

3rd year



LITERARY  
FESTIVAL  
GIRONA\_OLOT

**WRITING LIVES**

# General Dossier

October 2015



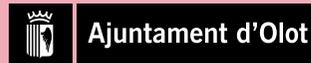
LITERARY  
FESTIVAL  
GIRONA\_OLOT

**MOT** is a literary festival held every year in April known for the excellence of its speakers and events and the reflection on a thematic concept.

Jointly organised by **Girona City Council** and **Olot Arts Institute**, it takes place in the cities of Olot and Girona, in north-east Catalonia, defined by the landscape and historical background.

[www.girona.cat](http://www.girona.cat)

[www.olot.cat](http://www.olot.cat)



**Olot Cultura**





CATALONIA



# CATALONIA: GIRONA AND OLOT

## GIRONA

Capital of the province of the same name and the region of El Gironès  
97,198 inhab.

## OLOT

Capital of the region of La Garrotxa  
33.813 inhab.



## DISTANCES

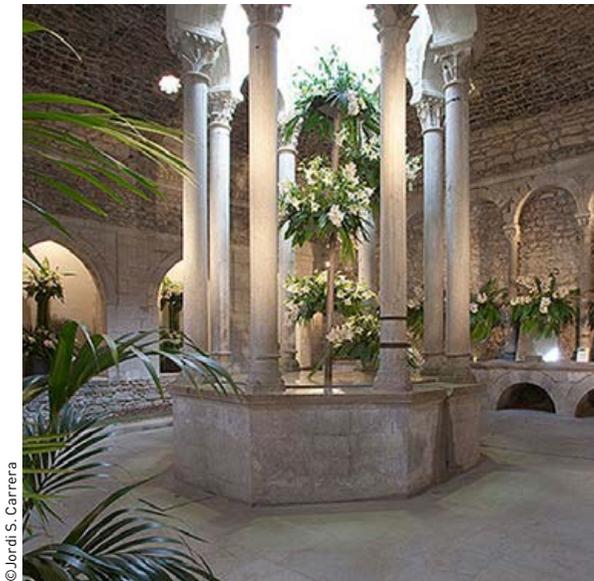
GIRONA ↔ OLOT 53.6 km.  
GIRONA ↔ GIRONA AIRPORT 15 km.  
GIRONA ↔ BARCELONA 105 km.  
GIRONA ↔ BARCELONA AIRPORT 116 km.

## DISTANCES

OLOT ↔ GIRONA 53.6 km.  
OLOT ↔ GIRONA AIRPORT 65.1 km.  
OLOT ↔ BARCELONA 113 km.  
OLOT ↔ BARCELONA AIRPORT 124 km.

# GIRONA

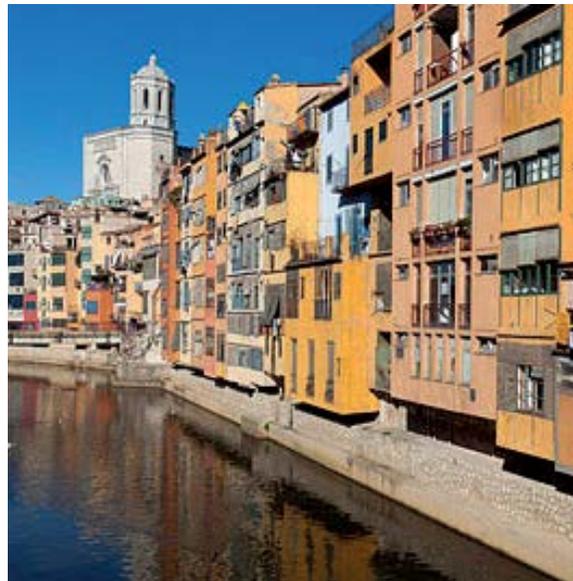
The city of Girona, one of the most interesting in Catalonia, offers an insight into over 2,000 years of history based on two walled areas, the **Força Vella** and the **Eixample Medieval**. The first corresponds to the Roman foundation and the second to the 14th and 15th century enlargement. It boasts many monuments and a notable artistic heritage. Girona's attraction is complemented by the suggestive **Jewish quarter (El Call)**, the beautiful streets and porticoed squares, the lavish **baroque sites** and **the buildings**



© Jordi S. Carrera

by **Rafael Masó**, a major exponent of *Noucentisme*.

