

# SUCCESSFUL BARCELONIANS

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\* Texts written by journalism students on work experience placements.

## ANTONI TÀPIES

### *Master of pictorial experimentation*



Barcelona-born painter and sculptor (1923) and pioneer of Spanish informalism, which led him to produce his matter paintings. Tàpies is one of the key figures of the late twentieth century for many artists, both in Spain and abroad. He is difficult to categorise because of his constant endeavours to experiment, and the evolution of his works, which began with surrealism but soon abandoned the Spanish artistic trends of the period to explore avant-garde techniques. He has been influenced by a wide variety of artists and authors from different disciplines such as Nietzsche, Sartre, Poe, Van Gogh and Picasso.

As we have already said, his work is hard to classify, although he uses recurrent motifs and symbols, which are part of the artist's symbolic universe and inner world, with clear allusions to the universe, life, death and sexuality. Antoni Tàpies defines art as "the philosophy that reflects a thought" and this philosophy can be seen in his works, which combine the most complex and symbolic elements with the most simple and everyday.

The foundation that bears his name – the Fundació Antoni Tàpies ([www.fundaciotapies.com](http://www.fundaciotapies.com)) – was set up in 1990. Its aim is to promote the study and knowledge of modern art. It is with this aim in mind that a museum and specialised library were built in the heart of Barcelona's Eixample district (Aragó 255; 08007 Barcelona; Tel. 34-93 487 03 15; Fax. 34-93 487 00 09).

Antoni Tàpies has garnered many prizes and tributes throughout the world in recognition of his work, which show him to be one of the leading figures on the twentieth-century world art scene.

Antoni Tàpies was born in Barcelona on 13th December 1923. He came from a middle-class family, and during his childhood lived in a tolerant and open cultural environment as a result of his father's contact with personalities from Catalan public life.

In 1950, he had his first one-man exhibition in Barcelona (Galeries Laietanes) and spent a year in Paris after receiving a grant from the French government. It was here that he met Picasso. In 1953 he made his first trip to New York for his exhibition at the Martha Jackson Gallery, and received a prize at the São Paulo Biennial.

He had his first individual exhibition in Paris in 1956 (Galerie Stadler) and since then has received countless prizes and been featured in exhibitions around the world (London, New York, Munich, Paris, Geneva, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Milan, Barcelona...).

The 1990 was one of his finest years: the Fundació Antoni Tàpies opened to the public and he received the Prince of Asturias Prize for the Arts.

Over the past 15 years, he has been the subject of many retrospectives throughout the world which show how his work has evolved. They are just another example of the recognition this universal Barcelonian continues to receive for his contribution to the arts.

## CUSTO BARCELONA

### *A new concept of T-shirt*



In the category of designers, the brothers David and Custodio Dalmau are today universally acclaimed Barcelonians. Their label Custo Barcelona, which is enjoying ever-greater success around the world, has mainly focused on the production of T-shirts. Their fun, original designs have taken them to the leading fashion runways of New York and Los Angeles, where people have been captivated by their collections of innovative and creative prints.

The Dalmaus are pioneers in their field and have used the classic, comfortable, universally recognisable T-shirt –which has officially been in existence for 60 years– to express their messages of constant revindication that are often associated with mixing cultures. Every season, Custo Barcelona presents new collections that reflect what is happening in a society leaning towards globalisation. The complete look that is the cornerstone of the Dalmaus' designs is a mixture of forms, textures and colours, that centres on the expression of a series of sensations rather than mere graphics.

Although the Dalmaus are known as T-shirt designers, and despite the fact that 50 to 60% of their output is solely devoted to T-shirts, Custodio and David have also designed other garments: microskirts and trousers with medium-scale prints. Their style is evolving with them and the current themes of their designs focus particularly on Japanese iconography, Manga comics, seventies pop art, Hindu imagery and, more recently, *patchwork*.

