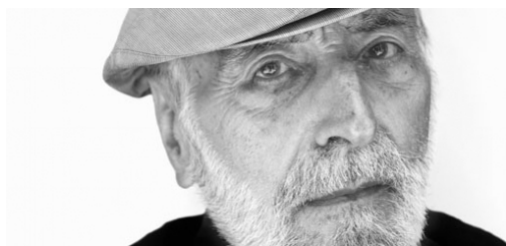


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< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/josep-palau-i-fabre> >

## Josep Palau i Fabre



### Josep Palau i Fabre

(Nou diccionari 62 de la literatura catalana)

Josep Palau i Fabre is one of the last representatives of a generation that includes such writers as Joan Brossa and Joan Perucho. Poetry is at the core of Palau's work

although he moves beyond it as a writer and cultural activist. He fought with the Republicans in the Civil War and would later become deeply involved with the reviews *Poesia* and *Ariel*. After this he lived in Paris for sixteen years during which time he was in frequent contact with Antonin Artaud, Octavio Paz and Pablo Picasso. Besides his work as a translator and essayist, Palau has also written theatre. He is considered to be one of the world's leading experts on Picasso.

Josep Palau i Fabre was born in Barcelona in 1917 into a family that moved in the art milieu (his father was a painter and decorator). Besides being a poet, playwright, short-story writer and essayist, he has written a great deal about painting and, in particular about Pablo Picasso with more than fifteen books analysing and commenting on the painter's work (some translated into more than ten languages). Notable among them are *Doble assaig sobre Picasso* (Double Essay on Picasso - 1964), *El Guernika de Picasso* (*Picasso's Guernica* - 1979) and *Picasso cubisme* (*Picasso Cubism: 1907 - 1917 - 1990*).

It was towards the end of the nineteen thirties that Palau i Fabre began his literary career by writing poetry. During the difficult years of the Civil War he felt the need to consolidate, through writing, an inner space that would be capable of providing composure, understanding and protection against the events of the outside world. He studied Arts in the early 1940s and was a committed activist in the recovery of literary and cultural activities under the Franco regime. He was director of the clandestine review *Poesia* (1944-45) and was the driving force behind the publishing house "La sirena", which brought out, among other works, books by [Salvador Espriu](#). He was subsequently one of the founders of the literary review *Ariel* (1946-1951). In 1945 a French Government scholarship enabled Palau i Fabre to move to Paris. The stay, which was to have been for two years, extended until the 1960s. Once the scholarship period had expired, he voluntarily gave up his Spanish citizenship in order to be classified as a political refugee. Paris would become the true university of the poet-chemist and there he would be in contact with a wide range of artists and writers, from Artaud to Octavio Paz and from Camus to Picasso.

Publication of his poetry began in 1943 with *Balades amargues* (Bitter Ballads) and, one year later, under a false imprint, *L'aprenent de poeta* (The Poet's Apprentice). These two books would be followed by *Imitació de Rosselló-Pòrcel* (Imitation of Rosselló-Pòrcel - 1945) and *Càncer* (Cancer - 1946). In a reworked form and with the addition of other unpublished texts, all of these works would later be brought together in the volume *Poemes de l'Alquimista* (Poems of the Alchemist - 1952). In its subsequent editions this book would have an Introduction and some final comments at the end where Palau i Fabre elaborates on the texts, explaining their origins and discussing the particularities of their literary stimuli. The final result is a remarkable, singular book, fruit of an integration of poems with their particular exegeses along with prose passages that are decidedly poetic.

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< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/josep-palau-i-fabre> >

After the poetry came the plays: *La tragèdia de Don Joan* (The Tragedy of Don Juan - 1951), *Don Joan als inferns* (Don Juan in Hell - 1952), *Esquelet de Don Joan* (Don Juan's Skeleton - 1954) are some of the titles of the "Don Juan" cycle. Through this literary character, Palau i Fabre airs his rejoinder to a puritanical and repressive society while also dealing directly with amorous matters. With titles such as *Mots de ritual per a Electra* (Ritual Words for Electra - 1958), *La caverna* (The Cave - 1969), *Homenatge a Picasso* (In Homage to Picasso - 1971) -all of them published in one volume, *Teatre* (Theatre - 1976)- he continued writing for the theatre, completing the array of plays with *Avui Romeo i Julieta* (Today, Romeo and Juliet - 1986) and *L'Alfa Romeo i Julieta i altres obres* (Alfa Romeo and Juliet and Other Works - 1991). Palau i Fabre also wrote books of theoretical reflections on the theatre: *La tragèdia o el llenguatge de la llibertat* (Tragedy or the Language of Freedom - 1961) and *El mirall embruixat* (The Enchanted Mirror - 1962), two small studies of the genre in which he reveals his preference for modern theatre and especially a dramatic tempo that is marked by synthesis and brevity ("spasm-theatre"). Some years later he published *Antonin Artaud i la revolta del teatre modern* (Antonin Artaud and the Revolt of Modern Theatre - 1976), an approximation to one of the key figures among his intellectual and artistic references.

