

WHAT'S WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED IN THE WORLD'S GREAT MUSEUM?

ART IN MADRID

WHY DOES VELÁZQUEZ
APPEAR IN LAS MENINAS?

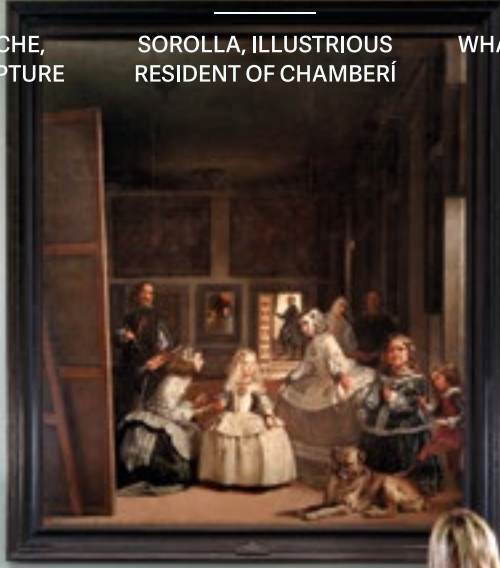
A HISTORIC PIECE:
GUERNICA

THE ROYAL PALACE,
SETTING OF THE COURT

THE LADY OF ELCHE,
AN IBERIAN SCULPTURE

SOROLLA, ILLUSTRIOUS
RESIDENT OF CHAMBERÍ

WHAT ARE GOYA'S FINEST
WORKS?





Guernica. 1936. Pablo Picasso © Sucesión Pablo Picasso. VEGAP, Madrid, 2019

Art in Madrid

In addition to being the city where Goya and Velázquez – both court painters to the Spanish monarchs – worked, Madrid also boasts an important cultural heritage encompassing most European styles. This guide provides a basic introduction to the city's main museums, covering the most frequent thematic elements of Western art. The high point of this itinerary is of course the Art Walk (Paseo del Arte), roughly one and a half kilometres of green spaces housing three of the world's top galleries – the Prado, Thyssen-Bornemisza, and Reina Sofía museums – offering a complete overview of art from the Middle Ages to the present. Art lovers also won't want to miss the Royal Sites, the group of buildings and gardens

linked to the Spanish Crown which are now managed by Patrimonio Nacional, the National Heritage Institution. The city of Madrid is home to the royal monasteries of Las Descalzas and La Encarnación as well as El Pardo Palace and the Royal Palace, and the greater region of Madrid is home to Aranjuez Palace and the Monastery of El Escorial, whose collections boast particularly fine examples of the sumptuary arts, furniture and painting. Meanwhile, although its collections harbour more than just works of art, the National Archaeological Museum reveals the various ways of life and the customs of civilisations that have passed through the Iberian Peninsula or have shaped the idiosyncrasies of the Mediterranean. There are

also several other museums in Madrid which are less well-known, such as the Cerralbo and Sorolla, and the museums of Romanticism, the Americas, Anthropology and Decorative Arts. To the list we can add the Lázaro Galdiano Museum, which inherited its holdings from a private collector who gave the foundation its name. For its part, the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts is a unique institution, which, besides promoting the study, dissemination and safeguarding of art, also boasts one of the most interesting museums you can visit in the city. It would take a lifetime to become intimately acquainted with all of the museums in Madrid, the world's great art gallery, which invites us to marvel at many of the finest masterpieces of all time.

The Prado Museum

Art historian Jonathan Brown has said that “few would dare doubt that the Prado is the most important museum in the world for European painting”. There is no question that it boasts the largest Spanish art collection and that its halls house an astonishing and seemingly endless succession of masterpieces by Raphael, El Greco and Rubens.



Monarchs and Emperors

A large portion of the Prado Museum's holdings originate from the painting collections of Spain's monarchs. Court portraits thus abound. Standout pieces include *Titian's The Emperor Charles V at Mühlberg* and the portraits painted by Anthonis Mor, Sánchez Coello and Sofonisba Anguissola for Philip II and his family. The museum's two most iconic paintings, however, are *Las Meninas* by Velázquez – a scene that depicts Princess Margaret, daughter to Philip IV, surrounded by her maids of honour and jesters – and *The Family of Charles IV* by Goya. In both works the painters showed exceptional boldness, breaking an unwritten rule by immortalising themselves alongside members of the Royal Family. By painting himself into the portrait, Velázquez asserts his own nobility as well as that of the art of painting, as does Goya.

Classical Myths

For centuries Greco-Roman mythology was the perfect excuse for artists to depict nude figures. Tales of gods and heroes made it possible to paint scenes that would otherwise have been precluded by morality and decorum. There is no question of the eroticism of Titian's “poems” – as they were called at the time – such as *The Bacchanal of the Andrians*, or of many of Rubens' works, particularly *The Three Graces*, a painting that was among his most prized possessions and for which his second wife, Helena Fourment, posed. Velázquez also depicted multiple mythological themes, although his intent was not to arouse the senses but to offer allegories reflecting on power and authority. *The Spinners* and *The Feast of Bacchus* (aka *The Triumph of Bacchus*) are examples of this.



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1. *Las Meninas*. 1656. (Close-up) Diego Velázquez.
 2. Prado Museum
 3. *The Bacchanal of the Andrians*. 1523 - 1526 Titian
 4. *The Three Graces*. 1635 Rubens
 5. *The Washing of the Feet* (aka *Christ Washing the Feet of His Disciples*). 1548 - 1549 Tintoretto
 6. *The Holy Trinity*. 1577 - 1579 El Greco
 7. *The 3rd of May 1808* or “*The Executions*”. 1814 Francisco de Goya
 8. *The Garden of Earthly Delights*. 1500-1510 Hieronymus Bosch
- © Madrid, Prado Museum

Religious Paintings

Particularly remarkable among the museum's religious pieces are Rogier van der Weyden's *The Descent from the Cross* and Fra Angelico's *The Annunciation*, two prime examples of 15th-century European art, the first produced in Flanders and the second in Florence. Worthy of special mention are the halls devoted to Venetian painting, which feature outstanding works including Tintoretto's *The Washing of the Feet*, and to 16th- and 17th-century Spanish art, where El Greco's *The Holy Trinity*, Ribera's *The Martyrdom of Saint Philip*, Zurbarán's *Saint Elisabeth of Portugal* and Murillo's *The Immaculate Conception* are displayed.