After a globe-trotting motorcycle journey, during which the Dalmaus discovered different cultures and customs, they began designing T-shirts exclusively for men in the eighties. At the beginning of the nineties they began designing for women, but it was not until the mid-nineties, with a suitcase containing just 17 T-shirts, that they hit on the right place and the right time: the United States, where Custo Barcelona has been presenting its collections since 1997 at New York's Fashion Week. The ideal market where T-shirt culture has existed since the thirties and where, unlike Europe, they were understood from the very outset.

Following a period when T-shirts had little importance in the fashion world, the Dalmau brothers, exporters of trends, played a vital role in making T-shirts into a social symbol, a notice board displayed on the chest.

This is how Custo Barcelona embarked on this experimental art with designs that never fail to cause a reaction. Their early designs were more flamboyant and colourful, and over the years they have become more understated while retaining their signature boldness. This explains why their garments are copied, imitated and faked in many countries around the world in order to garner the same success. Nevertheless, the extensive range of the Dalmaus' elegant and sophisticated products is unique, and their items are distributed in over 3,000 shops around the world. This is why Custo Barcelona was awarded the Llongueres Prize for Image and Fashion, as the top designer of international renown.

## **BARCELONA TENNIS SCHOOL**

### *Cradle of champions*

Barcelona prides itself on having played host to most of the world's top clay-court tennis players. The figures speak for themselves: Spain has been the best Davis Cup World Championship team over the past five years, which they won twice (2000 and 2004) on clay, and were also finalists (2003). Most of the players on these teams were from the Barcelona Tennis School (**Corretja, Balcells, Costa and Moyà**), which boasts the best clay-court facilities and top coaches in Spain, and some of the best in the world.

Players of the calibre of **Arantxa Sánchez Vicario** and **Conxita Martínez** or **Emilio Sanchez Vicario, Carles Moyà, Àlex Corretja, Sergi Bruguera, Albert Costa and Rafa Nadal**, are part of the world's tennis elite (they have won nine Grand Slams between them).



Arantxa Sánchez Vicario



Conxita Martínez



Emilio Sánchez Vicario



Àlex Corretja



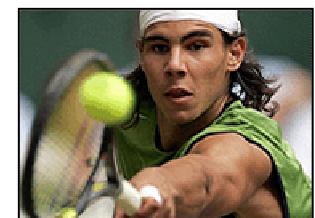
Carles Moyà



Sergi Bruguera



Albert Costa



Rafa Nadal

**Rafa Nadal**, who got his professional training at the Reial Club de Tennis de Barcelona, won four times Roland Garros (2005-2008), won Wimbledon in 2008 and was twice finalist in the same championship (2006-2007).

But its players have not only demonstrated their skills on clay, although it is their speciality, but have garnered success on other playing surfaces. Players such as **Carles Moyà** (ranked number one by the PTA, 15th March 1999), **Àlex Corretja** and **Arantxa Sanchez Vicario** have achieved major wins on fast-court surfaces: **Corretja** in the 1998 Masters, when he beat **Carles Moyà**, and **Arantxa Sanchez Vicario**, US Open champion in 1994, Wimbledon finalist in 1995 and 1996 and in the Australian Open in 1994 and 1995. She was also ranked first by the WITA on 6th February 1995.

The success continues with the new generations. The Barcelona Tennis School continues to be a hive of new young talent. In recent years, its players have taken part in the lower categories of a number of world, European, and Spanish championships.

The school has not just garnered present-day successes, but has also had them in the past. One player in particular embodies these successes: **Manuel Orantes** was a player at Barcelona's La Salut Tennis Club. He won the US Open in 1975 and the Masters in 1976. He was a finalist at Roland Garros in 1974.

On the occasion of the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, training centres were set up to train and perfect the techniques of sportsmen and women, and tennis players are an important part of this group. During these Olympics, which were declared the best Games ever, all the medals garnered in the tennis category were won by players who had trained at the Barcelona Tennis School: a true cradle of champions.

