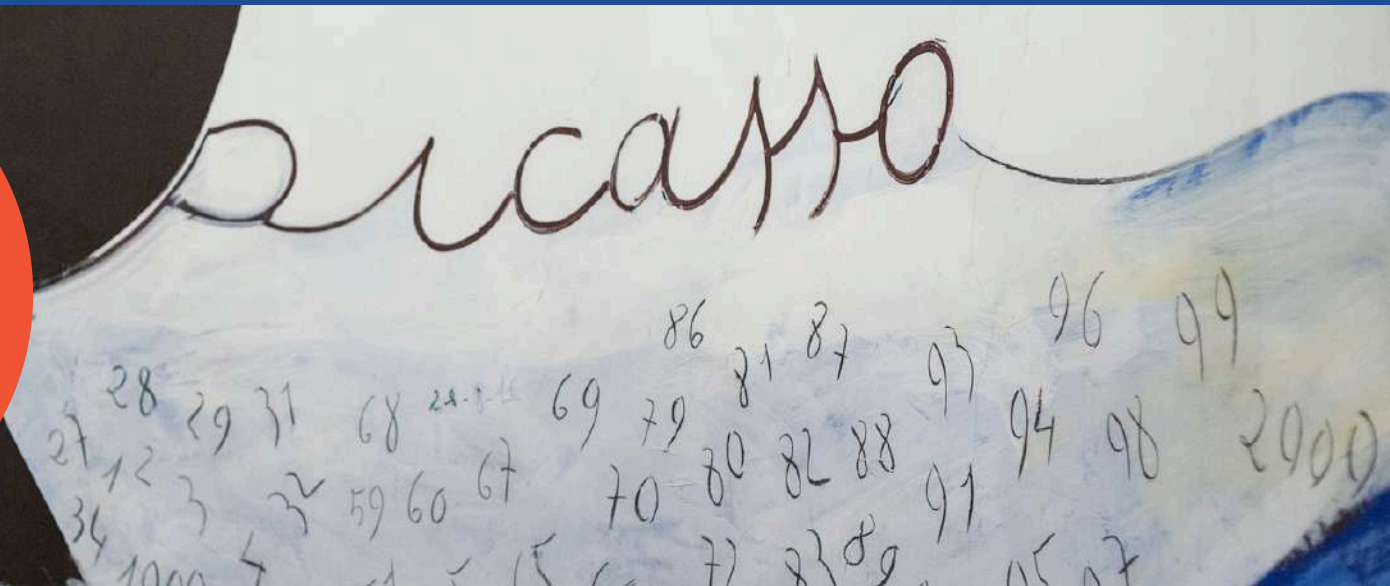




Torre Blava
Espai Guinovart

ART



CRAFTS



SEA

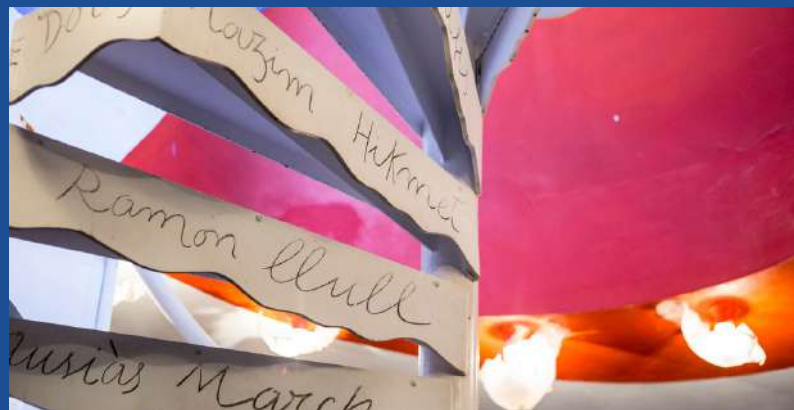


The **Ribes Roges Tower** was built in the final third of the 19th century and is the only one still standing of the three that formed part of the last fortified enclosure of the Vilanova marina. These three towers – Ribes Roges, Torrent de la Piera and Sant Cristòfol – were connected by a palisade of stakes designed to protect the Marina or Baix a Mar neighbourhood from possible attacks by sea or land.



