



Jean-Baptiste Camille COROT, *Gitane à la mandoline* / *Gipsy with mandoline* (1874)

1972-2012. For those Gipsy and "Gachiás" of all colors, ideas and beliefs, backgrounds and circumstances that one day, forty years ago, invented by chance and necessity, Presencia Gítana, this civic, non-confessional, multiracial, intercultural and nonpartisan association, in which affinities and diversities, convergences and divergences, meet and interact,

aimed at providing a sense and opening channels to a shared project of vocation of solidarity and unlimited horizon of communication and coexistence with the Romany Community -and, with them and from them, for other disadvantaged groups-; for those people, with the same goals and dreams, values and convictions, that led the way, respecting the other and with the aim of understanding everybody, and have persevered in this common struggle, or have joined this exciting adventure that already has four decades, our particular first day of the year is, since 1972, February 15th.

Beyond the traditions and rituals that, from East to West, the diversity of religions and cultures, from past to present, that constitute the people of the country-Earth that we inhabit, celebrate, or not, the first day of the year, in transverse and dialogical universality, multiple and plural, in Presencia Gitana we start on February 15th 2012, the year forty of our era, just today: any given day of the conventional Gregorian calendar, but a day of special significance and importance for all of us.

We want to share the joy of our glad work towards the Romany Community and other minorities that, with desire for perfection and unequal fortune, we have carried out during this time. We want to share the satisfaction that we feel at having worked on our purpose and having the determination to continue. We want to recover and sustain the emotional tribute that we dedicate each year to the beautiful people that left us during this time, either because they wanted to pursue other objectives, or they reached the ultimate goal. So, here we are counting the forty years: working for the dignity to continue claiming the rights and the freedoms.

ASOCIACIÓN NACIONAL PRESENCIA GITANA