Barcelona also plays host to the Conde de Godó Trophy, Spain's most emblematic tennis tournament, as well as one of the top clay-court championships. It is organised by the Reial Club de Tennis de Barcelona ([www.rctb1899.es](http://www.rctb1899.es)), and this year will be held for the 52nd time. Every year it attracts a selection of the leading players from the circuit.

## **FERRAN ADRIÀ**

### *The Dalí of cuisine*



Today, Ferran Adrià (L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, 1962) is a universally acclaimed Barcelonian. A legend of Catalan cuisine, considered the Dalí of gastronomy and the representative of a new art form –cuisine– as an expression of intelligence and creativity: the apogee of culinary culture.

Ferran Adrià is the foremost exponent of signature cuisine based on his knowledge and mastery of classic cookery, and his unique ability to work towards hitherto unseen horizons and break with all preconceptions about the limitations of this speciality.

The culinary skills Adrià has developed, with a constantly moving innovative spirit that has brought with it new forms, has opened up unexpected horizons. His highly personal and unique quality dishes have elevated him, time and time again, to the rank of genius. His cuisine stands out due to his unique creations resulting from complex research, which take advantage of the seasonal resources of the region.

His sample dishes are creative delicacies that belong to a world of special flavours. With his ideas and recipes, Adrià is at the forefront of the so-called art-cuisine.

Ferran Adrià was born in 1962 in L'Hospitalet de Llobregat (Barcelona). After working in a number of restaurants washing dishes, his culinary talent soon became apparent. In 1984 he began working at the Barcelona restaurant Finisterre, and that same year he enrolled on a course at the restaurant El Bulli where he met Juli Soler, who was the manager at the time. Later, Soler appointed Adrià as chef. They shared a passion and respect for cooking, leading them to create a restaurant of distinction that would be different from the established norms and showcase their authentic, signature cuisine. With two Michelin stars under their belts, Soler and Adrià enthusiastically forged ahead with their project for an ever-evolving cuisine. In 1995 they set up El Bulli catering and El Bullitaller, a project for trying out new concepts, techniques and recipes based on ongoing research into products, combinations and tastes, with a view to featuring them on the menu at the restaurant El Bulli in Cala Montjoi, Roses. In 1997 Ferran Adrià became an adviser to a number of major quality brands, and brought with him an attitude that is constantly pushing boundaries, and a constant desire to bring his knowledge and expertise on board. In 1998 El Bulli was awarded its third Michelin star.



## JOAN MANUEL SERRAT

### *The rhapsodist of the spirit*



Today, Joan Manuel Serrat (Barcelona, 1943) is a universally acclaimed Barcelonian who has the same capacity for indignation, enthusiasm and hopefulness as he did years ago. Serrat is known as the *Noi del Poble Sec* (the boy from Poble Sec), after the neighbourhood where he was born, and has become the most famous Catalan singer in world, because of the love songs he sang at the beginning of his career and for his ideological commitment to the social struggle against General Franco's regime.

*El Nano* had his first guitar at the age of 16, and composed his first lyrics. After singing with the well-known group *Els setze jutges* (*The Sixteen Judges*), Serrat embarked on his solo career, and soon won widespread acclaim both at home and abroad.

From the time of the release of his famous song *Ahora que tengo veinte años* (*Now that I'm Twenty*), which won the 12th Gran Premio del Disco –the top record prize in Spain– in 1967, Serrat set his sights beyond Catalonia in order to give impetus to music in Catalan.

Gradually, his lyrics became known the world over and in 1968 he refused to represent Spain at the Eurovision Song Contest if he was not allowed to perform in his mother tongue, Catalan. The government of the time refused and *El Nano* had to look to other forms of expression outside the press, radio and television. During this time, Serrat appeared in a number of films.

Serrat's consummate mastery in expressing himself in Catalan and Spanish, and his ability to convey his equally profound lyrics, as well as his commitment to both languages, prompted him to try his luck in South America with a view to expanding his artistic horizons.