A Window to the Past

Through two of Goya's paintings, *The Executions* and *The Fight Against the Mamelukes* (aka *The Charge of the Mamelukes*), we can relive the rebellion of Madrilenians against Napoleonic troops in May 1808. With these paintings, the artist changed the way the genre of history was understood, giving it a much greater immediacy. In the Prado's 19th-century halls, you can also find some later pieces, such as *The Execution of Torrijos and His Companions on the Beach at Málaga* by Antonio Gisbert Pérez.



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Dreams and Nightmares

Among the depictions of Hell and Paradise housed by the museum, Bosch's *The Garden of Earthly Delights* and *The Haywain Triptych* are particularly unique, due not only to the extreme meticulousness with which they were painted, but also to the dreamlike universe that they depict. Works by other Flemish painters, such as Patinir and Brueghel the Elder, show a similar style. Centuries later and in Spain, Goya also explored horror and fear in the *Black Paintings* that hung on the walls of his house, *La Quinta del Sordo*, which can now be viewed at the Prado.



Science in Madrid

King Charles III wanted Madrid to be a leading centre of science. To this end he commissioned the construction of the Cabinet of Natural History, which is now the Prado Museum, in front of the Botanical Gardens. Neoclassical architect Juan de Villanueva was chiefly responsible for designing the complex.

Prado Museum

Paseo del Prado, s/n

902 10 70 77

museodelprado.es

Monday to Saturday

10am until 8pm

Sunday and holidays

10am until 7pm

Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum

In 1992, the Thyssen-Bornemisza collection arrived in Villahermosa Palace. It reflects the tastes of the two men chiefly responsible for assembling it, Baron Heinrich and Baron Hans Heinrich, who were well-versed in central European artistic tradition. Since then the palace has been one of Madrid's top museums, and the collection has been expanded with works acquired by Carmen Thyssen-Bornemisza. 17th-century Dutch painting, 19th-century American painting, Impressionism and the historical avant-garde are very well represented.

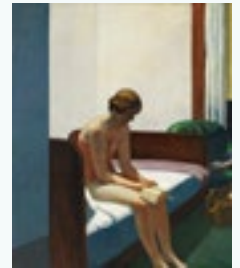
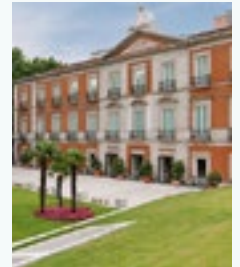
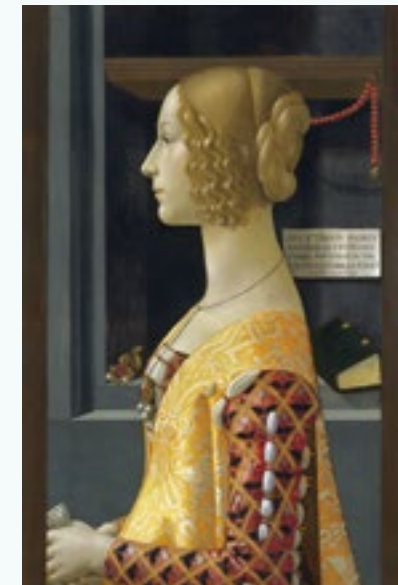
Revolution of the Portrait

There is a heavy focus on portraiture at the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum, with some outstanding Renaissance works such as Ghirlandai's *Portrait of Giovanna Tornabuoni* and Carpaccio's *Young Knight in a Landscape*, one of the first full-body portraits ever painted. Also from the same period, but from northern Europe, are *Hans Holbein's Portrait of Henry VIII of England* and Robert Campin's *Portrait of a Stout Man*. Among the 20th-century portraits, pieces like Otto Dix's *Hugo Erfurth with Dog*, Bacon's *Portrait of George Dyer in a Mirror* and Lucian Freud's *Reflection with Two Children (Self-Portrait)* show a strong individual personality, although they are, in some manner, heirs to this same tradition.

Around the World

Through the works in the collection you can travel around the world in the space of a few metres: from *Piazza San Marco* in Venice, painted in the 18th century by Canaletto, to *Rue Saint-Honoré in the Afternoon*. *Effect of Rain*, as it was painted in 1897 by Pissarro, and from the landscapes of Tahiti, the inspiration for so many of Gauguin's paintings, such as *Mata*

Mua (In Olden Times), to the Wild West, which was so aptly depicted by the painters of the Hudson River School, led by Thomas Cole. This evocation of travel is even present in one of the collection's most famous pieces: *Hotel Room* by Edward Hopper. The painter, who visited Spain during his formative years as an artist, acknowledged that his work was enormously influenced by Goya, who he discovered in Madrid.



The Curtain Rises

As paintings appeal to the sense of sight, many canvases also present themselves as scenes from the theatre. In the late 19th century, Degas was the artist of choice for shows, ballet and horse races. *Swaying Dancer* stands out in the collection due to its great immediacy. In *Circus*, August Macke depicts a fallen trapeze artist. For his part, Picasso, who is known for his musicians and clowns, contributed to the museum with *Harlequin with a Mirror*.



1. Portrait of Giovanna Tornabuoni. 1489-1490
Domenico Ghirlandaio

2. Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum

3. Hotel Room. 1931
Edward Hopper

4. Mata Mua (In Olden Times). 1892. Paul Gauguin
© Carmen Thyssen-Madrid Bornemisza Collection

5. Swaying Dancer (Dancer in Green). 1877-1879
Edgar Degas

Abstract and Figurative Art

As if it were a guide to art history, the collection is so comprehensive that it allows us to appreciate the diversity of the historic avant-garde in great detail. Movements like Expressionism, Cubism, Constructivism and Surrealism are thoroughly represented, but the collection also encompasses American art from the second half of the 20th century. Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art and Hyperrealism. Of particular note among its most important works are those by Braque, Popova, Mondrian, Lichtenstein and Rothko.