He has also written short stories and published the collections *Contes despallats* (Bare Tales - 1982), *La tesi doctoral del diable* (The Devil's Doctoral Thesis - 1983), *Amb noms de dona* (With the Names of a Woman - 1988), *Un saló que camina* (A Walking Show - 1991) all of which, with a number of unpublished stories, were published together in the volume *Contes de capçalera* (Bedside Stories - 1993). After this came *La metamorfosi d'Ovídia i altres contes* (The Metamorphosis of Ovid and Other Stories - 1996). His fictional universe draws on eroticism, revealing a standpoint that takes into account dimensions other than those of the standard perception of reality and quite harshly criticising the precepts of self-satisfied, mediocre society.

Apart from his research on Picasso, he has published several other collections of essays, which were subsequently collected in one volume under the title of *Quaderns de l'alquimista* (The Alchemist's Notebooks - 1997), the first group of which had appeared in 1976. The alchemist's essay explores paths related with the word, modern art, the intellectual and his or her country, while also celebrating along the way different figures -from [Ramon Llull](#) to Picasso- in a universe that he would wish was in tune with the assumptions of the "alchemist's" viewpoint, which is to say beyond the bounds and rules of conventional thinking and where attention to the irrational side of the individual and the chanciness of existence is essential. "Alchemy" is a "method" that unifies all Palau i Fabre's poetic and ideological suppositions throughout the entirety of his work. He has also translated Rimbaud's *Les Illuminations* (Illuminations) and *Une Saison en Enfer* (A Season in Hell), published as one volume in 1966, as well as writings of Artaud in *Versions d'Antonin Artaud* (Versions of Antonin Artaud - 1977), both poets having had a crucial influence in Palau i Fabre's world view. Among the prose works he translated are *Cartes d'amor de Marianna Alcoforado (la monja portuguesa)* (Letters of a Portuguese Nun - 1986) and Balzac's *Le chef-d'oeuvre inconnu* (The Unknown Masterpiece - 1986). Besides the precision and poetic feel of his translations, Palau i Fabre also offers small essays (in prologues and notes) on the works and authors he has translated.

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## A selection of texts

### Text

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< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/josep-palau-i-fabre> >



**WEB: Magisteri Teatre-Mag Poesia**

Pàgina amb molts poemes i informació sobre muntatges teatrals i el recital "i la sang se'ns ha tornat quatre vegades vermella".

<http://www.mallorcaweb.com/Mag-Teatre/palau/index.html>



**WEB: Selecció de Poesia Catalana**

Quatre poemes: "Jo em donaria a qui em volgués", "La sabata", "Poeta-Narcís" i "Paradís atroç". El segon i el tercer, també en anglès.

<http://www.uoc.edu/lletra/especials/folch/palaufab.htm>



**WEB: Selecció de poemes**

Tres poemes de l'autor al web *Viu la poesia*.

[http://www.viulapoesia.com/membrespocio/arxiu/lletra/jpalauifabre\\_index\\_poemes.html](http://www.viulapoesia.com/membrespocio/arxiu/lletra/jpalauifabre_index_poemes.html)



**WEB: Magisteri Teatre-Mag Poesia**

A page with a lot of poems and information about Palau's works for the stage as well as images from a recital of "i la sang se'ns ha tornat quatre vegades vermella" (and the blood has been returned to us four times red).

<http://www.mallorcaweb.com/Mag-Teatre/palau/index.html>



**WEB: Selection of Catalan Poetry**

Four poems: "Jo em donaria a qui em volgués" [I'd Give Myself to Whoever Wanted Me], "La sabata" [The Shoe], "Poeta-Narcís" [Poet-Narcissus] and "Paradís atroç" [Atrocious Paradise]. The second and third of these poems are also offered in English translation.

