

# *Murals of Isona i Conca Dellà*

2021-2022



Ajuntament  
d'Isona  
i Conca Dellà



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# The Murals of Isona i Conca Dellà, 2021 & 2022

The Municipal Council of Isona i Conca Dellà has taken the initiative to highlight its natural and cultural heritage in the form of pictorial creations on public walls throughout the town.

Promoting our heritage is essential for learning about the passage of history and the imprint left by our ancestors.

The murals have been created by artists linked to the municipality and also to the region of the Pallars Jussà. The promotion of their works is an added value, and at the same time supports artistic creation in the region.

The Orígens UNESCO Global Geopark has facilitated the creation of this guide, which includes the information of the different artists who participated, as well as the description of each of the murals.

Each creation consists of an explanation, written by the artists themselves, where they describe the techniques used, what inspired them to make this creation and which heritage elements can be observed.

**Rosa Amorós Capdevila**

Mayor of Isona i Conca Dellà

October 2022



## Painters of the murals of Isona i Conca Dellà 2021 & 2022



Carol Lonnberg

📷 carol\_lonnberg



Jordi Beltran

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Marta R. Gustems

📷 marta\_r\_gustems



Javier Puerta

📷 xapco



Elzeline van der Hoek

📷 elzelinevanderhoek



Eva Cañada

📷 eva\_canyadas

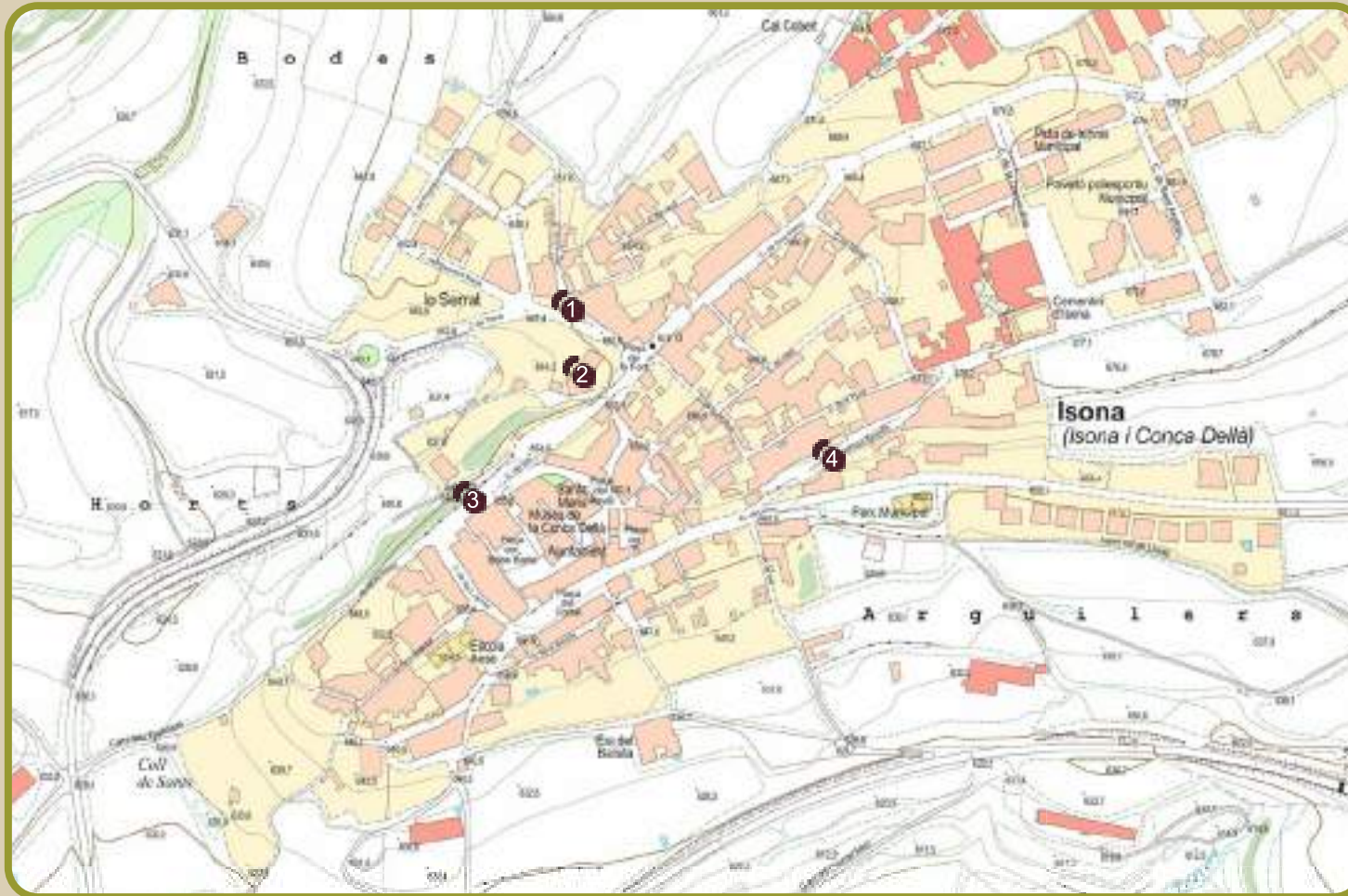


Elena Catalán

📷 catalan.art



# The location of the murals in Isona



1. Carrer de la Pobla, C-1412bz:  
Carol Lonnberg  
The Mushroom Fair 04
2. Carrer del Vall, by the laundry area:  
Jordi Beltran  
Laundry Moments 05
3. Carrer del Vall, C-1412bz:  
Marta R. Gustems  
Of Shadows and Flowers 06
4. Carrer Sant Sebastià, bottom to top:  
Xavier Puerta  
Cretaceous Anamorphism 07  
Geological Cross Section of the Pyrenees 08  
Poem 09  
Isona Square in the Twenties 10  
Marta R. Gustems  
Magic Fruit 11  
Elzeline van der Hoek  
Colours of the Valley 12  
Mandala of the Municipality of Isona 13  
Eva Cañadas  
Aeso Mural 14  
The Guixa of Isona 15  
Elena Catalán  
The Romanesque of Isona i Conca Dellà 16  
Carol Lonnberg  
Birds 17  
Jordi Beltran  
Isona Square after the Civil War 18  
Poema per Isona 19

# The Mushroom Fair

Carol Lonnberg



Carrer de la Pobla (C-1412bz), Isona, 2021

This mural advertises the Mushroom Fair that takes place on the 4th Sunday of October every year.

It is also a wall that welcomes people to the town, as it is located at one of the entrances to Isona.

