

Madrid, October 1st, 2018

## **Artika presents “Botero’s Women”, an art book that pays homage to the female figures of the Colombian maestro**

[Botero’s Women](#) invites us to discover the work of the painter, draughtsman and sculptor Fernando Botero through 45 drawings in which women, his most common theme, are the absolute protagonists.

[Artika](#) has created a limited, numbered edition in which the master artist Botero has been involved in every last detail of this unique work. An art book of a very private nature that helps us to discover one of the most admired and best-known contemporary artists on the international art scene.

The work is presented in a case-sculpture that is a work of art in itself. A painting of a woman by Botero which has been granted volume to enable it to contain the two books comprised in this edition: the Art Book, which contains 45 drawings by the artist, and a Study Book, which helps readers to better understand Botero’s life until we feel as if we can almost touch the very essence of the artist.

[Botero’s Women](#) pays homage to a major theme for the Colombian artist: the female form. Ever since his earliest days, women, always portrayed with sinuous, rounded contours, have been a constant feature in his work, in which the female body has become a true symbol of his own personal style, known as Boterism.

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## **Artika**

Artika is a publishing house specialising in art books which issues limited editions featuring great international artists that are produced using painstaking artisan processes, and which make each copy a unique, unrepeatable piece.

A collection of contemporary works that invite readers to discover the essence of each artist, and in which design and innovation are always present, from the conceptualisation of the project to the materials used.

### **The case: an allusion to the volume that is so typical of Botero's work**

The case for Botero's Women has been specifically created to contain this unique edition. Made entirely by hand, it is a work of art in itself. In the image on the front section (a detail from the work *Head*, which the artist painted in 2006) there is a slight relief effect which alludes to the volume that is so characteristic of Fernando Botero's paintings and sculptures.

Inside the case are the Art Book and the Study Book. Lined in canvas and with an elegant Armenian binding, they are designed so that when they are placed together, they form the same image as the one on the front cover of the case. The two books are bound at the same time, so that the face from the painting fits together perfectly.

### **The Art Book: 45 drawings selected by the artist**

The Art Book, in a bilingual Spanish-English edition, is comprised of 45 plates, each one selected by Botero himself from the drawings in his personal archives.

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The drawings have been printed in four inks as individual plates and secured to the book using three drops of glue. Two types of paper have been used for the plates – watercolour paper for the sketches and watercolours, and craft paper – specially made for this edition – for the works in which the artist used amate paper.

All the plates have been die-cut in accordance with the originals.

In the drawings, with their colourful tones of yellows, blues and reds, we can see the different techniques the artist uses, namely watercolour, pencil, sanguine and bistre – pigments that require great skill.

The drawings depict many different female figures, all of them evocative, sensual, intense, filled with life and profoundly expressive, and all featuring the maestro's unmistakable characteristic: volume.

The 45 drawings are accompanied by extracts from short stories published by Botero in the 1980s. These fragments put into words the artist's world, and help us to gain a deeper understanding of his inner life.

The winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature Mario Vargas Llosa has contributed an introduction that invites us to explore the book and to enjoy Fernando Botero's most private work.

### **The Study Book: a journey to the essence of the artist**

The Study Book, written entirely by Lourdes Cirlot, art historian, Professor and researcher, analyses Botero's artistic career and helps us to better understand the artist's life until we feel as if we can almost touch his very essence.

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The book offers a broad overview of his pictorial and sculptural work and emphasises the importance of his drawings. It highlights the constant presence of women in his work and throughout the course of his career.

The chapter devoted to the analysis of the drawings in Botero's Women deserves particular attention. It provides a detailed study of the composition, technique, themes and symbolism contained in each of the 45 drawings in the Art Book.

The volume is supplemented by a chronology and a long conversation between Lourdes Cirlot and Fernando Botero in his studio, in which the artist explains the different moments and influences on his production, his vision of art and the way he approaches the act of creating.

Without doubt, Botero's own voice is the best way of ending this book, to help us discover the character and work of one of the most admired and recognised contemporary artists in the international sphere.

## **Fernando Botero**

The Colombian painter and sculptor Fernando Botero Angulo (Medellín, 1932) is unquestionably one of the greatest Hispano-American artists of all time. The fame of his distinctive work has spread throughout the world. There are many cities in America, Europe and Asia that can now boast his works in museums, streets and parks, cities including New York, the Vatican, Vienna, Moscow, Barcelona, Singapore and Hiroshima.

His artistic work is in constant evolution. His early works were clearly influenced by Mexican mural art and the painting of the Italian Renaissance, which gradually developed into a

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highly personal style in which the figures fattened out and became distorted until they occupied much of the canvas: the very beauty of volume, rather than human or animal obesity or any other object of contemplation.

Today, the artist remains faithful to that style known as “Boterism”, which is characterised (as we have described) by the volume that he grants to each element that he paints or sculpts, and which he imbues with strength, exuberance and sensuality.

At the age of 86, Botero continues to delight us with his work and his new projects, one of which is this wonderful book, published by Artika.

### **The edition Botero’s Women**

Botero’s Women is a single, limited, numbered edition of 2,998 copies, of which 2,798 are with Arabic numerals and 200 with Roman numerals, with the artist’s signature.

The price of the work is €4,500 for the edition with Arabic numerals and €6,500 for the edition with Roman numerals.

To see the complete Artika catalogue, go to the website:

<http://artika.es/>

To download all the press materials on Botero’s Women by Fernando Botero, go to the Artika Press Office at:

<http://artika.es/fernando-botero/las-mujeres-de-botero.php>

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