At the beginning of the seventies, Serrat set off on a series of tours of South America. It was there that he established a solid bond with all the countries on the continent, sharing in their powerlessness in the face of the dictatorial regimes that allowed no room for freedom.

In 1971, Serrat composed *Mediterráneo* (*Mediterranean*), the finest Spanish song of the past 50 years, a hymn to his sea as a cultural landmark, a masterly song that Serrat included on the LP of the same name, and which became the third best-selling LP in the history of Spanish popular music.

He later brought out an album featuring a number of poems by Antonio Machado. The record achieved unprecedented success and prompted Serrat to release his first single in Spanish: *El titiritero* (*The Puppeteer*) and *Poema de amor* (*Love Poem*).

In 1976, Barcelona welcomed him back with open arms, and from this time onwards, he embarked on a series of recitals and concerts, and also garnered many prizes for his fight for freedom and solidarity. That same year, Serrat performed for the first time at the Town Hall on New York's Broadway. During the eighties, Joan Manuel Serrat set to music the words of poets such as Alberti and Benedetti and sung in Portuguese on a record with Brazilian singers.

In 1984, one of Serrat's releases was *Ahora que hace veinte años que tengo veinte años* (*Now it's Twenty Years since I was Twenty*), a reference to the song he released in 1966. In 1989, the singer paid tribute to his hometown with *Barcelona y yo* (*Barcelona and Me*) and *Si no fuera por ti* (*If it wasn't for You*).

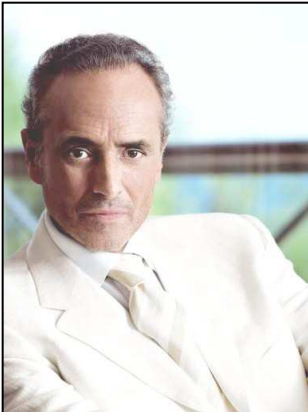
In 1995 he was awarded the Order of Civil Merit for his contribution to relations between Spain and South America. The following year, Serrat brought out his first anthology: *De un tiempo, de un país* (*Of a Time, Of a Country*).

In the year 2000, the *Noi del Poble Sec* released *Serrat-Tarrés, Cansiones*, a record featuring popular songs from Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia, Argentina, Chile, Puerto Rico, Uruguay and Cuba. Tarrés is Serrat spelt backwards and seems to represent the Catalan performer's alter ego, 37 years after his career began.

*El Nano* has been named Catalan of the Year for his role as a chronicler of a time, as an eminent personality in Catalan life, in recognition of his contribution to the musical imagery of several generations and to highlight the artistic value of his latest album *Serrat Sinfónico* (*Symphonic Serrat*), released in 2005.

## JOSEP CARRERAS

### *A song for hope*



The famous tenor was born in Barcelona (1946) and is known for the lyricism and purity of his voice. His participation in the Three Tenors concerts with Luciano Pavarotti and Plácido Domingo has brought him worldwide fame and made opera an attractive genre for millions of people.

Josep Carreras has carved out a place for himself among the leading tenors of his generation. He consolidated his success in the early eighties, when he became one of the key figures in the world's opera repertoire

He has sung Italian and German opera and has an extensive back catalogue of recordings.

He has specialised in operatic roles from the late nineteenth century, particularly in the veristic style, which consists of giving more realism to opera and eschewing vocal affectation.

He has performed at the world's top theatres and festivals and received many prizes and tributes, among which we highlight the gold medals of the New York Institute, the City of Barcelona, the Generalitat de Catalunya (Catalan government) and the Prince of Asturias Prize (1991). He has also been named UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

Since 1988, Josep Carreras has been the president of the Josep Carreras International Leukaemia Foundation ([www.fcarreras.es](http://www.fcarreras.es)), which has its headquarters in Barcelona and offices in the USA, Switzerland and Germany. The foundation is today, without a doubt, one of his main priorities (Fundació Internacional Josep Carreras - C/ Muntaner, 383 08021 Barcelona - Tel. (+34) 93 414 55 66).