The design is inspired by Art Nouveau style posters.

In terms of materials, it is made with ecological enamels, exterior paint, sprays and stencils (custom-made templates).

Symbolically, the woman who appears on the wall holds in her hand a golden mushroom that exudes abundance, luck and beauty, and she represents the people.

In the midst of the vast countryside there is a treasure called Isona....

# Laundry Moments

Jordi Beltran



Carrer de la Pobla (C-1412bz), Isona, 2021

This mural wants to represent the daily life of the women of the past. When they went to wash their clothes in the washing area by the fountain, it was a time for conversation and exchanging experiences.

In the image we can see how the characters look at us with surprised faces as if an outsider had just startled them in the middle of their work.

A moment of human and social contact that I think is less prevalent nowadays.

Although I usually work with a fairly wide colour palette, for this mural I chose to work with black and white as it better represents the past.



# Of Shadows and Flowers

Marta R. Gustems



Carrer del Vall (C-1412bz), Isona, 2021

The starting point for the pictorial interventions on the walls of Isona was their connection with the territory. Finding the links that tie me to this land and landscape I went for images that merge my inner and artistic world with the flora of the Pre-Pyrenees.

The first series of wall paintings are 18 plants and flowers of the region held in the shade of the human hand. Each one has its own space, on one of the many walls that support the walkway's railing along the entrance to Isona (coming from Trepmp).

Contrasting colours and botanical fidelity mark the aesthetic line of the murals.

As a finishing touch each painting features a placard with the botanical name and the diverse common names, tying it all together and fulfilling the curiosity of children, schools and passers-by.

# Cretaceous anamorphism

Xavier Puerta

An “anamorphism” is an image on a plane not perpendicular to the line of sight and which recreates, through a deformed perspective, a three-dimensional scene (as in *mapping*).

In this mural, I use this technique to recreate a psychedelic scene: in the middle of the forest, on just another day, a *Pararhabdon isonensis* appears from the Cretaceous and nonchalantly eats an *Amanita muscaria*.

As one moves away from the point of observation where the visual effect occurs, which is marked on the floor, the anamorphism evokes a metaphor of time. The image is deformed, taking on grotesque proportions. Finally, it ends up being a caricature of what really existed and can only be imagined.



