

FRANCESCA LLOPIS PLANAS

→ Barcelona, 1956



Title: Rosae Cranium

Year: 2003

Technique: Mixed media on canvas

Measure: 200 x 200 cm

Location: Can Framis Museum

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FUNDACIÓ
VILA CASAS

This artwork, entitled **Rosae Cranium** (Rose cranium), was made by the artist Francesca Llopis in 2014.



Her artworks are like CRYPTOGRAPHIES (messages written in a secret code), metaphors in short phrases and concepts that remain open and nothing is closed: an art that needs the participation of the observer.

The artist uses the idea of the **labyrinth as a space of loss and searching**, where the loneliness of human beings is revealed and which becomes a metaphor for life. She likes to create traps for the observer, to create and provoke a **contemplative state**, which is a feature related to painting. She uses her works to place the individual facing the immensity of what we ourselves create.



The colours and shapes often make us think of objects, spaces or memories. In this painting, at first glance we see a **rose** because of the red colour and the spiral shape. But if we look closer, Francesca Llopis has added several layers of paint over the course of ten years. She has made an indent with her hand straight onto the canvas using a darker-toned acrylic paint and, years later, she has added a second layer of red paint, with an abstract and labyrinth-like rose on it, akin to a skull.

The title of the artwork, Rosae Cranium, gives us more information; it is Latin meaning Rose cranium. Now notice how the painting is composed, using the two elements. Follow the concentric lines of the rose, **and it ends up becoming a skull**.



Materials: Now it is your turn! You could create an artwork by **using different layers of drawings or written messages overlaid on different supports**. For example, on an A4 piece of coloured card, draw or write something you desire, and then, on top of it, you can superimpose another drawing made with a black marker pen on a sheet of acetate or transparent parchment paper. There you have it! That is how you create your work of art using different layers, like the bark of a tree.