

SAN ANTONIO MUSEUM of ART

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Spain: 500 Years of Spanish Painting from the Museums of Madrid June 22–September 16, 2018

San Antonio, TX— March 29, 2018

This summer, the San Antonio Museum of Art will present a dramatic survey of five hundred years of Spanish painting, stretching from the union of Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand in the late fifteenth century through the turn of the twentieth century. *Spain: 500 Years of Spanish Painting from the Museums of Madrid* will contain more than forty works of art from major collections in Madrid—very few of which have previously been on view anywhere in the United States and none of which have been seen in San Antonio.

Organized in celebration of the Tricentennial of the city of San Antonio, the exhibition will convey the splendors of Spanish artistic traditions—a heritage that is part of the rich legacy of blended cultures that make San Antonio one of the most distinctive places in the United States.

Spain traces the continuity of specific Spanish pictorial traditions, including portraiture, landscape from the earliest hints of naturalism to the impressionist and expressionist movements of the late nineteenth century, dramatic devotional painting, and exacting still life.

Organized by Dr. Katherine Crawford Luber, the Kelso Director, and Dr. William Keyse Rudolph, Andrew W. Mellon Chief Curator/Marie and Hugh Halff Curator of American Art, *Spain* will only be on view in San Antonio. *Spain* features works by iconic artists El Greco, Diego Velázquez, Bartolome Estéban Murillo, Jusepe de Ribera, Francisco Goya y Lucientes, Joaquín Sorolla, and Pablo Picasso. It also celebrates the artistic achievements of many other Spanish masters, such as Juan de Flandes, Luis de Morales, Frederico Madrazo y Kuntz, Antonio Esquivel, and Ignacio Zuloaga.

To offer an immersive experience to its visitors, the Museum has conceived the “Summer of Spain.” Throughout the run of the exhibition, the Museum will host lecture series, a film festival, and a weekly street-festival-inspired evening featuring flamenco lessons, poetry readings, music, and art-making. The exhibition has inspired other city organizations to



participate in the “Summer of Spain,” including the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, the Southwest School of Art, Casa España, the Pearl retail and dining complex, and Visit San Antonio.

“Spanish artistic traditions are part of the formative influences upon the culture of San Antonio,” said Dr. Lubber. “Over and over again, motifs from Spanish art became part of the visual language of art made and used in New Spain, and that has continued, in different forms, in the modern era. With this exhibition, our residents—and visitors—will have the chance to engage with extraordinary works of art as we celebrate our city’s three-hundred-year past and look to its future. We are immensely grateful to our partners in Spain and the United States who understand the importance of this anniversary year to the city and were willing to share their treasured paintings for our community to enjoy.”

The curators selected the exhibition checklist from some of the most important museums in Madrid:

- Museo Nacional del Prado
- Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, including the personal collection of the Countess Thyssen-Bornemisza
- Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia
- Fundación Lázaro Galdiano
- Museo de la Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando
- Museo Cerralbo
- Museo del Romanticismo
- Museo Sorolla

Key loans from the Cleveland Museum of Art; the Meadows Museum at Southern Methodist University; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts add to the distinguished international mix; as well as tell the further story of the active collecting of Spanish painting by American museums.

The exhibition is will be accompanied by an illustrated volume of all the works with an essay by Dr. Lubber and Dr. Rudolph.

The Museum has undertaken this project with the support of the Spanish Embassy in Washington, DC, and the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sport in Madrid.

This exhibition is organized by the San Antonio Museum of Art and presented by Bank of America. It is generously funded by Carlos and Malú Alvarez, American Airlines, The Brown Foundation, and the Elizabeth Huth Coates Foundation of 1992.

This exhibition is supported by the City of San Antonio’s Department of Arts & Culture and an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

Image: Francisco de Zurbarán (baptized 1598–1664), *Saint Isabel of Portugal*, ca. 1635, Oil on canvas, h. 72 7/16 in. (184 cm); w. 38 9/16 in. (98 cm), Museo del Prado, P01239

About the San Antonio Museum of Art:

The San Antonio Museum of Art serves as a forum to explore and connect with art that spans the world's geographies, artistic periods, genres, and cultures. Its collection contains nearly 30,000 works representing 5,000 years of history. Housed in the historic Lone Star Brewery on the Museum Reach of San Antonio's River Walk, the San Antonio Museum of Art is committed to promoting the rich cultural heritage and life of the city. The Museum hosts hundreds of events and public programs each year, including concerts, performances, tours, lectures, symposia, and interactive experiences. As an active civic leader, the Museum is dedicated to enriching the cultural life of the city and the region, and to supporting its creative community.

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