<http://www.uoc.edu/lletra/especials/folch/palaufab.htm>



**WEB: Josep Palau i Fabre**

Two poems in Catalan, German and English.

[http://www.escriptors.cat/autors/palauifabrej/pagina.php?id\\_sec=1679](http://www.escriptors.cat/autors/palauifabrej/pagina.php?id_sec=1679)

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## Other



**TXT: Un poema manuscrit**

Un poema manuscrit

[http://lletra.uoc.edu/anterior/noms/jpalauifabre/html\\_especials/joseppalauifabrealtres1.html](http://lletra.uoc.edu/anterior/noms/jpalauifabre/html_especials/joseppalauifabrealtres1.html)



**TXT: A manuscript poem**

A manuscript poem.

[http://lletra.uoc.edu/anterior/noms/jpalauifabre/html\\_especials/joseppalauifabrealtres1.html](http://lletra.uoc.edu/anterior/noms/jpalauifabre/html_especials/joseppalauifabrealtres1.html)

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## Audio



**AUDIO: Sam Abrams recites Palau i Fabre.**

If you want to cite this page...

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< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/josep-palau-i-fabre> >

Sam Abrams recites Palau i Fabre.

[http://lletra.uoc.edu/anterior/noms/jpalauifabre/html\\_especials/joseppalauifabrerecita1.html](http://lletra.uoc.edu/anterior/noms/jpalauifabre/html_especials/joseppalauifabrerecita1.html)



**WEB: Els estudiants i professors de català de la universitat de Birmingham llegeixen 'Lorelei', de Josep Palau i Fabre**

<http://soundcloud.com/lletra/lorelei-josep-palau-i-fabre>



**AUDIO: Jaume Delclòs llegeix 'Comiat', de Josep Palau i Fabre**

<http://soundcloud.com/lletra/comiat-j-palau-i-fabre>

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## Comments on the author

### Criticism



**WEB: Fundació Palau**

Pàgina de la Fundació Palau, creada l'any 2002. En català, castellà, anglès i francès.

<http://www.fundaciopalau.net/>



**WEB: Josep Palau i Fabre, l'Alquimista**

Exposició virtual realitzada per Lletra i el centre KRTU.

<http://www.uoc.edu/lletra/expo/palauifabre>



**WEB: Pàgina de l'AELC**

Inclou biografia i publicacions.

<http://www.escriptors.com/autors/palauifabrej/>



**WEB: Un dels Dotze sentits**

Palau i Fabre és un dels dotze poetes antologats al CD-ROM *Dotze sentits. Poesia catalana d'avui*.

[http://www.iua.upf.edu/dotze\\_sentits/entrada.html](http://www.iua.upf.edu/dotze_sentits/entrada.html)



**WEB: Josep Palau i Fabre on the Lletra website in Catalan**

Including more resources and reading suggestions.

<http://www.uoc.edu/lletra/noms/jpalauifabre/index.html>



**WEB: Palau Foundation**

Website of the Palau Foundation, which was created in 2002. In Catalan, Spanish, English and French.

<http://www.fundaciopalau.net/fundacio-palau/en>



**WEB: Josep Palau i Fabre, the Alchemist**

A virtual exhibition organised by Lletra and the KRTU Centre.

<http://www.uoc.edu/lletra/expo/palauifabre>



**WEB: AELC Website**

**If you want to cite this page...**

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< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/josep-palau-i-fabre> >

The page of the Association of Catalan Language Writers offers a biography and information about publications.

[http://www.escriptors.cat/autors/palaufabrej/pagina.php?id\\_sec=1678](http://www.escriptors.cat/autors/palaufabrej/pagina.php?id_sec=1678)



**WEB: One of the Dotze sentits (Twelve Senses)**

Palau i Fabre is one of the twelve poets in the CD-ROM anthology *Dotze sentits. Poesia catalana d'avui* (Twelve Senses. Catalan Poetry Today).

[http://www.iua.upf.es/dotze\\_sentits/entrada.html](http://www.iua.upf.es/dotze_sentits/entrada.html)

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## Comments



**PDF: La influència de Picasso**

"Octàleg sobre la presència de Picasso a l'obra de Josep Palau i Fabre". Article de Sam Abrams a *Caràcters* (gener 2001).

<http://www.uv.es/caracters/pdf/CARACTERS-14.pdf>



**WEB: Palau i Fabre i Picasso**

"Josep Palau i Fabre and Pablo Picasso". Article en anglès.

