



## **Meadows Museum, Leading Center for Spanish Art in the U.S., Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015**

### **Celebration Includes Major Exhibitions of Rarely Seen Works from Spanish Private Collections Ambassador Loans from Musée du Louvre, Paris and Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna International Symposium Featuring New Scholarship on Francisco de Goya New Acquisitions and Series of Public Events**

**DALLAS, TX, February 17, 2015** – The Meadows Museum at Southern Methodist University—the leading center for the study and presentation of Spanish art in the United States—is launching a series of initiatives to mark its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. The celebration is centered on two landmark exhibitions of rarely seen masterworks from Spanish private collections: that of Juan Abelló and Anna Gamazo, whose collection includes works ranging from El Greco’s paintings to one of the final triptychs created by Francis Bacon; and the collection of the House of Alba, with works gathered over the span of 500 years by one of Europe’s preeminent noble families. Together, the exhibitions explore collecting from two distinct perspectives—that of a modern-day, self-made entrepreneur, and that of a dynasty acquiring works across 15 generations—to shed new light on collectors’ shifting motivations, passions, and predilections throughout history, as well as pay homage to Museum founder Algur H. Meadows’s vision and legacy as a collector of Spanish art.

Other initiatives of the celebration include ambassador loans from the Musée du Louvre and Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna of major paintings by Francisco de Goya and Diego Velázquez; a public symposium on new approaches to exhibiting Goya’s work featuring the world’s top scholars; and the newly established Meadows/Prado post-doctoral fellowship, whose participants develop original scholarship related to the museums’ collections, as well as assist in the research and organization of special exhibitions. The Meadows is also continuing its robust acquisition initiative with the recent addition of several modern and contemporary works that complement, unify, and expand the Museum’s collection.

The anniversary season underscores the Meadows’s ongoing commitment to bringing Spanish masterworks to the U.S.; increasing awareness of Spain’s rich cultural heritage through new research, scholarship, and discourse; and further strengthening its own collection, one of the largest and most comprehensive holdings of Spanish art outside of Spain.

Detailed information on these and other anniversary initiatives follows below. Additional programs for the Meadows’s anniversary celebration will be announced in the coming months.

“The Meadows is thrilled to commemorate this milestone in our history with such an ambitious roster of exhibitions and programming,” said Mark A. Roglán, The Linda P. and William A. Custard Director of the Meadows Museum and Centennial Chair in the Meadows School of the Arts. “It is a great privilege to partner with our colleagues at the Louvre and Kunsthistorisches, and we are incredibly grateful to the Abelló and Alba families for their generosity in making this extraordinary year possible. I can think of no

better way to celebrate the Meadows's anniversary and look forward to our future, as we honor Algur Meadows's vision to celebrate and share the remarkable role that Spanish artists have played in Western culture—a vision so perfectly aligned with the legacies of the Abelló and Alba families.”

## EXHIBITIONS

### ***The Abelló Collection: A Modern Taste for European Masters***

April 18 – August 2, 2015

The first international exhibition of paintings from the esteemed private collection of Juan Abelló and Anna Gamazo, among the world's top 200 collectors, *The Abelló Collection: A Modern Taste for European Masters* features 70 rarely seen works spanning the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, including Francis Bacon's *Triptych* (1983), one of the artist's final works in this iconic format. By bringing together works by such Spanish masters as El Greco, Jusepe de Ribera, Francisco de Goya, Salvador Dalí, and Pablo Picasso—as well as such European artists as Georges Braque, Edgar Degas, Henri Matisse, and Amedeo Modigliani, among others—the exhibition brings to light the breadth and range of Abelló's collecting, as well as his shared passion with Algur Meadows for championing Spanish creativity and culture. The exhibition is curated by Almudena Ros de Barbero, curator of the Abelló Collection and former curator at the Wildenstein Institute in Paris.

