

Born in 1955 in Barcelona, where he studied at the *Llotja School of Art and Design* and at the *Sant Jordi School of Fine Arts*.

Since 1980, the year of his first exhibition in Barcelona, he has lived and worked in Berlin, Brussels, England, France and the United States, currently resides and works in Barcelona.

He has been a teacher at the *École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts* in Paris and regularly cooperates with the *School of the Art Institute of Chicago* as a guest professor. He has also given many lectures and courses at other universities, museums and cultural institutions around the world.

Jaume Plensa has received numerous national and international awards, including the *Medaille de Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres*, awarded by the French Ministry of Culture, in 1993, and the Government of *Catalonia's National Prize for Fine Art* in 1997. In 2005, he was invested *Doctor Honoris Causa* by the *School of the Art Institute of Chicago*. In Spain, he received the *National Prize for Fine Art* in 2012 and the prestigious *Velázquez Prize for the Arts* in 2013.

Plensa regularly shows his work at galleries and museums in Europe, the United States and Asia. The landmark exhibitions in his career include the one organized at the *Fundació Joan Miró* in Barcelona in 1996, which traveled to the *Galerie nationale du Jeu de Paume* in Paris and the *Malmö Konsthall* in Malmö (Sweden) the following year. In Germany, several museums have staged exhibitions of his work. These include *Love Sounds* at the *Kestner Gesellschaft* in Hannover in 1999, *The Secret Heart*, which was shown at three museums in the city of Augsburg in 2014 and *Die Innere Sicht* at the *Max Ernst Museum*, in Brühl in 2016. During 2015 and 2016 the exhibition *Human Landscape* has traveled through several North American museums: *Cheekwood Estate and Gardens* and *The Frist Center for the Visual Arts* in Nashville, TN, the *Tampa Museum of Art* in Tampa, FL and the *Toledo Museum of Art* in Toledo, OH. His latest museum exhibitions have been in 2017 at the *MAMC–Musée d'art moderne et contemporain Saint-Étienne Métropole*, France and *Talking Continents* at the *MMoCA–Madison Museum of Contemporary Art*, Madison, WI, USA.

In Madrid, Plensa received particular acclaim for the exhibition *Chaos-Saliva*, which opened in 2000 at the *Palacio de Velázquez – Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía*.

In the United States, where Plensa has worked and exhibited for nearly three decades, his works have been shown at many art galleries and museums. Amongst his most outstanding exhibitions was that organized at the *Nasher Sculpture Center* in Dallas.

In 2011, a large selection of Plensa's sculptures has been exhibited at the *Yorkshire Sculpture Park* in West Bretton, England. The extensive exhibition was shown in the galleries and in the park. Thanks to this exhibition, the site received national recognition as *The Most Magnificent Attraction* in 2011. To date, this has been one of the most complete shows ever devoted to the work of Jaume Plensa.

A very significant part of Plensa's work is in the field of sculpture in the public space. Installed in several cities in Spain, France, Japan, England, Korea, Germany, Canada, USA, etc.,

*The Crown Fountain*, which was unveiled in Chicago's *Millennium Park* in 2004, is one of Plensa's largest projects and, without doubt, one of the most brilliant. The work led to many commissions, adding to the list of works by Jaume Plensa in public spaces, right up to the most recent, *Source* (2017) in Montreal, Canada, *Bangkok Soul* (2017) in Bangkok, Thailand and *Love* (2017) in Leeuwarden, Netherlands.

Jaume Plensa has won many prizes and citations, including the *Marsh Award for Excellence in Public Sculpture*, which the artist received in London in 2009 for his work *Dream. With Together*, Collateral Event of the 56th Venice Biennale, Basilica San Giorgio Maggiore, Jaume Plensa obtained the Global Fine Art Award for the Best Public Outdoor Installation in 2015.

Defender of the graphic artwork from the beginning, he did many exhibitions dedicated to graphic arts and editions. Highlighting the retrospectives at the *Musée des Beaux Arts de Caen* (France) and the *Centre de la Gravure et de l'Image imprimée La Louvière* (Belgium) in 2006. In 2013 he received the *National Graphic Arts Award* granted by the *Calcografía Nacional* in Madrid.

From 1996 to 2008 he collaborated on many projects for theatre and opera, especially with the company *La Fura dels Baus*, working the concept and designing sets and costumes.

He is preparing two exhibitions for autumn 2018, at the *Palacio de Cristal-Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía* in Madrid and at the *MACBA–Museu d'Art Contemporani* in Barcelona.

Jaume Plensa's work can be seen regularly at the *Galerie Lelong & Co.* in Paris and New York, and the *Richard Gray Gallery* in Chicago and New York.