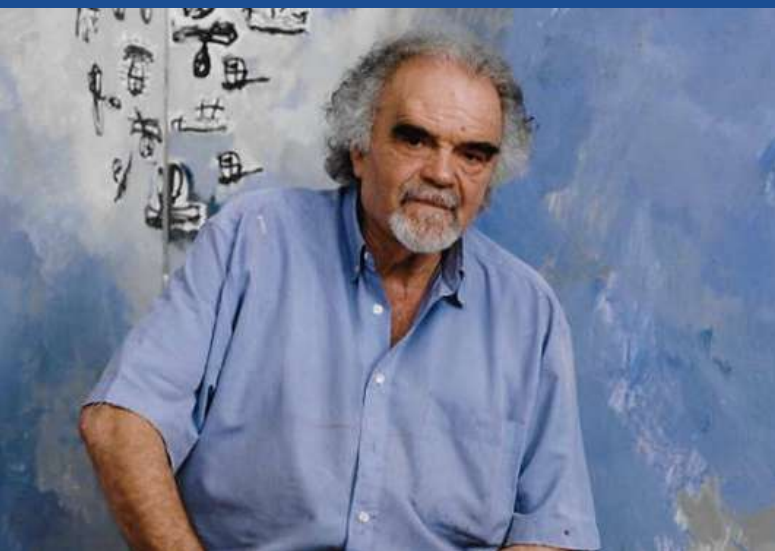
In the early 20th century, a series of outbuildings were added to the tower, transforming it into a seaside spa and a place for leisure. The proximity of the sea – which in the past came much closer to the tower than it does today – made it possible to stage the opera *Marina* there, in which the tenor arrived on stage in a small boat. Later, it served a variety of other purposes – from a café-restaurant to a tourist information office. In 2000, the artist Josep Guinovart transformed it into the Torre Blava, a space paying homage to the Mediterranean Sea and its people.

On the **ground floor** of the Torre Blava, we find a series of motifs – both real and imaginary – which, for Guinovart, represent the epic memory of the sea. Pirates, shipwrecks and legends set along the Garraf coast, preserved in popular memory and reimagined by the artist: the pirate with the fig-wood crutch, the tragic Any dels Negats (in Catalan, Year of the Drowned, 1886) and the crime at the Mala Dona crossing are the three central themes on this floor. The sgraffito floor, decorated with maritime motifs, evokes the seabed.



On the **first floor** we find one of the most evocative spaces: a mirror maze where the visitor may be observed and, at the same time, can observe how they are observed. At the centre of this labyrinth is an unreachable well with no bottom or ceiling, filled with ropes and knots associated with the trades of sailors and fishermen. At the far end, a lighthouse beckons us to continue the ascent.

The **second floor** is dedicated to artists for whom the sea has been a source of inspiration. Names of world-renowned painters, musicians and writers such as Dalí, Matisse and Picasso appear alongside local artists such as Ricart and Cardona Torrandell. Finally, a spiral staircase leads to the **roof terrace**, from where you can admire the maritime façade of Vilanova i la Geltrú and, in the distance towards Barcelona, the Sant Cristòfol lighthouse. The tower is crowned with a ship-shaped weathervane engraved with constellations.



Josep Guinovart (Barcelona, 1927–2007) studied art at the Escola d'Arts i Oficis de la Llotja in Barcelona and continued his training at other institutions in Barcelona and Paris. He is considered one of the foremost exponents of the Informalist movement. His career was marked by a varied artistic output, including painting, sculpture, drawing, murals, book illustrations, theatrical sets, and more. These works are now held in major museums around the world. Complementing the Torre Blava in Vilanova i la Geltrú, Guinovart also created an installation dedicated to the land, located in the town of Agramunt (Lleida).

Torre Blava - Espai Guinovart
Passeig de Ribes Roges, s/n
08800 Vilanova i la Geltrú (Barcelona)

Opening hours

From the second week of June to the
second week of September:
Saturdays and Sundays, 6 pm to 9 pm

For other opening times, please check:
www.museusdevilanova.cat.