



MEADOWS MUSEUM INSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUNDER

The Meadows Museum in Dallas is the leading U.S. institution focused on the study and presentation of the art of Spain. In 1962, Dallas businessman and philanthropist Algur H. Meadows donated his private collection of Spanish paintings, as well as funds to start a museum, to Southern Methodist University. The museum opened to the public in 1965, marking the first step in fulfilling Meadows's vision to create a "Prado on the Prairie."

Today, the Meadows is home to one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Spanish art in the world. The collection spans from the 10th to the 21st century, and includes medieval objects, Renaissance and Baroque sculptures, and major paintings by Golden Age and modern masters.

PRADO-MEADOWS PARTNERSHIP

The Meadows Museum and the Museo Nacional del Prado announced in 2009 the launch of a three-year partnership that included interdisciplinary research at Southern Methodist University (SMU), an unprecedented fellowship exchange between the two museums, a range of public programs, and the loan of three major paintings from the Prado. The first painting, El Greco's *Pentecost* (1596-1600), was exhibited at the Meadows in fall 2010. Jusepe de Ribera's *Mary Magdalene* (1640-41), the second painting, was paired with three additional loans of Ribera works from other collections in an exhibition that took place in fall 2011. Following the success of the first three years of partnership, in summer 2012 the museums announced an expanded partnership, which began with a fall 2012 exhibition highlighting the third loan, Diego Velázquez's *Portrait of King Philip IV* (c. 1623-28). The expanded agreement continued the many initiatives the museums began in 2009 and included two new collaborative exhibitions: *Impressions of Europe: Nineteenth-Century Vistas by Martín Rico* and *The Spanish Gesture: Drawings from Murillo to Goya in the Hamburger Kunsthalle*, held in 2013 and 2014, respectively. The partnership continues into the present with the recent addition of a post-doctoral fellowship exchange and conservation work by the Prado's staff on paintings within the Meadows's collection.

THE ALGUR H. MEADOWS COLLECTION

Founding Collection of Spanish Art from the 15th through 20th Centuries

The paintings that comprise the Museum's founding collection range from early Renaissance works, painted at the end of the 15th century, to modern works by Picasso, Miró, and Juan Gris. The majority of the collection, however, focuses on the Spanish "Golden Age." From the 1550s to nearly the beginning of the 18th century, Spain experienced a flowering of the arts. The Algur H. Meadows Collection contains masterworks by Velázquez, Murillo, Ribera, and many other artists working during this time. Of particular note are several paintings by Francisco de Goya, including *Yard with Madmen*, and complete first edition sets of Goya's four great print series: *La Tauromaquia*, *Los Disparates*, *Los Caprichos*, and *Los Desastres de la Guerra*. These works reveal the development of Goya's style and artistic interests throughout his career. The collection includes a number of fine examples of 19th-century Realist and Impressionist works from Spain as well, including works by Fortuny and Sorolla.

THE MEADOWS MUSEUM COLLECTION

Acquisitions, 1978-Present

Since Mr. Meadows's death, the Meadows Museum has continued to actively acquire Spanish art. *Wave* (2002) by artist and architect Santiago Calatrava, for example, is a massive kinetic sculpture of 129 steel bars coated in bronze situated above a black granite reflecting pool at the entrance to the museum on Bishop Boulevard and *Sho* (2009) by Jaume Plensa is a monumental wire-frame sculpture of a young girl's head, positioned on the center of the outdoor plaza. Works by El Greco, Carreño, Goya, Sorolla, and Tàpies, as well as several Baroque polychromed wood sculptures, grace the interior of the museum. Current acquisitions are thanks to contributions from The Meadows Foundation, donors, and friends. For more information on recent acquisitions, see the enclosed acquisitions fact sheet.