6. Woman in Bath. 1963
© Estate of Roy Lichtenstein / VEGAP, Madrid, 2019

7. Pictorial Architecture. 1918
Liubov Popova

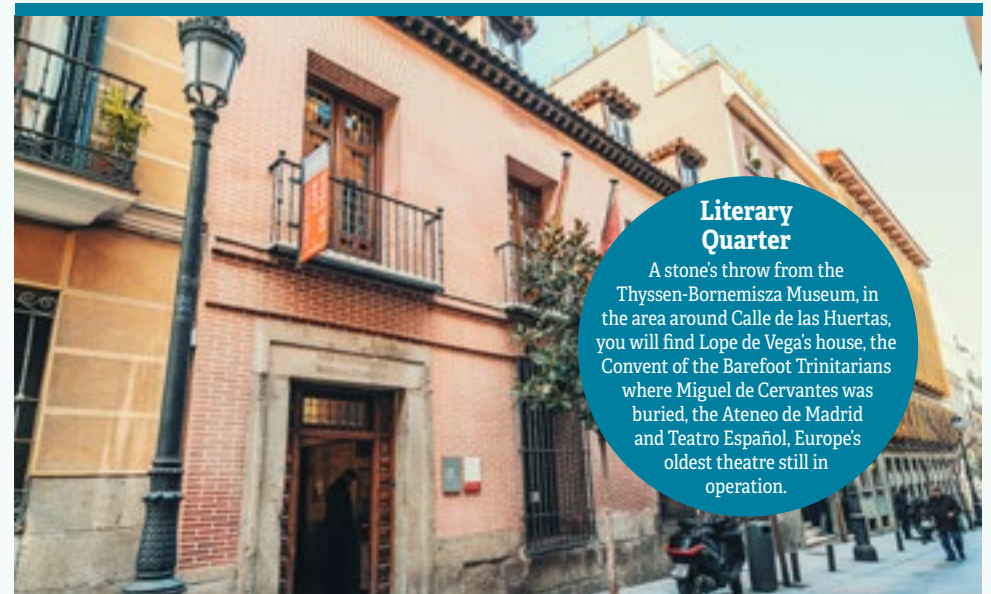
8. "Les Vessenots" in Auvers. 1890
Vincent van Gogh

© Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum.



Geniuses

You could do a tour of the Thyssen Museum focusing solely on artists that made history for their legendary personalities, that is, for being viewed as "painting geniuses". These include Dürer, featured in the collection with *Jesus Among the Doctors*; Caravaggio, who fled Rome accused of murder shortly after painting *Saint Catherine of Alexandria*; Rembrandt, who painted a whole host of self-portraits, one of which is housed here in Madrid; and Van Gogh, who painted *Les Vessenots* just days before he committed suicide.



Literary Quarter

A stone's throw from the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum, in the area around Calle de las Huertas, you will find Lope de Vega's house, the Convent of the Barefoot Trinitarians where Miguel de Cervantes was buried, the Ateneo de Madrid and Teatro Español, Europe's oldest theatre still in operation.

Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum

Paseo del Prado, 8

91 791 13 70

museothyssen.org

Tuesday to Sunday

and holidays

10am until 7pm

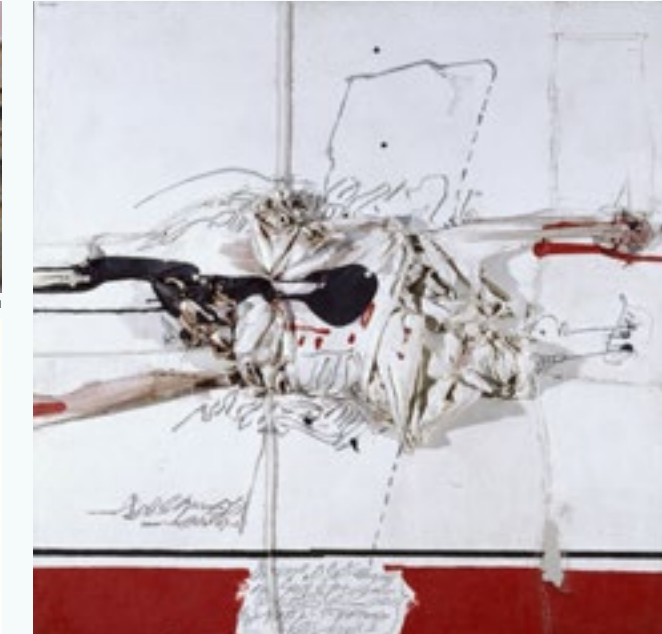
Monday

12 noon until 4pm

Reina Sofía Museum



One of Europe's most interesting contemporary art collections is designed around *Guernica*, the painting that Picasso created for the Pavilion of the Spanish Republic at the 1937 Paris Exposition. The museum has an incredibly extensive programme of exhibitions and activities and in its halls, which are always being reimagined, there is a particular focus not only on painting but on all of the arts, including conceptual and performance practice in art.