### ***Treasures from the House of Alba: 500 Years of Art and Collecting***

September 4, 2015 – January 3, 2016

*Treasures from the House of Alba* comprises over 100 masterworks from the House of Alba collection—one of the oldest and most significant collections of European art in the world—the majority of which have never been on public display or seen outside of the Alba family's personal estates. Surveying more than 500 years of Western history and culture, the exhibition features paintings by such artists as Francisco de Goya, Peter Paul Rubens, and Pierre-Auguste Renoir, as well as prints, drawings, tapestries, and decorative objects acquired by past generations of the Alba family. Major historic documents will also be featured, including Christopher Columbus's original logbook from his first voyage across the Atlantic and the first hand-drawn map of the New World, neither of which have been exhibited publicly.

Charting the Alba dynasty's majesty, power, and patronage from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, *Treasures from the House of Alba* examines for the first time the Duchy's personal ties to European royalty and notable historic figures, including Goya and Columbus. Loans from prominent museum collections worldwide that were once part of the Alba holdings will accompany the contributions from the Alba family to showcase the full scope of the family's collecting history. The exhibition is curated by Fernando Checa Cremades, former director of the Museo Nacional del Prado.

## AMBASSADOR LOANS

Distinguished loans from the Musée du Louvre, Paris and Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna provide a rare opportunity for people in the United States to see significant works by Francisco de Goya and Diego Velázquez from these European collections. Their display among the Meadows's own works by Goya and Velázquez will offer fresh perspectives on the artists' art and techniques and deepen understanding of the cultural, social, and art historical contexts of their work. The loans build on the Meadows's prior collaborations with leading international institutions, most recently the Museo Nacional del Prado, with which the Meadows initiated an unprecedented ongoing partnership that included major loans, interdisciplinary research, a range of public programs, and an internship exchange between the two museums.

- ***Goya and López: A Conversation – Ambassador Loan from the Musée du Louvre, Paris***  
February 1 – May 3, 2015

The Meadows hosts the Louvre's *Portrait of Fernando Guillemardet* (1798-99) by Goya in dialogue with its own *Portrait of Richard Worsam Meade* (1815) by Vicente López y Portaño. Goya's masterful portrait of Guillemardet, the French ambassador to Spain from 1798 to 1800, shares a number of formal characteristics with the Meadows's painting and, like Goya, López served as court painter to Charles IV and Ferdinand VII in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

- ***Masterwork by Velázquez – Ambassador Loan from the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna***  
July 25 – November 1, 2015

The Meadows Museum hosts the Kunsthistorisches' *Portrait of the Infanta Margarita Teresa in a Blue Dress* (1659) by Velázquez. One of the artist's final portraits and executed one year before his death, this work depicts the Infanta Margarita, daughter of Philip IV and Mariana of Austria, who is also prominently featured in Velázquez's masterpiece *Las Meninas* (1656), painted just three years earlier. As the royal couple's first child, the Infanta was promised to her uncle and cousin, Emperor Leopold I, whom she married in Vienna, testifying to the intimate dynastic connection between the Spanish and Austrian branches of the Habsburg Empire.

## SCHOLARSHIP

### ***Curating Goya***

On February 6-7, the Meadows Museum hosted "Curating Goya," a two-day event featuring new scholarship by curators of recent and upcoming exhibitions on the life and work of Francisco de Goya, including the Meadows's own *Goya: A Lifetime of Graphic Invention* (on view through March 8, 2015); *Goya: Order and Disorder* at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; and three additional Goya exhibitions opening in Europe in the coming year. Organized in partnership with the Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History at the University of Texas at Dallas, the program comprised an invitation-only scholars day, followed by a day-long symposium, which explored the particular challenges that Goya's vast and varied oeuvre presents for interpretation and display, and how different approaches to exhibiting Goya's work invite new paths for understanding his art. Symposium presentations included:

