PEOPLE

The Canarian people are the product of a rich blend of cultures that began when the first settlers came from North Africa and continued, after the Spanish conquest, with the influx of various European nations.

Art has always been an expressive means of reinterpreting reality through different styles.

This exhibition contains works that illustrate the styles present on the family tree of Canarian art. We can experience Indigenism, for instance, by stepping into Jorge Oramas's work *Marzagán*, listening to the music composed by Samuel Labrador in order to sense the olfactory notes of the artist's creation, and imagining a new landscape for this painting.

INDIGENISM

Indigenist art depicted local landscapes and native plant life using geometric shapes, saturated colours and the bright noonday sun. It also portrayed the ethnic features of peasants working in the fields, with an undercurrent of social criticism.

SYMBOLISM

As the name suggests, this style used symbols as vehicles for expressing emotions and conveying evocative, dreamlike, subjective visions. Linked to the modern art movement, this trend was characterised by the use of bright colours and beautiful organic forms that invite poetic interpretation.

ABSTRACTION

In the 1950s, the Canary Islands embraced Spanish abstraction or "informalism", i.e. Art Informel. Adherents of this trend eschewed all figuration and contact with the outside world, combining forms, lines and fields to express their inner reality. Abstract artists experimented with rich impasto and different textures and media (hessian, string, glue, plaster, etc.) to create disconcerting material contrasts.

REGIONALISM

Regionalist art focused on extolling the beauty of the islands and their traditions. These compositions often featured genre scenes inspired by Canarian folklore that idealised insular landscapes and the peasant lifestyle.

LAVA

The volcanic landscape of the Canary Islands has been an inexhaustible source of inspiration for our artists. César Manrique, Ildefonso Aguilar and many others captured this volcanic personality in their creations as a way of expressing their ties to the land, materialised in experiments with textures, light and colour.

When molten magma rises to the Earth's surface, it produces different types of lava flows, depending on viscosity and gas bubble content:

Pahoehoe (smooth, ropey)

Aa (rough, jagged)

Lapilli, also known as *picón* in the Canaries, are small pyroclastic rocks whose tones vary depending on gases, acidity and volcanic material.

Ash is made of very fine particles of pulverised rock.

Volcanic bomb

A bomb is the largest type of material produced during a volcanic eruption. It acquires a distinctive shape because it solidifies in the air, spinning round and round until it hits the ground.

SALT

The Canary Islands sit in the Atlantic Ocean and are part of the Macaronesian archipelagos, along with the Azores, Madeira and Cape Verde. Its waters are temperate and have relatively high surface salinity.

The vastness of the Atlantic, the way its colours oscillate between deep blue and crystalline turquoise, and its mighty waves and swells have influenced the work of artists like Lola del Castillo.

Wild, deep and enigmatic, the sea has been a constant source of inspiration for the islands' creative talent.

Over the last several decades, fish biomass has declined by 90% due to various anthropogenic factors. Therefore, creating marine reserves is essential in order to preserve local fish habitats and spawning grounds and allow damaged ecosystems to recover.

Spotted burrfish: a calm, unsociable animal sometimes mistaken for the puffer fish because of its ability to inflate and increase in size. Instead of scales, it is covered in spines or burrs, as the name indicates.

Atlantic Sally Lightfoot or red rock crab: a reddish-orange crustacean with yellow and blue spots on adult specimens. It prefers rocky habitats, is occasionally seen in large groups, and spends a lot of time out of the water. This species is very active during the day and rests at night.

Atlantic black sea urchin: the long spines of this urchin are sheathed in an epidermis that contains venom-producing glandular cells. They spend the day concealed in rock crevices, and at night they move, even along sandy bottoms.