The Civil War

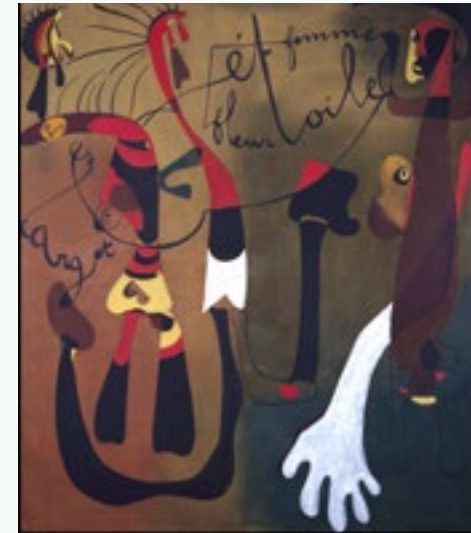
During the conflict, the government of the Republic turned the Spanish Pavilion at the 1937 Paris Exposition into a platform for spreading propaganda that would convey it in a positive light. In addition to the large canvas painted by Picasso which denounced the bombing of Guernica, the museum houses some of the works that were included in the pavilion as well as a model of the building, designed by Josep Lluís Sert and Lluís Lacasa. These same halls portray the rise of totalitarianism in Europe with works like *Mask of Montserrat Screaming* by Julio González and *Great Prophet* by Gargallo.

Violence

The successive and bloody armed conflicts, complex post-colonial relations, multiple freedom movements, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the redistribution of the centres of power and the periphery have drawn a map full of political tensions which have expressed themselves in very disparate ways. Informalism, which in Spain was led by the El Paso and Dau al Set groups, Arte Povera and the new European realisms are just some examples of this very interesting map of the second half of the 20th century. Two outstanding works of particular relevance in this respect are *The Trumpets of Judgement* by Pistoletto and *The Clothes Rack* by Carlos Leppé.

Dreams

The dream universe was a source of inspiration for many avant-garde artists, including Salvador Dalí, who developed the paranoid-critical method which he used to transfer dreams to the canvas. The museum houses some of the painter's most famous works, like *Figure at the Window* and *Face of the Great Masturbator*. Other artists of the Surrealist movement include Óscar Domínguez and Miró. The museum displays several of the latter's works, such as *Snail, Woman, Flower, Star*.



Feminism

Until well into the 20th century it was exceptional for a woman to work professionally as an artist, but the Reina Sofía devotes special attention to the work of female avant-garde trailblazers. Names include Maria Blanchard, whose paintings are often confused with those of Juan Gris; Sonia Delaunay, who lived in Spain from 1917 to 1921; Maruja Mallo, who was a member of the Vallecas School along with Alberto Sánchez and Benjamín Palencia; and Ángeles Santos, who painted *A World*, one of the most enigmatic pieces in the collection. Among the late 20th-century works, those by Lygia Clark, Nancy Spero, Louise Bourgeois and Esther Ferrer should not be missed.



1. Reina Sofia Museum
 2. Mask of Montserrat Screaming. 1938-1939 © Julio González, VEGAP, Madrid, 2019
 3. Fallen Figure I. 1970 © Manuel Millares, VEGAP, Madrid, 2019
 4. Snail, Woman, Flower, Star. 1934. Joan Miró © Successió Miró 2019
 5. A World. 1929 © Ángeles Santos, VEGAP, Madrid, 2019
 6. Face of the Great Masturbator. 1929 © Salvador Dalí, Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí, VEGAP, Madrid, 2019
 7. The Gathering at the Café del Pombo. 1920 © José Gutiérrez Solana, VEGAP, Madrid, 2019
- © Madrid, Museo Reina Sofía

Reina Sofía Museum

Santa Isabel, 52

91 774 10 00

museoreinasofia.es

Monday to Saturday

10am until 9pm

Sunday

10am until 7pm

Closed Tuesday

Poets and Intellectuals

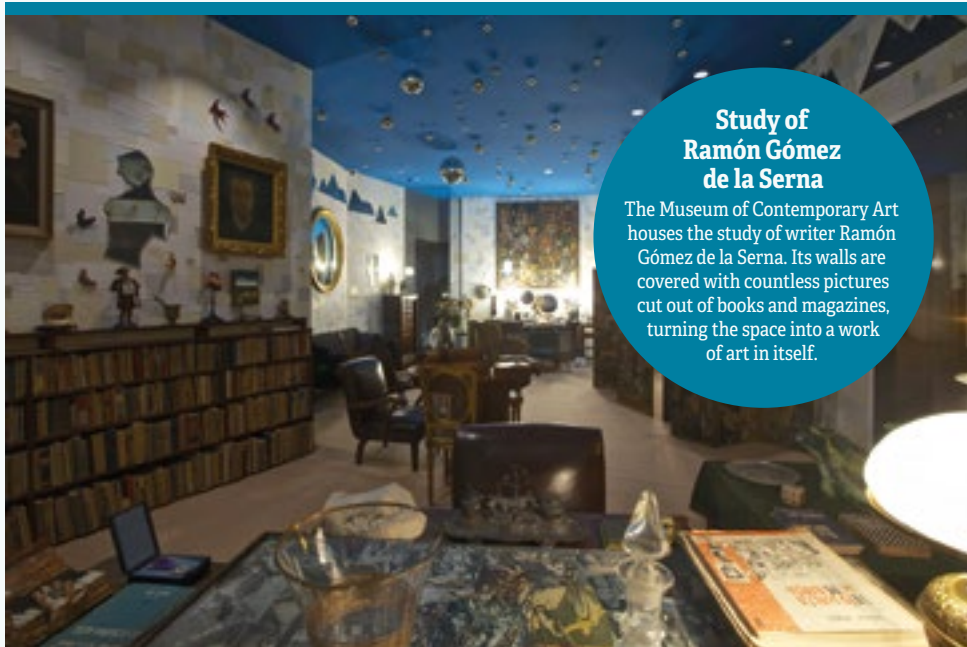
All through its permanent collection, the museum highlights links between intellectuals with a heavy focus on literature, ranging from Gutiérrez Solana's *The Gathering in the Café del Pombo*, presided over by Ramón Gómez de la Serna – a great promoter of the avant-garde in Spain – to the counter culture of the 1970s and 1980s, to the La Barraca theatre company directed by the charismatic Federico García Lorca, where many artists of his time worked.