The city of Girona stands out for its remarkable culinary dynamism, characterised by the combination of traditional and avant-garde cuisine without forgetting its roots and local ingredients. It has a wide range of restaurants with many types of gastronomy: Catalan, Mediterranean, market, creative... It has become an international reference and has two establishments with Michelin stars and the best restaurant in the world, **El Celler de Can Roca**, a distinction bestowed by the prestigious *Restaurant Magazine*.



Girona is a privileged city in terms of natural heritage. You will find rivers that flow through the city, Mediterranean forests and riverside woodlands, mountain ranges such as Les Gavarres, Sant Daniel valley... You can enjoy all this and much more just a few steps away from the city centre. Discover our range of active tourism in Girona!

Very close to Girona and Olot you can visit the **Dalí Museum in Figueres**, **L'Empordà** and the **Costa Brava**.

[www.girona.cat/turisme/esp/index.php](http://www.girona.cat/turisme/esp/index.php)



# OLOT

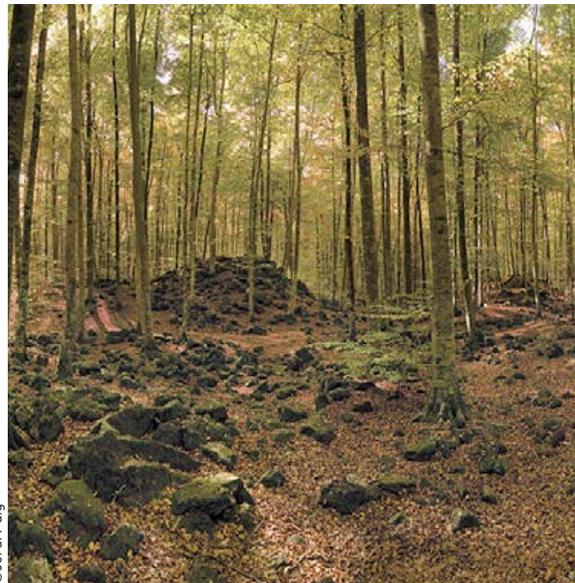
The city of Olot is at an altitude of 440 metres. Living among volcanoes forms part of the daily life of its residents as it is located within **La Garrotxa Volcanic Natural Park** encompassing four volcanoes including El Montsacopa, a vantage point in the heart of the city.

Art Nouveau architecture and tree-lined avenues are the most captivating and beautiful elements of the city. However, we can also find other architectural styles in



buildings such as El Carme Cloister (17th century) or the church of Sant Esteve (18th century). Moreover, it has other features that make it unique within the framework of Catalan Pyrenees, such as **La Moixina marshes**, a peaceful area that surprises visitors, mainly art lovers, who identify it with the landscape painters of the School of Olot.

Olot and its surrounding areas are an example of recovering elements linked to natural areas, such as the botanical garden with local flora, the trail network **Itinerànnia**, the **Green Trails** or **Pedra Tosca Park**.



Its old part is the centre of **trade**, a shopping centre in the open air, which combines arts and crafts and traditional local products with the dynamism of a modern and contemporary city linked to fashion, art and good food.

Over the year it offers a wide range of activities, including the **Sismògraf** Dance Festival or the **Lluèrnia** Festival of Light. Finally, Olot's gastronomy has been internationally acknowledged by the two Michelin stars given to the restaurant **Les Cols**.

[www.turismeolot.cat](http://www.turismeolot.cat)





LITERARY  
FESTIVAL  
GIRONA\_OLOT

## THE DNA OF THE FESTIVAL

- \_ EXCELLENCE
- \_ RIGOUR
- \_ NATIONAL  
AND INTERNATIONAL  
RECOGNITION OF GUEST  
PARTICIPANTS
- \_ CLOSENESS  
TO THE AUDIENCE
- \_ UP-TO-DATE
- \_ TRENDS
- \_ SINGULARITY
- \_ INVOLVEMENT
- \_ NETWORKING  
(GIRONA\_OLOT)



LITERARY  
FESTIVAL  
GIRONA\_OLOT  
WRITING LIVES

Each year the festival selects a theme that acts as its pivot and leading thread.

