

## A soft change

Fernando Ramos Arenas

The present issue of *Anales de Historia del Arte* comes with some significant changes. Early this year, a new editorial team took over the direction of the journal, intending to continue the transformation initiated in 2017 by Eva Fernández del Campo (as director) and Laura Rodríguez Peinado (as secretary). The new team approaches this task in the spirit of a *soft change* that seeks to strengthen some of the values that are already in the DNA of the journal. These are also values that we consider essential in order to make valuable contributions to the current debates in our discipline. We would thus like to delve deeper into the international profile of *Anales de Historia del Arte*, to keep encouraging innovative approaches connecting different eras and areas of our discipline, and also to put the spotlight on debates from other disciplines adjacent to Art History and Visual Culture.

The present volume clearly reflects these ambitions. It also presents another novelty, as it has been edited by a researcher external to the journal. This kind of collaboration will, we believe, help *Anales* to connect to contemporary debates, and we would like to repeat it in the coming years. In this case, professor Henar Rivière has taken over the editorship of a dossier dedicated to the Archive, in which the productive relationship between archive and art and its historiography is being discussed in seventeen research articles. As an introduction to those texts, the dossier also offers the translation of a text by one of the most stimulating contemporary authors in this field of research, Knut Ebeling from the Weißensee Academy of Art Berlin, as well as a conversation between the artist, curator and editor Pedro G. Romero, and Aurora Fernández Polanco, professor at Complutense University in Madrid. These texts will be presented in detail in the proper introduction to the dossier; based on a wide array of case studies, they reflect different approaches to the subject of art and the archive, and they explore different theoretical and methodological perspectives.

The new editorial team, represented by the board members, Iñaki Estella as secretary and me as director of the journal, proposes for the next issue (2023) a monographic issue that will bear the title *Born under Saturn*. It will be dedicated to the artist's image and with it *Anales* would like to encourage an open discussion of the role of the author in Art History, from the tradition of biographies –including the rediscovery of forgotten female artists–, to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in which the image of the artist is central to his/her work (whether through its exaggerated circulation or through its assertive negation, which in many occasions turns out to function as a form of indirect reaffirmation). In 2024, the journal will focus its attention on the relationship between History of Art and Narration, and especially on three approaches to this subject. The first approach is related to Art History's narrative quality, but also

to its role as a discursive field open to counter-narratives or alternative narratives. The second is associated to the inherent narrative of some art forms, for instance of most western painting up until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, of cinema or of net.art. And, finally, the third contemporary variation confronts, intertwines, or relates narrative to historical facts, usually from a postmodern perspective.

The *soft change* mentioned above implies also keeping the actual structure of the journal, its annual periodicity and its organization around monographic issues. We believe that these characteristics have been crucial to improve the quality of the journal, as some recent recognition has shown: In 2021, *Anales* obtained the Spanish FECYT Seal of Quality in recognition of scientific and publishing quality and is now indexed by Scopus. At the same time, we are also introducing some modifications in the internal work processes that will facilitate the exchange with the authors and improve the readers' experience by offering more information and better access to the contents. All relevant information on the journal can be found on the website, especially that related to the changes made in the Editorial and Advisory Board: these bodies usually work at their own rhythm, different to that of a journal published once a year. In this regard we would like to welcome on board the new incorporations and especially thank the outgoing members, whose engagement has been central in securing the achievements of the last years.

Now we would like to invite you to discover and enjoy this volume of *Anales de Historia del Arte* dedicated to the Archive, the first in this new era of the journal. We hope you will enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed creating it.