<http://picasso.tamu.edu/picasso/BioResource?id=ifabre,joseppalau>



**WEB: "Palau i Fabre i els misteris de Lautréamont"**

Vídeo de Palau i Fabre i un text inèdit sobre Lautréamont a VilaWeb Lletres (23/11/2006).

[http://www.vilaweb.cat/www/noticia?p\\_idcmp=2167195](http://www.vilaweb.cat/www/noticia?p_idcmp=2167195)



**PDF: "La via sensitiva"**

Article de Susanna Rafart a l'*Avui* (08/05/03).

<http://www.traces.uab.es/tracesbd/avui/av00840.pdf>



**WEB: "Josep Palau i Fabre: de l'aprenent de poeta a l'alquimista"**

Article de Ramon Salvo publicat a la *Revista de Catalunya* (gener 1996).

<http://www.xtec.es/~rsalvo/articles/palau.htm>



**PDF: The Influence of Picasso**

"Octàleg sobre la presència de Picasso a l'obra de Josep Palau i Fabre" (Octologue on the Presence of Picasso in the work of Josep Palau i Fabre). Article by Sam Abrams in *Caràcters* (January 2001).

<http://www.uv.es/caracters/pdf/CARACTERS-14.pdf>



**WEB: Palau i Fabre and Picasso**

"Josep Palau i Fabre and Pablo Picasso". Article in English.

<http://picasso.tamu.edu/picasso/BioResource?id=ifabre,joseppalau>



**WEB: "Palau i Fabre i els misteris de Lautréamont" (Palau i Fabre and the Mysteries of Lautréamont)**

Video of Palau i Fabre and an unpublished text on Lautréamont in "VilaWeb Lletres" (23 November 2006).

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< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/josep-palau-i-fabre> >

[http://www.vilaweb.cat/www/noticia?p\\_idcmp=2167195](http://www.vilaweb.cat/www/noticia?p_idcmp=2167195)



**PDF: "La via sensitiva" (The Sentient Way)**

Article by Susanna Rafart in *Avui* (8 May 2003).

<http://www.traces.uab.es/tracesbd/avui/av00840.pdf>



**WEB: "Josep Palau i Fabre: de l'aprenent de poeta a l'alquimista" (Josep Palau i Fabre: from Poet's Apprentice to Alchemist)**

Article by Ramon Salvo published in *Revista de Catalunya* (January 1996).

<http://www.xtec.es/~rsalvo/articles/palau.htm>

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## Miscellaneous



**WEB: Palau Foundation in Caldes d'Estrac**

Information about the Palau Foundation at the website "Espais escrits. Xarxa del Patrimoni Literari Català" [Written Spaces. The Catalan Literary Heritage Network].

<http://www.espaisescrits.cat/home.php?op=6&module=escriptors&ides=6&idioma=eng>



**WEB: Palau and Picasso**

Palau i Fabre is one of the internationally-recognised experts on the work of the painter from Andalusia.

<http://picasso.tamu.edu/picasso/BioResource?id=ifabre,joseppalau>



**WEB: Fundació Palau a Caldes d'Estrac**

Informació sobre la Fundació Palau al web Espais escrits de la Xarxa del Patrimoni Literari Català.

<http://www.espaisescrits.cat/home.php?op=6&module=escriptors&ides=6&idioma=cat>

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## Bio-bibliography

### Biography



**WEB: A la Hiperenciclopèdia**

[http://www.enciclopedia.cat/fitxa\\_v2.jsp?NDCHEC=0048471](http://www.enciclopedia.cat/fitxa_v2.jsp?NDCHEC=0048471)



**WEB: Fitxa al "Qui és qui a les lletres catalanes"**

<http://cultura.gencat.net/ilc/qq/FitxaAutors.asp?nom1=pal&nom2=&cerca=Cerca&quinform=form1&NRegistre=10&idregistre=4539>



**WEB: A la Viquipèdia**

Biografia, obra i enllaços sobre l'autor al web de l'enciclopèdia lliure.

[http://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josep\\_Palau\\_i\\_Fabre](http://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josep_Palau_i_Fabre)



**WEB: The author in the Catalan Encyclopaedia**

<http://www.grec.cat/cgi-bin/heclangl2.pgm?&USUARI=&SESSIO=&NDCHEC=0048471&PGMORI=E>

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< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/josep-palau-i-fabre> >



**WEB: The author in the Who's Who of Catalan Literature**

<http://cultura.gencat.net/ilc/qeq/FitxaAutorsuk.asp?nom1=Palau&cercauk2=Search&quinform=form1&NRegistre=6&idregistre=4539>



**VIDEO: Palau i Fabre a Veus literàries**

Documental sobre la vida i l'obra de l'escriptor, realitzat per l'AELC.