Carrer Sant Sebastià, Isona, 2021



# Geological Cross Section of the Pyrenees

Xavier Puerta



Carrer Sant Sebastià, Isona, 2022

Geological cross section along the Ribagorçana and Pallaresa valleys that includes the valley of Isona i Conca Dellà.

Extracted from the article: J.A. Muñoz, J. Mencos, E. Roca, N. Carrera, O. Gratacós, O. Ferrer, O. Fernández, "The Structure of the South-Central-Pyrenean Fold and Thrust Belt as Constrained by Subsurface Data" *Geologica Acta*, Vol.16, N° 4, December 2018, 439-460.

This mural aims to offer the contrast between a scientific perspective on the geological evolution of the Orígens UNESCO Global Geopark and the artistic recreation of a Cretaceous scene starring our mushroom-eating *Pararhabdon isonensis*.

# Poem

Painted by Xavier Puerta



Carrer Sant Sebastià, Isona, 2022

Dues coses fan el que som  
Imaginació i memòria  
Les dues demanen coratge  
i escriuen la nostra història.

Poem by Xavier Puerta.

Two things make us who we are  
Imagination and memory  
Both require courage  
and they write our history.

# Portal Square in the Twenties

Xavier Puerta



Carrer Sant Sebastià, Isona, 2022

Scene at the Alsina Graells bus stop next to the recently built Café Modern. The place is the same as seen in the very last mural, by Jordi Beltran, destroyed after the war. A before and after.

In this mural I depict the everyday life of the time, influenced by the signs of modernity that also took hold of Isona, before the setback that the dictatorship entailed.



# Magic Fruit

Marta R. Gustems



Carrer Sant Sebastià, Isona, 2022

The second intervention is a single 6 m x 2.5 m mural.

Continuing with the idea of the symbiosis between nature and people from a conceptual as well as an organic point of view, I chose the vineyard.

Its cultivation dates back to the Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans and lasts until today.

The girl, protected by the grape leaves, illustrates our almost mystical connection with its fruit, the grape, and all that it becomes (drink and food).

# Colours of the Valley: Castles, flora and fauna of Isona i Conca Dellà

Elzeline van der Hoek



Carrer Sant Sebastià, Isona, 2021

In this mural we see a contrast between things that last and those that are more ephemeral. The castles and an olive tree that have lasted for centuries, even up to a millennium. On the other hand, plants that only bloom for days or weeks, the butterfly that does not live for a month and the birds that visit us only during the summer.

In the background of this painting we see the silhouette of emblematic buildings of the municipality: the castles of Orcau, Conques and Llordà. The sun is setting and creates warm colours in the sky.

There are three brightly coloured summer birds that always fascinate: the bee-eater, the hoopoe and the oriole. All three breed here in the area, in trees or in cavities in a slope or wall but spend the winter in Africa or Asia.

The poppy, the dandelion, the sainfoin, and the blue iris are common flowers considered weeds but which, if we observe them closely, have a deep and striking beauty.



# Mandala of Isona

Elzeline van der Hoek

This mandala unites elements and symbols of the municipality and represents them in a harmonious and geometric way.

In the centre is the stained glass window above the famous portal of the Romanesque church of Santa Maria de Covet from the twelfth century. It consists of eight teardrop-shaped parts decorated with six-pointed stars in blue, red, emerald and gray.

Around the stained glass there are fragments of a Roman tile found in Isona and a detail of a tile from the Church of Our Lady of Mercy in the castle of Orcau which is currently in ruins.

The next circle consists of the eight golden five-petaled roses of the shield of Isona and Conca Dellà.

Among the roses we see a detail of a heart-shaped fence inside the Parish Church of Santa Margarida de Benavent.

Protruding from the mandala are the bell towers of eight churches in the municipality. Clockwise from the top: the church of Santa Margarida de Benavent, Sant Miquel de Conques, Sant Julià de Basturs, Sant Andreu de Biscarri, the Hermitage of La Posa d'Isona, the Parish Church of Sant Romà, Santa Maria de Figuerola d'Orcau, and the sanctuary Mare de Déu del Prat de Figuerola d'Orcau. Finally, among the bell towers we find titanosaur footprints from the Orcau site.

