

el Periòdic News

CULTURE

The price of recovering cultural property: 820,800 euros per square meter

In 2008, the Bosch Garcia-Bravo family reached a sale agreement for 3.8 million euros.

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Andorra recovers part of its cultural heritage. This is the latest news in cultural terms that has been known recently. The news has been received by many as a starting point for the Principality to own its cultural assets once again. Last Thursday it was announced that Andorra will recover the Romanesque frescoes from the church of Sant Esteve in Andorra la Vella. Some paintings that the Government has bought from the brothers Juanjo and Enriqueta Bosch Garcia-Bravo for a value of 2.75 million euros. This was announced by the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, and the Minister of Culture, Mònica Bonell, at an event in Santa Coloma in which Espot affirmed that «Romanesque paintings remind us that we have a long history, that go back to us to the past, but they give us a perspective of the past, the present and the future».

THE SECOND ATTEMPT TO PURCHASE // In 2008, the Executive, which was under the mandate of Albert Pintat (2006-2009/ Liberal Party of Andorra) tried to recover the works, from the hand of the Minister of Culture, Juli Minoves, but the lack of «support, due to not having a parliamentary majority, to request the extraordinary credit», watered down the possibility of acquiring the frescoes valued at 3.8 million euros,



El cap de Govern, Xavier Espot, i la ministra de Cultura, Mònica Bonell, durant la roda de premsa, el passat dijous.

according to the result of the expert appraisal. Now, 17 years later, ex-minister Minoves has told EL PERIÒDIC that he is «happy and satisfied that contacts have been resumed, a good price has been negotiated for these frescoes to return to Andorra», since «in later we learned that the Bosch family owned these paintings. We did the appraisal, and an agreement was made, but it was a time of economic crisis, in addition to the fact that the Council did not have a majority for the Government and we did not have the necessary votes to buy them».

APPRAISAL // The frescoes of ‘The



JULI MINOVES

FORMER MINISTER OF CULTURE

«I am very happy and satisfied that contacts have been resumed and a good price has been negotiated for these frescoes to return to Andorra»

«The last major (art) price fluctuations have been more about contemporary artists»

Kiss of Judas’ and ‘The Flagellation of Christ’, of which the author is unknown, measure 242 centimeters wide and 203 centimeters high, and 165 centimeters by 203 height, respectively. In addition, some experts have pointed out that the fresco-

es could be from the end of the 12th century, but that they were sold in 1930 to a Catalan family, at which time the traces of the works were lost. Thus, taking into account the value of the two paintings and the sizes (starting from the total cost), the va-

GOVERN D'ANDORRA



lue per square meter of the paintings 'The Kiss of Judas' and 'The Flagellation of Christ' amounts to impressive figures. The first painting, with a price of 557,900 euros per square meter, stands out for its meticulous representation of 'The Kiss of Judas'. The

painting of 'The flagellation of Christ' has an even more remarkable value, with 820,800 euros per square meter. With regard to the difference in valuation from 2008 to this year, the former minister argued that «experts are the technicians who set the pri-

ces. From here, as it is a two-way negotiation, that there is no auction, the experts draw the line. The expert's report of 20 years ago may not be the same.» Finally, Minoves said that «the last major price fluctuations have been more about contemporary

artists». A question that would explain the drop in the price of frescoes.

The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, and the Minister of Culture, Mònica Bonell, during the press conference, last Thursday. ●

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