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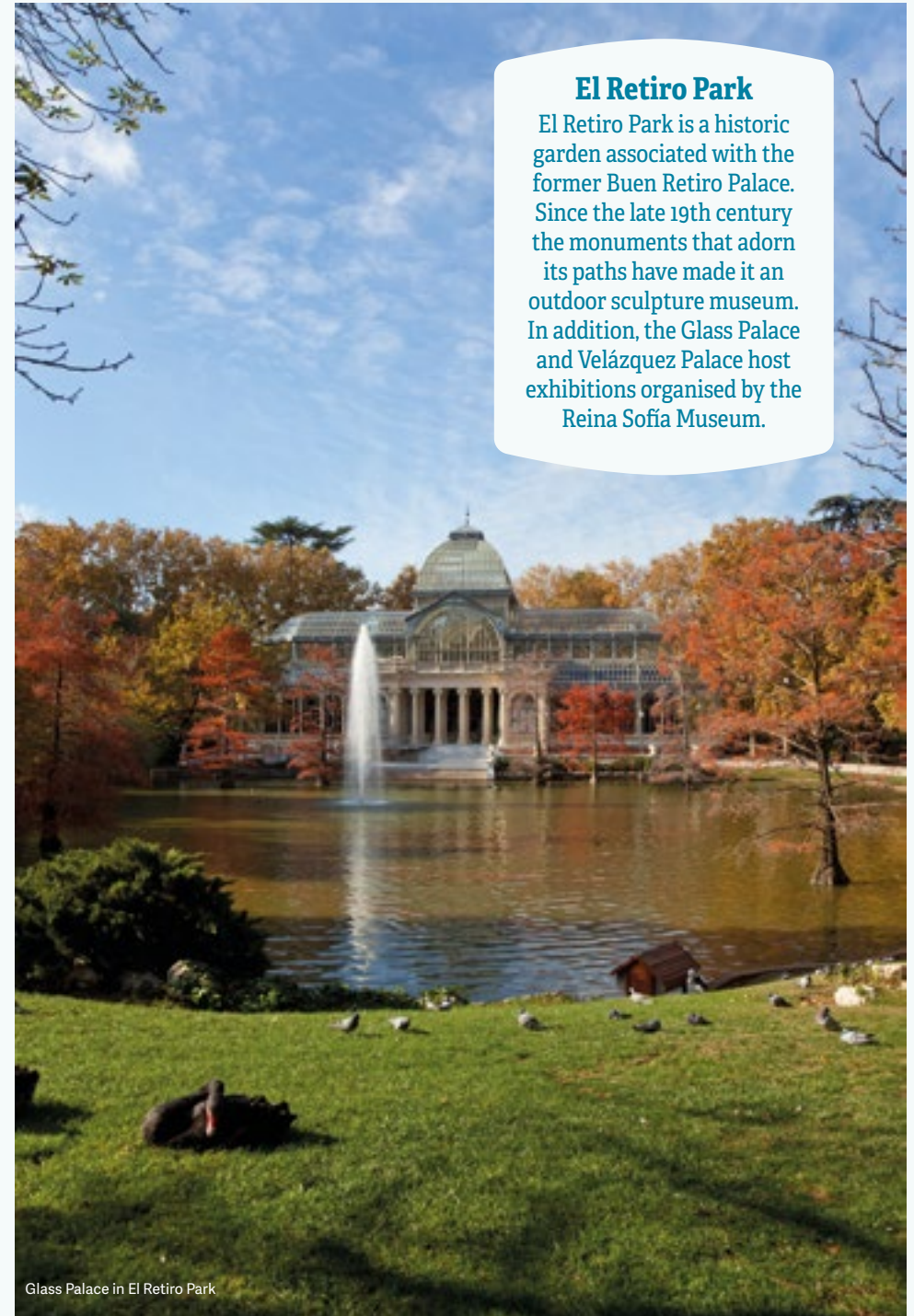
Study of Ramón Gómez de la Serna

The Museum of Contemporary Art houses the study of writer Ramón Gómez de la Serna. Its walls are covered with countless pictures cut out of books and magazines, turning the space into a work of art in itself.



El Retiro Park

El Retiro Park is a historic garden associated with the former Buen Retiro Palace. Since the late 19th century the monuments that adorn its paths have made it an outdoor sculpture museum. In addition, the Glass Palace and Velázquez Palace host exhibitions organised by the Reina Sofía Museum.



Glass Palace in El Retiro Park

The Art Walk

The route along which the Prado, Thyssen-Bornemisza and Reina Sofía museums are located is known as the Art Walk. There is a pass that includes one visit to each of the museums which is good for one year from the date of purchase, as well as a mobile application called the “Essential Art Walk” that provides information on 24 masterpieces that nobody should miss.



Royal Palace

This majestic building, constructed by architects Filippo Juarra and Giambattista Sacchetti on the same lot where the Royal Alcázar of the Hapsburgs once stood, opens its doors every day as a museum, except when state ceremonies are being held. Its extensive collection of paintings, sculptures, weapons and decorative arts is unique in the world. Although it is the official residence of Spain's king and queen, they actually live in Zarzuela Palace on the outskirts of Madrid.

Decorative Arts

Despite the vicissitudes of history, Madrid's Royal Palace has reached our current times with much of its original furniture. Particularly striking in their magnificence are Gasparini Hall, a masterpiece of Rococo art that was used as a dressing room by King Charles III; and the Gala Dining Hall, decorated during the reign of Alfonso XII with delicate tapestries by Guillermo Pannemaker, woven in the 16th century. The clocks, commodes, chairs and lamps in this palace have borne witness to conversations of great political importance, and continue to do so during solemn ceremonies.

Royal Palace

Bailén, s/n

91 454 88 00

patrimonio nacional.es

Every day 10am until 6pm in winter and 10am until 8pm in summer



Iconography of Power

In addition to the painted ceilings – those of the Throne Room were done by Tiepolo and those of the Royal Chapel by Corrado Giaquinto – the palace boasts various portraits by Goya and a painting by Caravaggio, entitled *Salome with the Head of John the Baptist*. Juan de Flandes, Rubens and Winterhalter are a few more of the endless list of painters present in the collection.

