

Seen Around Barcelona

This blog is a random collection of interesting things I've seen in and around Barcelona since we arrived five months ago. I hope you enjoy them!

There many charming and interesting sculptures to be found around Barcelona. I've include just a few in this blog to give you a bit of an idea.



The patron saint of Barcelona is Sant Jordi – Saint George in English. Its exactly the same legend with St Jordi/George killing the dragon that's terrorising the town. As well as Barcelona and England, I learned that St Jordi/George is also the patron saint of Ethiopia, Istanbul and Venice. Popular guy.

23 April is Sant Jordi Day in Barcelona and is a really big deal. He was declared Barcelona's patron saint in 1456. Over the centuries, the day has been enhanced as a kind of St Valentine's Day and women are given a single red rose. Then the day got associated with Cervantes and reading so now men are given a book.

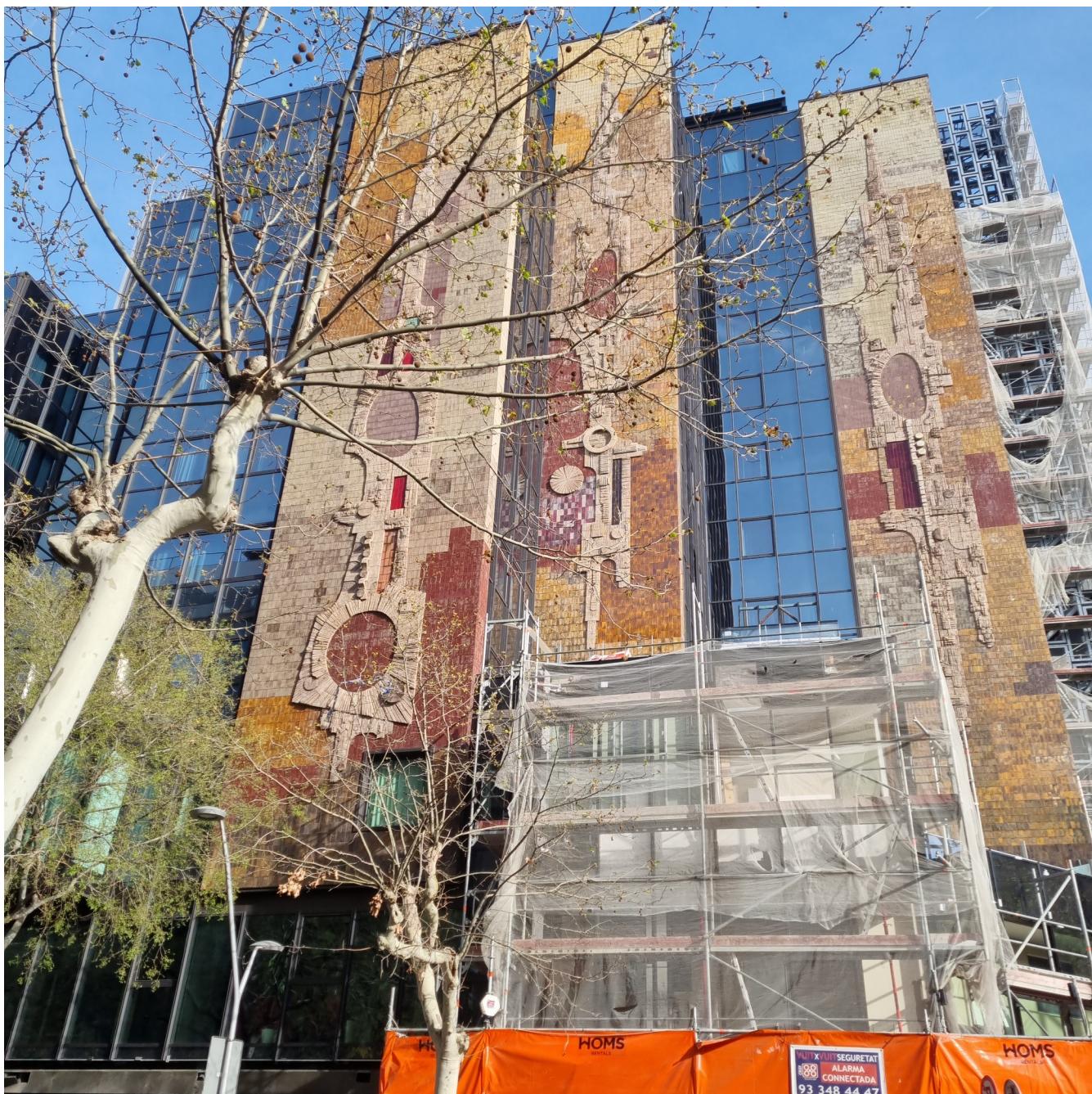
There are rose and book sellers all over the city and suburbs on Sant Jordi Day. We only had to walk to the bottom of our street to find a rose seller (as Christine had kindly given me a rose and Ron a book). Apparently, 20% of annual book sales in Barcelona happen around 23 April.

Anyway, here is the image that prompted that long explanation:



She is, very appropriately, over the entrance to a library.





Street sculpture.



How's this for the entrance hall to an apartment building? How's this for an entrance hall light fitting??? I just came across this walking down the street. Its not in a 'special' building.



Just the wall of a building.



This mosaic is on the wall of the local council administrative office building.



For all the fashionistas. I wish I knew where she bought them.
(I was very discreet when taking this photo.)



Obviously, there are no signs here warning motorists about kangaroos leaping across the road but they do have a similar problem with a different animal.....

I took this as we were traveling quite fast on the 4 lane motorway between Spain and France. I really hope this is a very uncommon occurrence.



Some years ago (we saw them on our last stay here) someone thought it would be a great idea to put table-tennis tables wherever there was room in a park or local square. There are dozens all over Barcelona. In almost all cases, this photo gives an indication of their popularity and adoption by local communities Although to be fair, this visit we have seen a couple of tables in use.



This is quite close to where we live. You can see how close the hills are to the city. Which means that a lot of the outer suburbs, including ours, is very hilly.



This sculpture is in a square ('placa' pronounced 'pla-tha') in Gracia which is about 4km from central Barcelona. It was a separate town a century ago and has its own distinctive personality. Now, of course, it's surrounded by the city.

You can see more of the square in this photo. The local kids are fairly casual about their art.



We went for a walk along the sea front one windy day and came across these guys. It looked like lots of fun! We were enthralled and stood watching for ages.



The window of the Rubber Duck Shop. Yes, it just sells rubber ducks.



Panorama of the city from the hills surrounding Barcelona: Left view

Dense isn't it? The large tall building towards the right is the Sagrada Família. The bullet-shaped, blue/silver building towards the left is the *Torre Agbar* (*Agbar Tower*). Its the headquarters of Aguas de Barcelona, the municipal water company.

Oh, and that deep blue is the Mediterranean.



Panorama of the city – Middle view



Panorama of the city – Right view

