



1- The Cathedral

Opening hours: Monday to Sunday, 10 am to 1 pm and 4 pm to 7 pm.

2- Chapel of Mercy

Opening hours: visits by arrangement.

3- City Hall

Opening hours: Monday to Friday all day, except when the hall is occupied.

Josep Maria Sert

(1874-1945)
**An artist
for Vic and
the world**



Ajuntament de Vic



Sert

**VIC,
CITY
OF
SERT**



Ajuntament de Vic



Vic,
ciutat a la
mesura humana

Sert



A universally renowned Catalan painter and the man responsible for the decoration of the Cathedral. His work is the result of the restless spirit of artist who travelled constantly, and who focused his gaze on the five continents.

His use of colour and the luminosity of gold paint and other colour ranges provide a perfect symbiosis of the exoticism of the oriental world and the popular atmosphere of the Mediterranean.

Sert makes any desire arising from the greatest of ambitions come true - an idea shared today by the city of Vic.

SERT THE PAINTER

Sert is considered by critics to be the greatest muralist painter of the inter-war period of the twentieth century. He was the heir to the tradition of the great Renaissance and Baroque muralists.

His work is monumental, complex, highly personal and difficult to categorise. It conceals a working method that was both laborious and modern, in which photography played a very important role.

His use of colour and luminosity helps to highlight the brightness of the entire work – an effect he achieves by treating gold and other colors of paint as if they were oriental lacquers.

Thematically, he worked within the field of spectacle in general (the circus, theatre, fairs), and engaged in a symbiosis of the exoticism of the oriental world and the popular atmosphere of the Mediterranean. Religiosity was also part of his pictorial landscape, in which everything is treated using a syncopated movement and exaggerated body language.

He was commissioned to paint lounges and dining rooms in



Sert in his workshop

mansions in Barcelona, Madrid, Paris, London, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Florida, Long Island and New York.

He decorated two of the most important and representative buildings of his era, which are today open to visitors:

- The **Palace of Nations in Geneva**, headquarters of the League of Nations.

- **The Rockefeller Center** in New York, a jewel of Art Nouveau architecture.

SERT THE CHARACTER

He moved to Paris in 1900 and joined the most sophisticated social circle of the early twentieth century, and became one of its most important members, with links to other painters, writers, actors, musicians and politicians.

He knew Marcel Proust, Manuel de Falla, Pablo Picasso, Igor Stravinsky, Serge de Diaghilev, Paul Claudel, Alfonso XIII, Nijinski, Jean Cocteau, Francesc Macià, Paul Valery, Salvador Dalí, among others. In particular, he was friendly with renowned women including Colette, Coco Chanel, Isadora Duncan and Maria Godebska, or Misia, who he married.

He spent his holidays at his estate in Palamós - Mas Juny - where he invited many of his friends from cosmopolitan society circles in Europe and the United States between 1928 and 1935.

He was more than an artist: a restless man, bold, generous, a tireless traveller, a lover of his country, a collector of objects and a great champion of all the arts.



Sert, Misia and Coco Chanel in Venice with friends

He was a fascinating and passionate character with a larger than life personality and an ambitious spirit. Neither history nor the critics have succeeded in defining him completely.



Sert with Gala and Salvador Dalí

SERT THE CITY OF VIC

His masterpiece is inside the cathedral. He produced three plans. The first was not used; the second was burned three days after the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War; and the third is the one we can see today, which he was completing when he died.

The commission in Vic Cathedral came directly from his friend and patron, Bishop Torras i Bages.

There are other venues in the city with paintings by Sert:

- Fragments of the first and second plans for the decoration of Vic Cathedral, on loan from the MNAC, are on display in the **Chapel of Mercy**.

- There are photographic life size copies of the decoration in the



Winter (America) is one of the images of the four seasons

dining room of the Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York in the **Sucre Building**.

- His *The four seasons* (1917-19), on loan from the Museo Reina Sofía in Madrid, is on display in the **City Hall**. This is one of the most colourful decorative pieces, featuring rich iconography, which is on display in various rooms inside the city hall with other pieces that use gold paint.



Interior of the nave of the Cathedral