

FADRINES

THE EXHIBITION
& THE WEBDOC



IS LIFE JUST GETTING MARRIED?

This is how the project *Fadrines** is explained.

Fadrines explores resistances.

Resistances to a norm: getting married and having children; resistance to stereotypes, applied to silence those women who have acted on the sidelines, out of line, outside the established framework.

Fadrines shows trajectories of unmarried women. This is, variations of ways of being and living away from the dominant patterns.

The plurality of forms that a life can take, despite the narrow parameters of the social imaginary. All of that combines in this exhibition.

Fadrines is a tribute to those intuitive feminists, who said no to a marriage based on legitimized inequality.

It is also a recognition of those others for whom poverty was not an option, but an imposition against their wishes.

Fadrines is a challenge to the forms of feminine non-existence.

We invite you to a journey through which we have travelled along with the women interviewed. A journey from stereotype to fullness.

**Fadrines* means unmarried

**A FEW ASKY LOOKS
A CLOUD OF REJECTION**

deficient

selfish



lonely

mistaken

sterile



devalued

incomplete

failed

denatured



deviated

frivolous

unfortunate



AND POPULAR SAYINGS...

Woman without man, buttonhole without button.

A spinster who is over thirty, bursting with rage.

Singleness: lightness and blessing.



The word yoke, in its different meanings, has the meaning of union and subjection, but also of submission and oppression. Yoke is the instrument to bind animals in a joint from which they cannot break free, held to drag the plow or cart.

Yoke is also the veil with which the spouses were covered during the nuptial mass, placing it on the shoulders of the man and on the head of the woman, as a symbol of an indissoluble bond. Yoke is, presented here, a metaphor for one of the consequences of marriage.

Márquez Lambán Collection and Manel Montal Collection
L'ETNO photographic archive

THIS ONE WILL BE FOR OLD AGE

**Revalidating oneself
over others is an attack
on the construction
of gender.**

Soledad Murillo



Spinsterhood as an unavoidable obligation. The impossibility of marriage due to fates programmed by the woman's relatives, subsequent circumstances (absence of a mother, relatives' illnesses, orphanhood) or affective disagreements. Top success in the conformation of "being for the others", because of a premeditated and reserved duty from the outside, due to a self-imposed internal abnegation or because of the assumption of a supernatural fate.



Viridiana, 1961 by Luis Buñuel
Illustration by Nuria Ríaza from frame

**In the house where
an unmarried woman is,
webs aren't spun.**

**Those who have unmarried
daughters die rich.**

**Dramatization
of experiences
of being single**



"They didn't let me get married
because they wanted me to
take care of them"

UNLEASHED BEAST

**If you aim for a husband with
no faults, you have to be ready
to be left on the shelf.**

**Better to be left on the shelf
and dress in saints' clothes
than to undress drunks.**



Spinsterhood as a space of joy and freedom. Women that abandon the norm of marriage and progeny; that do not admit boundaries made to enclose or restrict their movements. Women that, consciously, run away from the feminine domesticity, strategically use excuses (ugliness, work...) to disguise the intimal reasons behind their spinsterhood. Self-representations without guilt or remorse put these unmarried women in the sphere of independence.



Ilgie Threadgoode in *Fried Green Tomatoes*, 1991 by Jon Avnet
Illustration by Nuria Riaz from frame

**Single loose, loose;
married prison, prison.**

**Dramatization
of experiences
of being single**



"I don't want to get
married; I want to be free,
I want to go on my own"

WELL FED AND WELL KEPT

**Francoist Civil Code (Art. 59):
the husband is the administrator
and beneficial owner
of all belongings of
the conjugal community.**



**When a woman has money,
the husband isn't needed.**

Spinsterhood as luxury. When the woman's condition was auto-sufficient economically, either because of her own, inherited or other type of income, singleness was presented as a fair-enough option. This is how spinsterhood was seen legally attractive, comfortable and convenient for the feminine condition. Romantic, religious or class reasons stand at a crossroads of unmarried life lived as a resource.



Lara Croft in Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life, 2003 by Jan de Bont
Illustration by Nuria Rianza from frame

**To be married and eat badly,
it's better to stay single.**

**For the kings there are
princesses, for the peasants,
peasants.**

**Dramatization
of experiences
of being single**



**"If I'd found
something
that suited..."**

IT WOULD NEVER SUIT ME

**Woman, the love that is
asked of you is not of
reciprocal pleasure,
but the compliance
of a vassalage.**

Maria Aurèlia Capmany



Spinsterhood as a two-way state between regret of not having descendants and well-being attributed to the decision of not marrying. Women that are openly uninterested in men, where fears (of sex, marriage, serfdom) along with guilt over not obeying the norm, but also the firm decisions or free will, aside from illness conditions, draw a universe of spinsterhood alternative to marriage, laden with nuances.



Mary Poppins, 1964 by Robert Stevenson
Illustration by Nuria Ríaza from frame

**Mother, what is
getting married?
Daughter, it's suffering,
giving birth and crying.**

**Dramatization
of experiences
of being single**



"I didn't fancy men"

FADRINES: THE WEBDOC

FADRINES. IS LIFE JUST GETTING MARRIED?

It is an interactive documentary.

You will find films, animated photographs, illustrations and voices of single women: the protagonists.

Women who did not meet the standard to get married and have children.

Women who were criticized, admired, denied, pitied or envied. They will tell you.

Sit back and enjoy.

Grab a tablet and browse.

You don't have a single viewing direction.

You can go back and forth, interrupt or enjoy.

Let yourself go.

fadrines.dival.es



Trailer:

Fadrines. Is life just getting married?



Video:

Fadrines. Is life just getting married?



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Fadrines is a museographic representation of the book Fadrines, el procés de no casar-se en la societat tradicional valenciana, by Raquel Ferrero and Clara Colomina.

Fadrines is a L'ETNO exhibition in which the following have participated:

Isabel Álvarez and Raquel Ferrero in the curatorship.

Kumi Furió and Rosa Bou in design.

Arlette Olaerts in photography.

Nuria Riaza in the illustrations.

La Zafirina in the dramatization.

Bressol productions in the webdoc.

Fadrines is a traveling exhibition.
If you want to see it in your town
or city, contact us: 963883608
or write us an email:
letno@dival.es

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Opening times
Tuesday to Sunday 10.00-20.00



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PREMI EMYA
MUSEU EUROPEU
DE L'ANY 2023