In 2016 it will explore the creative processes of literary biographies. We will talk about the how and why of **Writing Lives** of real characters with guest writers and under the direction of **Margarida Casacuberta**, Lecturer in Contemporary Literature at Girona University.



#### A FESTIVAL TO:

- Programme a **series of high level lectures and talks** to analyse and promote the writers and the main theme.
- Provide a **meeting place for writers** of international prestige and Catalan authors.
- Build, in partnership with the city organisations and institutions, a **programme of great quality events** to make it quality in terms of contents.
- Become a **national cultural reference**, linked to the regions of Girona and springtime.

7 to 16 April 2016



LITERARY  
FESTIVAL  
GIRONA\_OLOT  
**WRITING LIVES**



## WRITING LIVES

What do Robert Graves' *I, Claudius*, Tracy Chevalier's *The Girl with a Pearl Earring*, A. S. Byatt's *Possession*, *Dora Bruder* by Patrick Modiano, *Fortuny* by Pere Gimferrer, *Limonov* by Emmanuel Carrère, *The Emigrants* by W. G. Sebald, *Tot un caràcter* by Imma Monsó, *A Death in the Family* by Karl Ove Knausgård, *Nothing Holds Back the Night* by Delphine de Vigan, *La passió segons Renée Vivien* by Maria-Mercè Marçal, *Elsa Schneider* by Sergi Belbel, *The Testament of Mary* by Colm Tóibín, *Frost/Nixon* by Peter Morgan, *Germaine Gargallo* by Cristina Masanés, *El impostor* by Javier Cercas or *Vidas escritas* by Javier Marías have in common?

Some of these works are novels and some have become unquestionable bestsellers; others are part of the most experimental narrative, halfway between essay and short story or are theatre monologues suitable for the stage, film scripts or to be read as short novels. However, all of them reconstruct a life, tell the story of a real character and use fictional mechanisms for this reconstruction. In the audiovisual field, they are the well-known biopics. When we move to the sphere of literature, everything

becomes complicated, probably because (re) constructing lives is the very essence of the literature of all times.

Exploring these written lives through their most outstanding creators is the objective of the **3rd MOT Literary Festival Girona-Olot 2016: Writing Lives**.

**Margarida Casacuberta**  
Curator of the MOT Festival 2016



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The curator of the 2016 festival is **Margarida Casacuberta**, Lecturer in Contemporary Literature at Girona University.

**Margarida Casacuberta** (Olot, 1964) holds a PhD in Catalan Language and Literature from the UAB and is Lecturer in Contemporary Literature at Girona University, where since 2009 she has coordinated the Degree in Cultural Communication and is responsible for the Joan Vinyoli Chair in Contemporary Poetry. Member of the Contemporary Catalan Literature Studies Group (GELCC), her research focuses on the late 19th to early 20th century period and, especially, *Modernisme*. Her published works include *Santiago Rusiñol: vida, literatura i mite* (1997) and *Els noms de Rusiñol* (1999). Moreover, she has translated *The Kill* and *L'Oeuvre* by Émile Zola and *Ellis Island* and *W, or the Memory of Childhood* by Georges Perec.

## THE VENUES IN GIRONA

Carles Rahola Library.



©Pepo Segura

## THE VENUES IN OLOT

Sala La Carbonera  
at the Teatre Principal.



©Martí Albesa



©Martí Albesa

### CARLES RAHOLA LIBRARY

Carrer Emili Grahit, 4  
17002 GIRONA



©Martí Albesa

### TEATRE PRINCIPAL D'OLOT Sala La Carbonera

Passeig d'en Blay, 5  
17800 OLOT



SEEKS...

### GREAT INVOLVEMENT...

- Of theatres, bookshops, restaurants, cinemas, museums and all interested cultural agents in order to offer the widest range of cultural events possible
- Of readers through reading clubs, libraries, bookshops, associations... With arts centres and specialised centres that will focus their programme on this year's theme
- Of literary routes led by authors and experts
- Through the website and very active social networks that form part of the project based on action and communication
- Of the publishing sector and journals, which will present their collections and new releases

### AND ALSO A COMMITMENT...

- To partner media outlets that will widely cover the events
- To Catalan companies sensitive to literary culture which will contribute funding
- To the most representative institutions of our country

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A **Festival** that believes  
in **excellence**  
and **uniqueness**



LITERARY  
FESTIVAL  
GIRONA\_OLOT

## RECALLING MOT 2015



**Writing Cities**  
**9 to 19 April 2015**  
[www.festivalmot.cat](http://www.festivalmot.cat)



LITERARY  
FESTIVAL  
GIRONA\_OLOT

Writing Cities



## WRITING CITIES

In its second year, the **MOT** Festival became an established meeting point between major international and national writers and their readers. Curated by Mita Casacuberta, the festival featured **40 writers** who provided Girona and Olot with memorable moments with their talks, revealing secrets about their books, private confessions, episodes of their past and personal reflections.