Josep Carreras was born in Barcelona on 5th December 1946. He had a love of singing from a very young age, and this led him to perform small roles at Barcelona's opera House, the Liceu, where he made his debut in *Lucia de Lammermoor* in 1968. As a young man he performed at the world's greatest opera houses and festivals, including La Scala Milan, the New York Metropolitan Opera House, the San Francisco Opera, the Vienna Staatsoper, London's Royal Opera House, Munich Opera, Chicago's Lyric Opera, and the festivals in Salzburg, Aix en Provence, Edinburgh and Verona.

He has won many prizes and distinctions both at home and abroad: the Emmy of the US Academy of Television Arts and Sciences; the Grand Prix du Disque awarded by the Paris Academy; the Luigi Illica Prize; Grammy (1991); the Sir Lawrence Olivier Award; Honorary Member of the London Royal Academy of Music, among others.

In 1987, he was diagnosed with leukaemia and went to Seattle where he was admitted to the Fred Hutchinson Clinic. The following year he set up the Josep Carreras Foundation in Barcelona. In 1989 he resumed his singing career and the following year took part in the first of the Three Tenors' concerts on the occasion of the World Cup Final. In 1992 he was the musical director for the Barcelona Olympic Games. The record *Three Tenors Christmas* came out in the year 2000, the first Christmas record by the trio, which became a top seller around the world.

## MONTSERRAT CABALLÉ

### *The Catalan Maria Callas*



The Catalan soprano Montserrat Caballé (Barcelona, 1933) is a universally acclaimed Barcelonian who occupies a privileged position in the music world. The Catalan diva is one of the world's most famous singers, acclaimed for her superb vocal technique. Caballé has played over 80 operatic roles spanning the baroque period to the composers of the 19th and 20th centuries, such as Verdi, Wagner, Puccini and Strauss. With a her high-lying tessitura, Montserrat Caballé has performed on five continents and at many historic venues: the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, the Assembly Hall of the Kremlin, the White House in Washington and the Roman Theatre in Merida.

Montserrat Caballé, has one of the most beautiful voices of all time and an extraordinary breath control and ability to hold notes almost outside the parameters of the human voice. The *bel canto* singer is one of the foremost figures on the international opera scene and her trademarks have always been an exquisite pianissimo, and a commanding stage presence. Her virtuoso technique and perfect pitch have taken her and her unique style around the world, and she has won acclaim from a broad public.

Caballé has made over 100 recordings and sung duets with personalities such as Liza Minnelli, Joe Cocker, Tina Turner, Michael Jackson and Freddie Mercury, whom she teamed up with on the song *Barcelona*, her first foray into the world of pop and the hymn of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

The world-famous soprano continues to perform at the age of 72 and still enjoys amazing success on the stage. Another vitally important aspect of her career is her work in recovering long-forgotten operas, and reclaiming an amazing legacy of songs and arias ranging from the baroque period to 20th-century compositions and Spanish music.

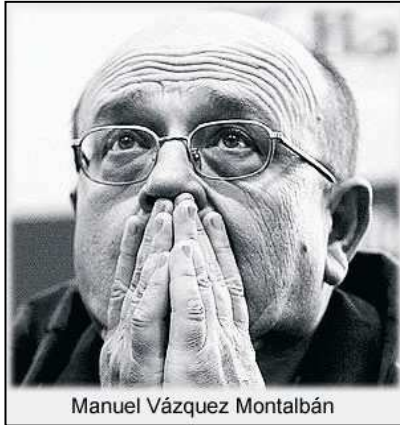
Montserrat Caballé's extensive repertoire, warmth and humanity have earned her plaudits from many institutions. She has received international awards and prizes such as the National Music Award, the Gold Medal of Merit for the Fine Arts and the Order of Isabella the Catholic. The French Ministry of Culture conferred on her the Knight of the Legion of Honour Medal in recognition of her talent and career, as well as other awards.