- **"A 'Reshuffled Retrospective' in Boston"** by Frederick Ilchman, chair, Art of Europe, and Mrs. Russell W. Baker Curator of Paintings, at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston;
- **"Goya: A 'Universal Language' in all its Themes and Variations"** by Juliet Wilson-Bareau, independent art historian, writer, and curator of *Goya: Truth and Fantasy, The Small Paintings* at the Royal Academy of Arts, London;
- **"Goya's Portraits: An Exhibition in the Making"** by Xavier Bray, Arturo and Holly Melosi chief curator of the Dulwich Picture Gallery, London;
- **"Goya in Perspective: Exhibitions 1974-2008"** by Janis Tomlinson, director of University Museums at the University of Delaware, author of *Francisco Goya y Lucientes 1746-1828, El Greco to Goya: Painting in Spain 1561-1828*, and *Goya in the Twilight of Enlightenment* (1992); and curator of *Goya: Images of Women* at the Museo Nacional del Prado (2001) and National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC (2002).

For more information on "Curating Goya" and other programs, click [here](#).

### ***Fellowships***

To celebrate the anniversary year, the Meadows Museum and the Museo Nacional del Prado will continue their unprecedented international partnership by offering two curatorial fellowships supported by the Samuel H. Kress and Andrew W. Mellon foundations. Designed to provide pre- and post-doctoral students with an intensive academic, professional, and international experience in curatorial work, the fellowship programs enable unique opportunities for new scholarship in Spanish art based on an unparalleled combination of resources and direct access to the each museums' staff and collections. The Meadows/Prado partnership, which was initiated in 2010 under Meadows director Mark Roglán and

Prado director Miguel Zugaza, has included collaborative exhibitions, major loans, interdisciplinary research, and bilingual publications, among other initiatives, in addition to this landmark fellowship exchange.

## **ACQUISITIONS**

In the lead-up to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Meadows announced the acquisition of five works by noted Spanish artists Francisco de Goya, Raimundo de Madrazo y Garreta, Miquel Barceló, Juan Muñoz, and Ignacio Zuloaga y Zabaleta as part of its ongoing initiative to further enhance its collection. Continuing its robust acquisition initiative and focusing on pieces that complement, unify, and expand the Museum's existing collection, the Meadows will announce additional acquisitions later this year.

These new works—all of which are currently on view at the Museum—strengthen the Meadows's permanent collection as a whole, and particularly its 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century holdings, as well as its growing collection of contemporary art. As a result of these and many other acquisitions, the Museum's collection has nearly doubled in size in the last 35 years.

## **SUPPORT**

The Museum's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is sponsored by The Meadows Foundation, The Moody Foundation, and the Dallas Tourism Public Improvement District, with additional support from Communities Foundation of North Texas. Media sponsorship has been provided by *The Dallas Morning News*.

*The Abelló Collection* and *Treasures from the House of Alba* have been organized by the Meadows Museum. The exhibitions are part of the Museum's Golden Anniversary, which is sponsored by The Meadows Foundation and The Moody Foundation. Media sponsorship has been provided by *The Dallas Morning News* with additional support from the Dallas Tourism Public Improvement District.

## **About the Meadows Museum**

The Meadows Museum 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' vision to create a "small Prado for Texas." Today, the Meadows is home to one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Spanish art outside of Spain. The collection spans from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries and includes medieval objects, Renaissance and Baroque sculptures, and major paintings by Golden Age and modern masters. Since 2010 the Museum has been engaged in a multidimensional partnership with the Prado, which has included the exchange of scholarship, exhibitions, works of art, and other resources.

###

### **Media Contacts:**

Meryl Feinstein  
Resnicow + Associates  
[mfeinstein@resnicow.com](mailto:mfeinstein@resnicow.com)  
212-671-5161

Carrie Hunnicutt  
Meadows Museum  
[chunnicutt@smu.edu](mailto:chunnicutt@smu.edu)  
214-768-1584