[http://www.edu3.cat/Edu3tv/Fitxa?p\\_id=17253&p\\_ex=veus%20liter%E0ries](http://www.edu3.cat/Edu3tv/Fitxa?p_id=17253&p_ex=veus%20liter%E0ries)



**WEB: In Wikipedia**

Biographical note, works and links on the author in the free encyclopaedia.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josep\\_Palau\\_i\\_Fabre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josep_Palau_i_Fabre)



**VIDEO: Palau i Fabre in Veus literàries [Literary Voices]**

Documentary on Palau's life and work made by AELC (Association of Catalan Language Writers).

[http://www.edu3.cat/Edu3tv/Fitxa?p\\_id=17253&p\\_ex=veus%20liter%E0ries](http://www.edu3.cat/Edu3tv/Fitxa?p_id=17253&p_ex=veus%20liter%E0ries)

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## Bibliography



**WEB: Què hi ha a la Biblioteca de Catalunya**

[http://cataleg.bnc.cat/search\\*cat/?searchtype=a&searcharg=Palau+i+Fabre+Josep&sortdropdown=-&searchscope=13&searchscope2=13&SORT=D](http://cataleg.bnc.cat/search*cat/?searchtype=a&searcharg=Palau+i+Fabre+Josep&sortdropdown=-&searchscope=13&searchscope2=13&SORT=D)



**WEB: Què hi ha a les biblioteques universitàries catalanes (CCUC)**

[http://ccuc.cbuc.cat/search\\*cat/a?SEARCH=Palau+i+Fabre+Josep&sortdropdown=-&searchscope=23](http://ccuc.cbuc.cat/search*cat/a?SEARCH=Palau+i+Fabre+Josep&sortdropdown=-&searchscope=23)



**WEB: Què hi ha a les biblioteques públiques**

<http://argus.biblioteques.gencat.cat/iii/encore/search/C|SPalau+i+Fabre+Josep|Orightresult|U1?lang=cat&suite=pearl>



**WEB: Per comprar-ne llibres**

<http://www.llibres.cat/ca/detall-autor/palau-i-fabre-josep>



**WEB: Articles de l'autor (Traces)**

<http://traces.uab.cat/search?f=author&p=Palau%20i%20Fabre%20Josep%20&sc=1&ln=ca>



**WEB: Articles sobre l'autor (Traces)**

[http://traces.uab.cat/search?ln=ca&p=Palau+i+Fabre%2C+Josep&f=keyword&action\\_search=Cerca&c=Traces+%3A+base+de+dades+de+llengua+i+literatura+catalanes&sf=&so=d&rm=&rg=10&sc=1&of=hb](http://traces.uab.cat/search?ln=ca&p=Palau+i+Fabre%2C+Josep&f=keyword&action_search=Cerca&c=Traces+%3A+base+de+dades+de+llengua+i+literatura+catalanes&sf=&so=d&rm=&rg=10&sc=1&of=hb)



**WEB: Works in the Biblioteca de Catalunya**

[http://cataleg.bnc.cat/search\\*eng/?searchtype=a&searcharg=Palau+i+Fabre+Josep&sortdropdown=-](http://cataleg.bnc.cat/search*eng/?searchtype=a&searcharg=Palau+i+Fabre+Josep&sortdropdown=-)

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< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/josep-palau-i-fabre> >

&searchscope=13&searchscope2=13&SORT=D



**WEB: The author in The European Library**

<http://search.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/en/search/%28%22creator%22+all+%22palau+i+fabre+josep%22%29.query>



**WEB: The author in the Congress Library (US)**

<http://catalog.loc.gov/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=First>



**WEB: The author in the COPAC Catalogue (UK)**

<http://copac.ac.uk/search?&au=Josep+Palau+i+Fabre>



**WEB: Activitats per treballar poemes**

Tres poemes amb propostes al web *Viu la poesia*.

[http://www.viulapoesia.com/membrespocio/arxius/lletra/jpalauifabre\\_index\\_props.html](http://www.viulapoesia.com/membrespocio/arxius/lletra/jpalauifabre_index_props.html)