In spite of her modest beginnings, Montserrat Caballé was able to study at the Conservatorio Superior del Liceo de Barcelona. She later moved to Switzerland where she joined the company of the Basel Opera, which had a repertoire uncommon for the time and included operas such as Puccini's *La Bohème*. Later, at the Bremen Opera, Caballé specialised in *bel canto* and performed works of the stature of *Madame Butterfly*, *Don Giovanni* and *Arabella*. In 1962 she made her Barcelona debut at the Gran Teatre del Liceu, and in 1965 she stood in for Marilyn Horne at New York's Carnegie Hall, in Donizetti's opera *Lucrezia Borgia*, where she was applauded by the public for 25 minutes. The culmination of this applause came the next day, when the critics hailed Caballé as a combination of Maria Callas and Renata Tebaldi.

In 1992, following a number of years of hectic activity, performing a vast repertoire of work, ill-health forced her to retire. After a ten-year absence from the stage, the great *bel canto* singer has taken up performing again and often takes part in concerts for humanitarian causes. The cinema has also looked at the singer's career. The documentary *Caballé Beyond Music* reveals the artistic and warm human side of the widely acclaimed Montserrat Caballé.

## PEPE CARVALHO

### *The most popular detective in Spanish literature*



Manuel Vázquez Montalbán

The immortal detective Pepe Carvalho (Barcelona, 1972) is a universally acclaimed Barcelonian who remains alive after the death of his creator, the writer Manuel Vázquez Montalbán. The most popular detective in Spanish literature first appeared in 1972 with the publication of the novel '*Yo maté a Kennedy*' (*I Killed Kennedy*) and since then he has featured in some 22 novels.

Carvalho is a pleasure-seeking detective who combines tragic realism and social critique. His character has made the transition from book to the big screen, where he has been portrayed on several occasions by different actors.

Pepe Carvalho, the famous private eye who revolutionised the crime novel in Spain, is an idiosyncratic Galician, an ironic, cynical, *bon viveur* who lives in Barcelona. A provincial Barcelona in the throes of modernisation brings together the necessary contradictions to provide the right backdrop for policemen, private detectives and neighbourhood criminals.

Carvalho, the impossible detective, is the offspring of the Raval –formerly one of Barcelona’s poorest neighbourhoods–, of social marginalisation, and another reality, his house in the leafy suburb of Vallvidrera to the north of the city, which he combines with his office on the city’s main boulevard, La Rambla.

Carvalho is a representative of the subgenre of the crime novel that has associations with newspaper reports and a social narrative which rails against the inconsistencies, injustices and chakras of the current political and economic system. The idiosyncratic Pepe Carvalho was a CIA agent who began his working life as a bodyguard for J.F. Kennedy and ended up as a member of the Catalan government. He is a voyeuristic observer of our society, with a sarcastic sense of humour and a nostalgia for his left-wing past as a grassroots member of the communist party. Carvalho is certainly a morally ambiguous character who solves his cases in his free time.

The sceptical Carvalho always accepts work from whoever pays him, but he never loses his ability for independent judgement, a virtue that enables him to scrutinise Spanish society in a critical way by portraying contrasting groups such as liberal intellectuals on the one hand, and transvestites, homosexuals and prostitutes on the other. A series of crime stories that talk about us with ideological suspicion and historical intent.

The most humane of all detectives is also a gourmet of refined taste, with a wide knowledge of gastronomy, who likes eating well, a common trait among Mediterranean crime writers.

As a tribute to the detective, every Saturday you can relive the *Barcelonas of Carvalho* on a tour of scenes from Vázquez Montalbán's literary universe, led by a storyteller and three actors who re-enact scenes from his novels. The tour involves a hunt for clues in order to solve a mystery, as well as a number of stories and characters that have contributed to the sentimental education of several generations of readers.