the President of Parliament, Núria de Gispert, at the monument of Rafael Casanova.

9.00 AM – Floral tribute at the tomb of Rafael Casanova, in Sant Boi de Llobregat.

From 10.00 AM till 6.00 PM – Open Day at the **Palau de la Generalitat** and the **House of Parliament**.



NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS ORGANIZED AT THE CATALAN FOREIGN DELEGATIONS

Brussels

September 9th, 4.00 PM (Pl. Sainte-Croix/Heiling Kruisplein). Dancing of sardanes with the Amsterdam Coblà.

September 11th, 1.00 PM (in front of Manneken Pis). Traditional singing of the national anthem, “Els Segadors”.

Madrid

September 11th, 7.00 PM Cultural Centre Blanquerna (C/ Alcalá, 44). Celebration commemorating the national day of Catalonia, with a musical performance which includes an interpretation of “Els segadors”.

United States

September 8th Liederkrantz (6 East 87th St New York, NY). Institutional acts on the occasion of the national day of Catalonia, organized by the Casal Català, with the participation of the delegate of the Generalitat in the USA, Andrew Davis. Concert dedicated to composer Eduard Toldrà and children’s activities.

United Kingdom

September 7th, Europe House, London. Reception at the Delegation of the Catalan government in the United Kingdom on the occasion of the visit of the former President of the Generalitat, Jordi Pujol, as guest of honour.

September 8th, Hotel H10. Dinner-debate with former Catalan president Jordi Pujol.

France

September 11th, Paris. The Delegation of the Generalitat in France will host the book presentation *Salvador Dalí vist per la seva germana* (Salvador Dalí through the eyes of his sister), with an introduction by Enric Pujol, director of the ‘Memòria dels Dies’ collection of publishing house Viena Editorial, and Mariona Seguranyes, editor of the book. This event is organized in collaboration with the Ramon Llull Institute.

Alghero

September 11th, 7.00 PM. Floral tribute at the Monument for the Unity of the Language, presided by the director of the Catalan government’s representative office



in Alghero, Joan Elies Adell. Conference “Salvador Espriu and Alghero” by Rosa Maria Delor, and poetry reading by Algerian singer Franca Masu.

September 12th, 7.00 PM. Mediateca Alghero - Societ  Umanitaria. Showing of the short movie “Barcelona en dos colors” (Barcelona in two colours), by Sardinian director Alberto Diana.

Perpignan

September 10th, 6.15 PM. Casa de Perpiny . Celebration of the national day of Catalonia with an institutional address by Joan Gaub , director of the Casa de Perpiny , preceded by the performance of three musical pieces by the ensemble Tres Quartans.