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CALATRAVA AND SMU: A DECADE IN MOTION

DALLAS (SMU) – SMU’s Meadows Museum, home to “Wave” (2002), the first large-scale sculpture by Santiago Calatrava to be permanently installed in the United States, is joining the celebration honoring the opening of the Spanish architect’s Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge with a special exhibition –“Calatrava and SMU: A Decade in Motion,” March 4-April 22, 2012.

The exhibition includes a selection of Calatrava’s preliminary watercolor sketches of “Wave,” a 40-by-90-foot perpetually moving sculpture installed in 2002 on the street-level plaza in front of the Meadows Museum at 5900 Bishop Blvd. A campus landmark, the sculpture’s bronze bars move sequentially above a reflection pool. The exhibition also includes correspondence and mementoes from the sculpture’s installation and dedication.

“Over the past decade, Calatrava and SMU have built a deep relationship,” says Meadows Museum Director Mark A. Roglán. “It is now our great pleasure to extend this relationship with the City of Dallas as we join them in celebrating this new landmark. This exhibition will offer visitors a unique view of the artist behind the bridge and illustrate the many ties that bind him with us.”

On March 3, 2012, Calatrava will return to campus to see the exhibition, as well as a new view of “Wave,” which was created in the 2009 renovation of the Meadows Museum Plaza and Sculpture Garden. The plaza’s southwest corner now includes a new terrace, the Irwin Overlook, overlooking the sculpture.

Meadows Museum is the only Dallas-Fort Worth museum that includes Calatrava works in its permanent collection. Besides “Wave,” the Meadows collection also includes Calatrava sculptures “Palme” (1998) and “Il Dente” (1999), which will be part of the exhibition as well. In addition, the exhibition will include a selection of sketches made by Calatrava in a set of architecture books he donated to the museum. The rarely exhibited sketches feature images of figures, doves and bulls.

Calatrava’s relationship with SMU began in 1999 when he was commissioned to create “Wave” for the new Meadows Museum, which opened in 2001. He received the 2000 Algur H. Meadows Award for Excellence in the Arts from SMU’s Meadows School of the Arts, then returned to SMU in 2001 when his work was featured in the museum’s inaugural exhibition “Poetics of Movement: The Architecture of Santiago Calatrava.” SMU again honored Calatrava at Commencement in 2005 with the presentation of an Honorary Doctor of Arts degree at a ceremony where he also gave the 90th SMU Commencement address.

King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofía of Spain attended the opening festival of the new Meadows Museum and participated in a ceremony pouring water from Spain into a special vase to await the dedication of “Wave.” At the 2002 dedication of “Wave,” Calatrava and Spanish Ambassador Javier Rupérez poured the water from Spain into the sculpture’s reflecting pool, mixing it with Texas water as a symbol of the cultural and aesthetic bond between Spain and the United States. The ceremonial vase will be part of the exhibition.

"I was very moved when the Meadows Museum at Southern Methodist University asked me to create a sculpture," Santiago Calatrava said at the dedication, "and I am now delighted to see the work permanently installed here, where I have received such a warm welcome."

“In this sculpture, the solidity of the bronze bars seems to dissolve into something fluid,” he said. “Rigid, straight elements take on the appearance of a curve; the heavy material becomes weightless, as it is reflected in the water. Perhaps, in these transformations, we may also sense how an architect born in Spain comes to feel at home in Dallas.”

Calatrava provided preliminary ideas to the museum’s renovation of its Plaza and Sculpture Garden. When the plaza opened in 2009, Calatrava’s work was once again featured in an exhibition, “Santiago Calatrava: The Making of Wave.”

The Rosine Foundation Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas, through the generosity of Mary Anne and Richard Cree of Dallas, provided \$1.5 million for construction and maintenance of Calatrava's "Wave" as part of the Campaign for SMU. Mrs. Cree established The Rosine Foundation Fund to honor the memory of her mother, Rosine S. Sammons. The Meadows Museum Plaza and Sculpture Garden includes a terrace overlooking "Wave" donated by Richard K. and Gwen S. Irwin in honor of his parents, William and Florence Irwin.

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Timeline: Calatrava and SMU

- 1999** Santiago Calatrava commissioned to create "Wave" for new Meadows Museum.
- 2000** SMU presents the Algur H. Meadows Award for Excellence in the Arts to Calatrava
- 2001** New Meadows Museum inaugural exhibition is "Poetics of Movement: The Architecture of Santiago Calatrava."
- 2002** "Wave," the first large-scale Santiago Calatrava sculpture to be permanently installed in the United States, is dedicated at SMU's Meadows Museum.
- 2005** SMU presents Honorary Doctor of Arts degree to Calatrava, he presents 2005 SMU Commencement address.
- 2009** Opening of renovated Meadows Museum Plaza and Sculpture Garden features exhibition, "Santiago Calatrava: The Making of Wave."
- 2012** Meadows Museum presents "Calatrava and SMU: A Decade in Motion."

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 "Prado on the Prairie." Today, the Meadows collection of Spanish art—one of the largest and most comprehensive outside of Spain—comprises more than 125 paintings and sculptures and approximately 450 works on paper. 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.