Carrer Sant Sebastià, Isona, 2022





# Aeso Mural

Eva Cañadas



Carrer Sant Sebastià, Isona, 2021

The work depicts two of the most important characters of the history of Aeso and archaeological elements found in the excavated sites: Luci Emili Patern and his mother-in-law Atilia Paterna.

From left to right we see represented Luci Emili Patern holding a recently found glass bottle, a stone with a Roman inscription that gives its name to the house of the Antonii, a fragment of Iberian pottery painted with plant motifs, a lion's head, part of a water fountain in ancient Aeso, a stone preserved in the museum of Isona and Atilia Paterna wearing golden earrings found in the excavations.

Most of the elements and characters are depicted in black and white to create the feeling of old, of a bygone time. Only two colours, blue and yellow, give colour to the background of the mural, to a very schematic map that indicates where the represented remains have been found and some elements for aesthetic reasons. The colours are the existing ones on Isona's current coat of arms. The work can be seen from the street, which is why the size of the characters and elements is so they can be seen comfortably up close.

# The 'Guixa' of Isona

Eva Cañadas



The mural represents the village soup festival in Isona with unique and characteristic elements such as the copper pots. The guixa is a kind of soup (*escudella*) that is offered during a village lunch, with pork, noodles, chickpeas, pumpkin, rice and beans.

In the centre of the work we find a woman tasting the guixa soup, around her there are various people who are part of the town and of this party celebrated during Carnival. That is why there are representative elements of this, such as King Carnestoltes.

The copper colour in the pots, painted in line as they are characteristically placed during the party, also gives colour to the fire and the representation of the aroma and flavour that comes out of the receptacles and is distributed around the mural and the party being the essence of the guixa.

Overall, a personal interpretation of the author has been made where the party is represented in an artistic way, using colours, shapes and composition to find an aesthetic result.



# The romanesque of Isona i Conca Dellà

Elena Catalán



Carrer Sant Sebastià, Isona, 2022

My mural highlights Arsenda d'Àger (1015-1068), a woman of great culture and a philanthropist, whom I represent playing chess with her husband Arnau Mir de Tost, to whom she bequeathed the board and the crystal pieces "*tabulas nostras et eschachos vadant secundum mandamentum senior*". This proves that the Pallars and the Pyrenees were the gateway to the expansion of the popular game in Europe.

At the same time, the mural captures the Romanesque architectural heritage of the municipality of Isona and Conca Dellà, with the Carreu mountain range in the background, the castles of Llordà and Orcau and ten churches: Our Lady of Pietà d'Orcau, Sant Joan d'Orcau, Santa Maria de Figuerola, Sant Julià de Basturs, Sant Miquel de Conques, Masos de Sant Martí, Santa Maria de Covet, Sant Pere Màrtir de Sant Romà, Sant Martí de Mollol, Sant Andreu de Biscarri.



# Birds

Carol Lonnberg



Carrer Sant Sebastià, Isona, 2022

This wall represents a detail of the local flora and fauna, with a dark aesthetic that captures the moment when the birds (eagles, crows and kites) hunt their prey.

The scene is framed by trees, flowers and bushes of the area. In the background we have the view of the imposing Sant Corneli mountain. This mural describes a wild moment of the natural life that surrounds us.

# Isona Square after the Civil War

Jordi Beltran



Carrer Sant Sebastià, Isona, 2022

This mural represents the state the Isona Square (or Portal Square) was in right after the war.

Right in the middle of the image we can observe a few characters who seem very small, alone and surrounded by destruction.

As an artist I am passionate about painting the beauty that surrounds me and trying to capture the present moment through my paintings, but in this mural I wanted to paint the complete opposite.

I have chosen this scene because although I am always very optimistic and future-oriented, I believe that we should not forget the darkest stages of our society and thus try not to repeat them even though, unfortunately, they are currently resurfacing.

# Poem for Isona

Marta R. Gustems



Carrer Sant Sebastià, Isona, 2022

La fusta dels fusells jo la voldria per fer-ne bigues i mantenir aquest sostre  
que els estels són bonics però fa fred  
i els mals pensaments s'hi posen entremig  
com núvols de tempesta.

I would like the wood from the rifles to make beams and hold up this roof  
the stars are beautiful but it is cold  
and bad thoughts get in between  
like clouds in a storm.

Fragment of the Poem for Isona by Marta R. Gustems.  
Full poem at: [www.martargustems.com/ca/writing/isona-poem](http://www.martargustems.com/ca/writing/isona-poem).  
Painted by the team.





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