The success achieved that year — almost **3,000 people** participated in its activities — confirmed that the current format works, has a receptive audience and can have a place in the international panorama of literary festivals.

The first part of the festival was held in **Olot** from 9 to 11 April. The **Sala la Carbonera** was too small to accommodate the 1,500 people who attended its lectures and talks. **Girona** hosted the events of the second weekend of the festival from 16 to 19 April. The recently opened **Carles Rahola Library** provided the setting for the MOT's literary ramblings, which went through Rome, Berlin, Valencia, Athens...

Luis Goytisolo with “The City and the Nature of the Novel”, Rafael Chirbes and Joan Nogué with “Defeated City: Valencia” or Petros Markaris and Imma Merino with “City in Crisis: Athens” filled the library's auditorium.

The second **VER-MOT**, presented by the journalist Xavier Graset and entitled “Imaginary Cities”, featured readings by Joan-Lluís Lluís, Núria Perpinyà, Marina Espasa, Mar Bosch and Imma Monsó in the library bar. •



LITERARY  
FESTIVAL  
GIRONA\_OLOT

## Writing Cities

### Literary talks and dialogues

El The audience avidly followed talks by **Eduardo Mendoza** and **Sergi Pàmies** with "The Great Barcelona Novel", **John Lanchester** and **Matthew Tree** with "London: Capital", **Cees Nooteboom** and **Josep M. Martí Font** with "Wounded Cities: Berlin", **Sorj Chalandon** and **Tomás Alcoverro** with "Wounded Cities: Beirut" or **Petros Markaris** and **Imma Merino** with "Cities in Crisis: Athens".

But many people were also captivated by the Bogota and Mexico City of **Laura Restrepo** and **Lolita Bosch**, the Paris of **Éric Hazan** and **Josep Ramoneda**, the

Lisbon of **António Lobo Antunes** and **Jordi Galves**, the Badalona and Sant Adrià del Besòs of **Julia de Jòdar** and **Javier Pérez Andújar**, the Rome of **Melania G. Mazzucco** and **Josep Maria Fonalleras**, the Valencia of **Rafael Chirbes** and **Joan Nogué** or the master lecture on cities and novels by **Luis Goytisolo**.



Photographs ©Martí Albasa



Photographs © Marti Albasa



Photographs © Marti Albasa

## MOT 2015 - Writing Cities

### The VER-MOT

And the **VER-MOT** was as successful as the first year. In Olot, with the “Close Cities” of **Vicenç Pagès, Joan-Daniel Bezsonoff, Adrià Pujol, Rafael Nadal** and **Edgar Illas**, led and presented by **Màrius Serra**. In Girona, with the “Imaginary Cities” of **Joan-Lluís Lluís, Núria Perpinyà, Marina Espasa, Mar Bosch** and **Imma Monsó**, presented by **Xavier Graset**. All of them read and explained fragments of their works while the audience enjoyed an aperitif.



### Much more than MOT

Along with the talks between major writers, the MOT also scheduled complementary activities to bring literature closer from different perspectives. With the participation of around 900 people, the **MINIMOT**, the **Literary Cabaret** and the exhibitions “**Under Videoconstruction**” and “**Urban Symphonies**”, curated by Manel Bayo and Àngel Quintana, respectively, were all well-received. •

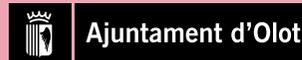






LITERARY  
FESTIVAL  
GIRONA\_OLOT  
WRITING LIVES

**Organised by:**



**Olot Cultura**



**With the support of:**



**Further information:**

[www.festivalmot.com](http://www.festivalmot.com)

[info@festivalmot.com](mailto:info@festivalmot.com)

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