

ACQUISITION POLICY
FOR COLLECTIONS OF THE
MUSEUM OF L'HOSPITALET



Museu de L'Hospitalet



Ajuntament de L'Hospitalet



MUSEUM OF L'HOSPITALET ACQUISITION POLICY

1. Introduction

The Museum of l'Hospitalet (MdLH) seeks to conserve, manage and administer the movable heritage collections of the city of l'Hospitalet de Llobregat.

One of the main challenges facing the MdLH is to effectively and efficiently manage the collections it houses, and in the future, create a repository that can be visited, that has a suitable preventive conservation policy, and that is open to citizens. Management of the collection cannot be improvised. Rather, it must be the product of rational internal organization in accordance with the co-responsibility of the Museum and its entire staff.

The main purpose of this document is to outline the strategic lines for acquisitions, and establish certain rules and protocols that make collection management more efficient and effective. For this reason, this document is neither final nor unchangeable; it is not axiomatic, but will instead be in constant evolution and adaptation to the needs that arise in the daily management of the collection.

The Acquisition Policy of the Museum of L'Hospitalet accepts the legislation now in force and the framework document on acquisition policy of the Network of Ethnology Museums of Catalonia and the Network of History Museums and Monuments of Catalonia.

2. Presentation of the museum

The Museum of L'Hospitalet is in the city of l'Hospitalet de Llobregat, occupying three distinct heritage centres. The museum originated from the interest in preserving the historic memory of l'Hospitalet's farming society before the evidence it was vanishing amidst the 20th century expansion of Barcelona and its metropolitan area. The multidisciplinary collection reflects the social changes that have taken place from the late 19th century to the present. The legacy of the rural, traditional world contrasts with that of modern urban society, underscoring how the customs and daily life changed with the arrival of industrialization.

The Museum also seeks to display the technological legacy of the city's industrialization by means of a discourse based on the reality and the specific particularities of l'Hospitalet de Llobregat. The industrialization of the outskirts of the city with working people of humble origin is compared with the bourgeoisie and affluent classes of the city of Barcelona. The Museum shows the effects of this growth of a major city, and how its closeness to Barcelona transformed l'Hospitalet from a rural to a





residential area, and how the co-existence in this new neighbouring community developed. The Museum is also home to a significant local art collection.

3. Description of the collections

The importance of the city's heritage collection, and especially its superb modern art collection, were among the main rationales behind the creation of the Museum of L'Hospitalet in the 1970s. It opened as a local museum in 1972. Since then, its visitors have been able to see and experience the city's treasures, while also learning about its origins and history, which many of them have lived through.

The current collection of the MdLH has been built through donations and accession of undocumented objects. It is a diverse collection, presenting archaeological artefacts from various periods, recovered in excavations conducted around l'Hospitalet's territory, and a contemporary collection made up of works by Concha Ibañez, Esther Boix, Mireia Miret, Rafael Barrades, Dalí, Miró, Tàpies, Guinovart, Solanich, Manolo Hugué and Josep Serra.

The areas in which the Museum of L'Hospitalet's collection are divided cover ethnographic and historic subject matter, with pieces from popular, traditional culture, the rural world, and the vast technological legacy of our city's industrialization. It also includes a collection of Renaissance altarpieces and 19th century art works that shape a relevant modern art collection.

4. Priorities and areas of interest

Regardless of their format or chronology, any items that attest to the art and history of l'Hospitalet de Llobregat are objects of interest for the MdLH.

Special emphasis is placed on elements that mark l'Hospitalet's industrial period, in light of the city's importance during the industrial revolution. Given the number of objects related with industrial production, in cases of mass-produced or low-value items, it must be decided if it is best to only take a sample. Although the acquisition and conservation of museum pieces implies an effort to not miss any relevant elements or sets, duplications must also be avoided.

Any items of special relevance or value, even if not directly related with l'Hospitalet, are also considered objects of interest.

This especially refers to any that come from or related to:

- a) Migrations to l'Hospitalet de Llobregat.
- b) Phased-out machinery and tools that have been used in the industries of the city.





- c) The most relevant art works by local artists, and any that have been somehow associated with the city.
- d) Objects of ethnological or historic interest that, although not made or used in the municipality, are similar to others that were, but have not been preserved, and that are also necessary for the purposes of the Museum's permanent exhibition.
- e) Objects of ethnological or historic interest that have been made or used in the city.
- f) Any archaeological materials found within the city limits.

5. Criteria for selection of new works

A committee of the Museum will evaluate the acceptance of new elements. The evaluation of the acquisition will be based on: the object's state of conversation; confirmation of ownership; the guaranteed conservation and preservation of the object in the short, mid and long term by the Museum; the Museum's possibility to safeguard the object; in the case of purchases, pricing aligned with market value; above all, the object's suitability to the Museum's collections and areas of interest.

6. Acquisition protocol

Anyone making a donation shall do so irreversibly. Donors are not entitled to any compensation from the Municipal Government. The Museum shall not accept conditional donations, except in exceptional, duly justified cases.

Acceptance of a donation shall not suppose its definitive inclusion within the collection.

The Museum shall only accept materials for which it can guarantee conservation in the short, mid and long term.

The Museum shall safeguard and classify all of the documentation accompanying accepted materials from collections, as it demonstrates their legality within the Museum, and are essential receipts to be shown before third parties.

In cases of accession of undocumented objects and donations, there shall be no set terms for any type of financial transaction between the party conveying the materials and the Museum.

The Museum shall accept donations as long as ownership of the property is clear.

Each type of acquisition has a specific procedure, manifested in the MdLH acquisition policy document.





7. Ethical commitments and transparency

The Museum's acquisition policy is subject to the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums (1986) and the legislation in force for transactions of heritage and intellectual property objects. It will give special consideration to matters such as materials from illegal excavations, conditioned acquisitions, cooperation among museums, conflicts of interest and the conduct of professionals.

With a view to the institution ensuring the highest level of transparency, this acquisition policy document shall be public, and published on the Museum's website. In the same vein, all acquisitions and changes in the collection will be made public.