Musical Instruments and Weapons

Of particular note in the palace's extraordinary collections are Royal Quartet, comprising two violins, one viola and one violoncello made by Stradivarius for Charles III. The Armoury also houses pieces of enormous value, such as an ear dagger from a Nasrid workshop in Granada – an outstanding example of Hispano-Islamic refinement – and a parade helmet that belonged to Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor.



1. Royal Palace
 2. Gasparini Hall
 3. Burgonet of Charles V 1470-1532. Kolman Helmschmid
 4. Queen María Luisa Wearing a Mantilla. 1799. (Close-up) Francisco de Goya
 5. The Apotheosis of Aeneas 1762-1766. (Close-up) Giovanni Battista Tiepolo
 6. Atlas. 1800 Abraham Louis Breguet
- © Patrimonio Nacional



San Francisco "El Grande"

A short distance from the palace you'll find a church that is undoubtedly one of the most monumental in Madrid, the Basilica of San Francisco "El Grande". The church is nicknamed "The Large" due to the colossal dimensions of its dome: 33 metres in diameter.



Royal Sites

The royal convents of Las Descalzas and La Encarnación have always been linked to the Crown, and El Pardo Palace was a recreational site for members of the Court. Places of particular historic value outside of the city include Aranjuez Gardens and the Monastery of El Escorial, which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Royal Monastery of El Escorial

San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts



In 1752, Philip V founded the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts, in an imitation of the academies that already existed in Italy and France. Since then it has led public debate on painting, sculpture and architecture. It should also be noted that until 1967 Goyeneche Palace, the building that houses the institution, was the site of the School of Fine Arts attended by Picasso and Dalí. Its museum boasts one of the most important collections of paintings and etchings by Goya in existence.

Teachers and Models

The museum boasts important works by some of the institution's own academics, including Van Loo, Mengs and Goya. Of particular note by Goya are the portraits of Manuel Godoy, Duke of Alcudia, Prince of the Peace and of the actress *La Tirana*, as well as the painting *The Burial of the Sardine*, which depicts the Carnival atmosphere on Ash Wednesday in the early 19th century. There are also works by Alonso Cano, Murillo and Rubens, among many other European painters, whose art was the basis for the standards that students were expected to follow. José Gutiérrez Solana, Antonio López and Lucio Muñoz studied at the School of Fine Arts.

Unique Personality

In addition to works that were used as models, the Academy has also held onto some curiosities. One of the most striking is *The Spring*, a bust by Mannerist painter Arcimboldo consisting of a head formed entirely by flowers. Other exceptional paintings include Antonio de Pereda's *The Knight's Dream*, which depicts a man sleeping in front of all of the ostentation of life, which will ultimately bring death, and the mysterious *Woman at Prayer* by Julio Romero de Torres, the most noteworthy exponent of a certain type of Spanish symbolism in the early 20th century.

National Museum of Chalcography

Also housed in Goyeneche Palace is the National Museum of Chalcography, founded in 1789 to undertake important engraving projects that arose in association with Enlightenment policies. Its greatest treasures are the copper plates used by Goya to make his series of aquatint etchings: *The Caprices*, *The Disasters of War*, *Bullfighting* and *The Follies*.



San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts

Alcalá, 13

91 524 08 64

Tuesday to Sunday and holidays
10am until 3pm
Closed Monday

1. Venus, Mercury and Cupid. 1748
Louis-Michel van Loo
 2. The Spring. 1563
Giuseppe Arcimboldo
 3. They Have Flown. 1799
Francisco de Goya
- © San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts

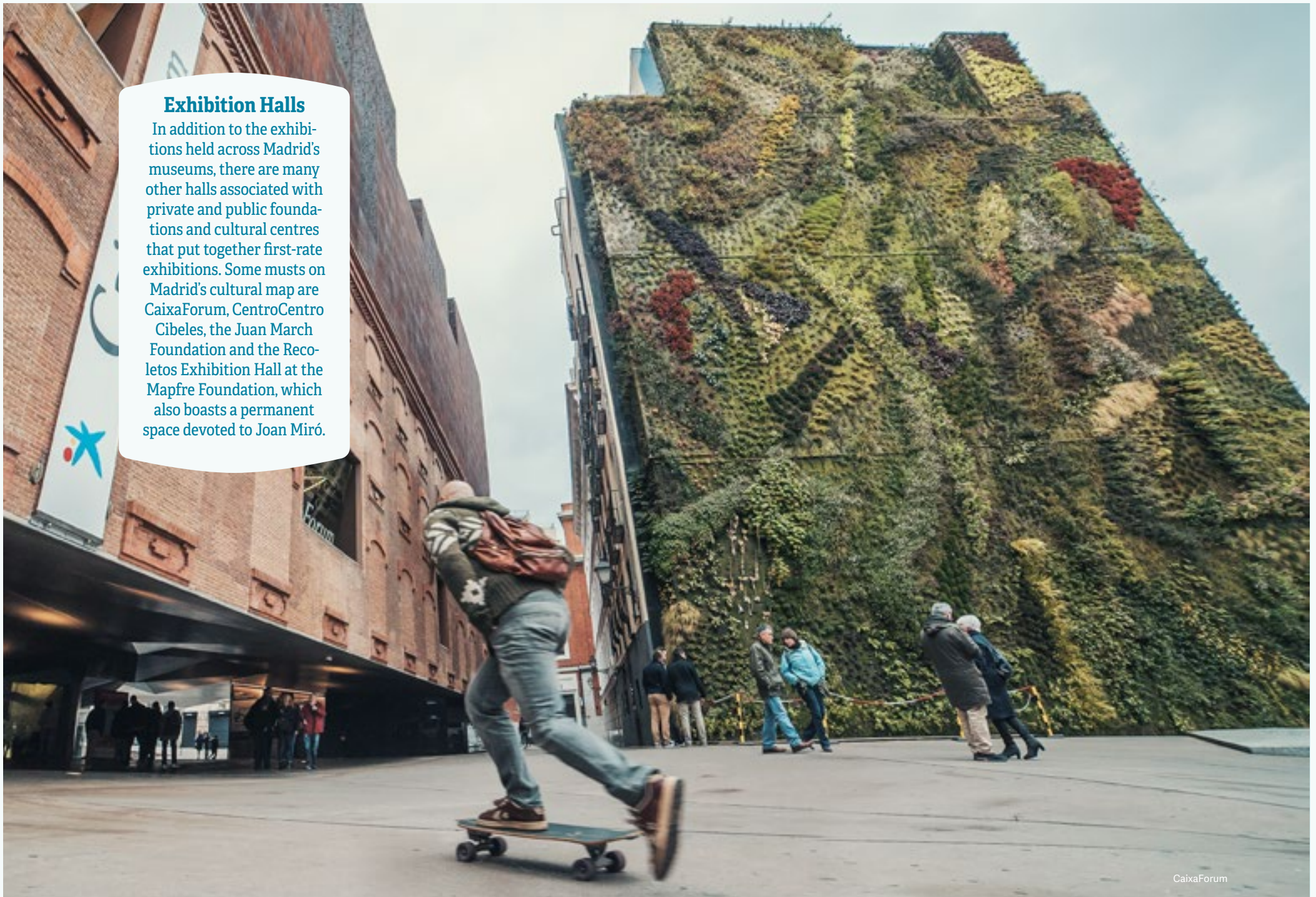


San Antonio de la Florida

In a surprising use of trompe l'oeil, the characters painted by Goya in 1798 seem to lean down towards us from the dome above. In the early 20th century the artist's remains were moved to this chapel, which is now a mausoleum for the painter who was best able to portray Madrid.

Exhibition Halls

In addition to the exhibitions held across Madrid's museums, there are many other halls associated with private and public foundations and cultural centres that put together first-rate exhibitions. Some musts on Madrid's cultural map are CaixaForum, CentroCentro Cibeles, the Juan March Foundation and the Recoletos Exhibition Hall at the Mapfre Foundation, which also boasts a permanent space devoted to Joan Miró.



National Archaeological Museum



Like the world's other top museums devoted to exhibiting artefacts that bear witness to their country's past, the National Archaeological Museum, founded in 1867 by Queen Isabella II, harbours collections of antiques that reveal the ways of life of the different cultures that have passed through the Iberian Peninsula and the Mediterranean. Particularly noteworthy among its most remarkable pieces are the Iberian sculptures, Roman mosaics, Visigoth grave goods, Hispano-Islamic ivory boxes and medieval architectural elements.

The World of the Dead

The *Lady of Elche* is undoubtedly the most famous work displayed in the museum. There has been speculation that it was a funerary urn. In any event, the harmony and serenity of the lady's expression are surprising, and make the piece exceptional among the art produced by the Iberians, one of the peoples who lived in the Peninsula prior to Romanisation. The Egyptian and Guanche mummies, the Celtic grave goods and the Roman sarcophagi, like that of Orestes, are just some examples of the riches offered by the world of the dead.



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Architecture

The museum also houses a nice set of very important architectural elements, such as its Roman mosaics, which are exhibited as if they were paintings; its Mudéjar coffered ceilings – that is, ceilings made for Christian buildings using Hispano-Islamic techniques – and a set of Romanesque capitals. The halls devoted to the Middle Ages and the Modern Age also deserve thorough exploration.



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1. Recesvinto's crown.
©MAN. Santiago Relanzón
2. Lady of Elche.
©MAN. Santiago Relanzón
3. Roman chariot mosaic.
©MAN. Jordi Moliner
4. Pyxis of Zamora.
©MAN. Santiago Relanzón
5. Ushabti boxes.
©MAN. Raúl Fernández
6. Torques from Sagrajas.
©MAN. Santiago Relanzón



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Sumptuary Objects

Precious items such as mirrors, gems and unguent jars are among the objects displayed in the collection held by the National Archaeological Museum. The most striking of these include the *Votive Crowns of Guarrazar*, a set of Visigoth offerings and the *Pyxis of Zamora*, a delicate piece of ivory commissioned by Al-Hakam II, the Caliph of Cordoba.



Temple of Debod

In Cuartel de la Montaña Park stands genuine 2nd-century BC Egyptian temple that was donated to Spain in thanks for its assistance on the construction of the Aswan Dam.

National Archaeological Museum

Serrano, 13

91 577 79 12

man.es

Tuesday to Saturday

9.30am until 8pm

Sunday 9.30am

until 3pm

Closed Monday

Lázaro Galdiano Museum



In addition to being an exceptional collector, José Lázaro Galdiano was the editor of *La España Moderna*, which published texts by Pardo Bazán, Unamuno, Galdós, Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy and Flaubert in the late 19th century – on some occasions translated for the first time into Spanish. Over the course of his life he acquired works of art, jewellery, weapons, furniture, books and documents of great value which can be viewed in the Parque Florido mansion, where he lived with his wife on Calle Serrano.



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The Spanish School

José Lázaro Galdiano was very interested in Goya and in Spanish artists influenced by him. As well as a set of paintings by the Aragón-born artist, including the particularly outstanding *Witches' Sabbath* and *The Spell*, the museum boasts important works by Federico Madrazo, such as the portrait of *Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda*, and others by Eugenio Lucas Velázquez and his son, Eugenio Lucas Villamil, who is responsible for the mansion's ceilings. There are also three halls devoted to 16th- and 17th-century Spanish masters, with pieces by Murillo, Zurbarán, El Greco and Juan Carreño de Miranda.

His Own Unique Taste

In contrast to other Spanish collectors of the period, Lázaro Galdiano was able to appreciate the beauty of late medieval painting, acquiring panels as remarkable as *Virgin of Mosen Sperandeu of Santa Fe* by Blasco de Grañén. His cosmopolitan spirit gave him an appreciation for English art, which is represented in the museum with portraits by Lely, Reynolds, Lawrence and Romney. Two works are particularly striking in their singularity: Bosch's *Saint John the Baptist in Meditation* and *The Adolescent Saviour*, a mysterious painting by Boltraffio which for many years was attributed to Leonardo de Vinci.