THE ELIZABETH MEADOWS SCULPTURE COLLECTION

Founding Collection of 20th Century International Sculpture

In addition to the Meadows's core collection of Spanish art, the Museum also oversees and manages a collection of modern sculpture by non-Spanish artists, known (and displayed) originally as the Elizabeth Meadows Sculpture Garden. Many of these sculptures can be seen on the Museum's outdoor plaza, including works by renowned 20th-century artists such as Jacques Lipchitz, Henry Moore, and Claes Oldenburg. Important figural sculptures by Rodin, Maillol, and Giacometti are on display within the museum.

UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION

The Meadows Museum is also responsible for the Southern Methodist University Art Collection. The collection began in 1920 and originally consisted primarily of Texas Regionalist art, including important artists such as Jerry Bywaters. The collection now contains a wide array of artwork donated by alumni and friends of SMU. Many works in the collection are by former students and faculty members who have gone on to distinguished careers in the art world, including John Alexander, David Bates and James Surls. Though the Meadows Museum often displays parts of the collection, it can also be seen in and around buildings all over the SMU campus.

ARTISTS REPRESENTED IN THE COLLECTIONS

Spanish

Santiago **Calatrava**

Joaquín **Sorolla**

Francisco José de **Goya** y Lucientes

Domenikos Theotokopoulos, "**El Greco**"

Joan **Miró**

Bartolomé Esteban **Murillo**

Pablo **Picasso**

Jaume **Plensa**

Jusepe de **Ribera**

Diego Rodríguez de Silva y **Velázquez**

20th-century Sculptors

Alberto **Giacometti**

Jacques **Lipchitz**

Aristide **Maillol**

Henry **Moore**

Isamu **Noguchi**

Claes **Oldenburg**

George **Rickey**

Auguste **Rodin**

David **Smith**

HISTORY

During business trips to Spain in the 1950s, Texas philanthropist and oil financier Algur H. Meadows spent many hours at the Museo Nacional del Prado in Madrid. The Prado's spectacular collection of Spanish masterpieces inspired Meadows to begin his own collection of Spanish art. In 1962, through The Meadows Foundation, he gave SMU funds for the construction and endowment of a museum to house his Spanish collection, in honor of his late wife, Virginia. Later he donated the collection of 20th-century sculpture he had built with his second wife, Elizabeth. The Meadows Museum opened April 3, 1965, as part of the Owen Arts Center at SMU. In the years that followed, Algur Meadows provided the impetus and funds for an aggressive but highly selective acquisitions program through which an extraordinary collection was developed in a remarkably short period of time. Since his death in 1978, The Meadows Foundation and many other friends and donors have provided ongoing support for continued development of the museum's permanent collection. The Foundation gave a gift of \$20 million in 1998 for construction of a new museum building on campus to showcase the collection and provide more space for special exhibitions and educational programs; the new building opened in March 2001.

FACTS:

- The Meadows Museum opened its doors April 3, 1965, within the then newly-constructed Owen Arts Center. The Meadows Museum's current 66,000 square-foot building opened in 2001.
- The Meadows's collection of paintings has nearly doubled in size since the death of the museum's founder in 1978.
- The Museum has received two major gifts of \$25 million each from The Meadows Foundation, one in 2006 and one in 2015, both earmarked for exhibitions, acquisitions and educational programs.
- Recent special exhibitions at the Museum include *The Spanish Gesture: Drawings from Murillo to Goya in the Hamburger Kunsthalle*; *Sorolla and America*; *Impressions of Europe: Nineteenth-Century Vistas by Martín Rico*; and *Diego Velázquez: The Early Court Portraits*.
- In 2009, the Meadows Museum renovated its plaza and sculpture garden, which features sculptures by major 20th-century masters including Jacques Lipchitz, Henry Moore, Claes Oldenburg, and Fritz Wotruba. The centerpiece of the plaza is *Sho*, a 13-foot-tall sculpture by contemporary Spanish artist Jaume Plensa. At the base of the plaza is a 40-by-90 foot moving sculpture, *Wave*, designed by Santiago Calatrava.
- In addition to exhibition galleries, the Museum features education areas, a studio, an auditorium, special event spaces, and a shop.
- The Meadows Museum will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2015 and is planning a range of special exhibitions, initiatives, and events leading up to the celebration.