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1. Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda. 1857
Federico Madrazo
2. The Adolescent Saviour. 1495
Giovanni Antonio Boltraffio
3. Witches' Sabbath. 1798
Francisco de Goya
4. Saint John the Baptist in Meditation. ca. 1485-1510
Bosch
5. Sword of the Count of Tendilla. 1486. Giacomo Magnolino

© Lázaro Galdiano Foundation

Bibliophilia and Other Gems

The library of the Lázaro Galdiano Museum harbours exceptional works, such as books of hours by William Hastings and Gian Giacomo Trivulzio, various Persian and Mughal miniatures plus a 17th-century manuscript of Quevedo's *The Swindler*. Among its most unique documents, the letters from Lope de Vega and Francisco de Goya are particularly noteworthy. As the fragility of paper makes permanent exhibition impossible, it organises periodic shows to display its holdings. The museum also has an excellent collection of decorative arts, with unique objects like the *Sword of the Count of Tendilla* and several ivory boxes, as well as archaeological artefacts of great value including a Tartessian jug and Visigoth bronzes..



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Lázaro
Galdiano
Museum

Serrano, 122

91 561 60 84

flg.es

Tuesday to Saturday

10am until 4.30pm

Sunday

10am until 3pm

Closed Monday



El Capricho Park

The paintings *Witches' Sabbath* and *The Spell* adorned the walls of the country estate of the Duke and Duchess of Osuna, constructed between 1789 and 1839. Today its Romantic-style garden is one of Madrid's most beautiful public parks.

Sorolla Museum

Today the house that was built by painter Joaquín Sorolla in the Chamberí neighbourhood is a museum that houses many of his masterpieces. The Valencian artist, who achieved great success in the early 20th century with his marinas, gardens and typical Spanish characters, developed a special technique to capture light on water and foliage.



1. Walk on the Beach. 1909
Joaquín Sorolla
© Sorolla Museum Foundation
2. Lagartera Bride. 1912
Joaquín Sorolla
3. Swimmers, Javea. 1905
Joaquín Sorolla
4. White Slave Trade. 1894
Joaquín Sorolla
© Sorolla Museum

Marinas

Beaches, on both the Mediterranean and the Cantabrian coasts, are a recurring theme in Sorolla's paintings, from quintessential folk scenes depicting fishermen to paintings of summer holidaymakers under umbrellas that shelter them from the sun. If you look carefully you'll see a surprising number of colours used to reproduce wet sand and skin. *Walk on the Beach*, with its powerful low-angle view that frames the figures below the line of the horizon, and *Swimmers, Javea*, which depicts the body's movement through the water, are two of the artist's masterpieces.

Spain

After receiving a commission to decorate the library of the Hispanic Society of America in New York with Spanish themes, Sorolla travelled around the country looking for typical characters, picturesque landscapes and secret gardens – like the one at his house in Madrid, which he painted on several occasions. He thus became one of Spain's best cultural ambassadors to the USA during the reign of Alfonso XIII. Outstanding works include *Lagartera Bride* and the paintings of views of the mountains and courtyards of the Alhambra. Sorolla also collected typical ceramics and historic furniture, which are now part of the museum's collection.

Sorolla Museum

General Martínez Campos, 37

91 310 15 84

museosorolla.mcu.es

Tuesday to Saturday
9.30am until 8pm
Sunday and holidays
10am until 3pm
Closed Monday

Progress and Misery

The painter was also a chronicler of early 20th-century Spanish society. In addition to portraying many of the intellectuals, aristocrats and politicians of his time, Sorolla used his paintings to show the different ways of life in Spain. Particularly evocative in this regard are paintings like *Doctor Simarro at His Laboratory*, which applauds the development of Spanish science in the so-called Silver Age, and *White Slave Trade*, an example of the thread of social concern that so often runs through the artist's oeuvre.



Tiles

The Andalusian-style garden at Sorolla's house could be the starting point of a tour of the city's most interesting tiles. Very nearby is the tiled tunnel of Andén 0 (Platform Zero), a former station on Madrid's metro line, which began to operate in 1919.



House Museums

In addition to the large collections of paintings, there are other museums in old mansions which boast extraordinary sets of examples of the sumptuary arts. The "Five Museums. Another Madrid" pass includes admission to the Lázaro Galdiano Museum, Sorolla Museum, National Museum of Decorative Arts, Cerralbo Museum and Museum of Romanticism.

CULTURAL CALENDAR

A date with art

1. Prado Museum
2. Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum
3. Reina Sofía Museum
4. Royal Palace
5. San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts
6. National Archaeological Museum
7. Lázaro Galdiano Museum
8. Sorolla Museum
9. National Museum of Decorative Arts
10. National Museum of Romanticism
11. Cerralbo Museum

Art Week

February

Over one week the city hosts various art fairs in connection with ARCOMadrid, which draws the world's best galleries to Feria de Madrid every year.

PHotoEspaña

June, July and August

Museums, galleries and cultural centres take part in this photography and visual arts festival, with dozens of exhibitions held all around Madrid.

Architecture Week

October

Among other activities, the COAM Foundation organises guided tours of the city's most interesting buildings.

Museum Night

May

In honour of International Museum Day, held around 18 May, on this night many of the city's cultural centres extend their opening hours and hold special activities.

Apertura

September

After the summer, the season kicks off in September with an open weekend organised by art galleries, which welcome visitors with a few bites to eat.

Feriarte

November

This meeting place for auctioneers, antiques dealers and art galleries is distinguished by the extremely high quality of the pieces exhibited. The furniture and collectors' items are particularly fine.

ART IN MADRID

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“Diego Velázquez is the greatest painter that has ever existed. He alone is worth the trip to Madrid.”

Édouard Manet
Painter