



MEADOWS MUSEUM
SMU · DALLAS

***Canvas & Silk: Historic Fashion from Madrid's Museo del Traje*
Opens at the Meadows Museum on September 19, 2021**

DALLAS (SMU)—September 13, 2021— On September 19th, the Meadows Museum, SMU, will open a major exhibition of Spanish dress and fashion that pairs paintings from the Meadows's collection with historic dress and accessories from the Museo del Traje, Centro de Investigación del Patrimonio Etnológico in Madrid. *Canvas & Silk: Historic Fashion from Madrid's Museo del Traje* marks the first major collaboration between this important Spanish institution and an American museum and includes approximately 40 works from the Meadows alongside examples of dress and accessories from the Museo del Traje (Spanish National Museum for Fashion). Displayed together, the works in the exhibition not only tell the story of how fashion trends in Spain changed over four hundred years, but also reveal how elements of a country's history – such as its involvement with global trade or the formation of a national identity – are reflected in its dress. *Canvas & Silk* is curated by Amanda W. Dotseth, curator at the Meadows Museum, and Elvira González, curator at the Museo del Traje, and will be on view at the Meadows from September 19, 2021, until January 9, 2022. Concurrently, the Meadows will also present *Image & Identity: Mexican Fashion in the Modern Period*, an investigation into Mexican dress spanning from Mexican Independence to modern times through photographs and prints from the collections of the Meadows Museum and SMU's DeGolyer Library.

The museum announced today that the exhibition will be accompanied by a series of both in-person and virtual programs sponsored by the Cultural Office of the Embassy of Spain. These include lectures by various historians and curators, including a virtual event this Thursday, September 19th with *Canvas & Silk* co-curator Elvira González of the Museo del Traje, who will introduce audiences to the museum's collection and history. More information about each program follows below.

The exhibition will also be accompanied by a catalogue inspired by the form and style of fashion magazines. Featuring new photography of key objects by contemporary Spanish photographer Jesús Madriñán, the catalogue will allow readers to experience close-up the exquisite details of the garments, such as the lace, embroidery, and beading. The catalogue also contains an essay co-authored by the curators that illuminates themes linking the garments, accessories, and corresponding works in the Meadows collection.

Canvas & Silk will be divided into themes that elucidate various trends in the history of European fashion in general and Spanish dress in particular over the past four hundred years. These include "Precious Things," featuring accessories like jewelry and combs made from precious metals and other rare materials such as coral; "Traditional Dress" with examples of garments and ensembles that are typically identified with Spain, such as a *traje de luces* (the suit typically worn by bullfighters) and *mantón de Manila* (traditional embroidered silk shawls

historically traded through Manila); and “Stepping Out” demonstrating the importance of what one wore when presenting themselves in public. Highlights of pairings combining paintings from the Meadows’s collection and historic dress from the Museo del Traje include Ignacio Zuloaga’s *The Bullfighter “El Segovianito”* (1912) accompanied by a traje de luces of the same color; Zuloaga’s *Portrait of the Duchess of Arión, Marchioness of Bay* (1918) displayed alongside a *mantón de Manila* similar to the one the duchess is holding; and Joan Miró’s *Queen Louise of Prussia* (1929) paired with a vibrantly hand-painted dress and shoes by twentieth-century fashion designer Manuel Piña.

Canvas & Silk will be accompanied by a focused exhibition in the museum’s first-floor galleries titled *Image & Identity: Mexican Fashion in the Modern Period*, curated by Akemi Luisa Herráez Vossbrink, the 2020-21 Center for Spain in America (CSA) Curatorial Fellow at the Meadows Museum. Featuring photographs, prints, books, and gouaches from the 19th and 20th centuries, this exhibition will explore Mexican fashion through images of everyday scenes, festivities, regional types, and occupations. Building on a theme developed in *Canvas & Silk*, *Image & Identity* will also show how national identity formation is reflected in fashion and is often accompanied by a resurgence in the popularity of Indigenous dress. Works in *Image & Identity* are drawn from the collections of the Meadows Museum and SMU’s DeGolyer Library, named after Everette L. DeGolyer, Sr. who, with his son, collected maps, books, manuscripts, and photographs related to Mexican exploration and history. Artists featured in the exhibition include Alfred Briquet, Carlos Mérida, Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, Jerry Bywaters, Paul Strand and Manuel Álvarez Bravo.

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMS

For pricing and registration for all programs, please visit:

<https://meadowsmuseumdallas.org/program-calendar/>

Museo del Traje: A Journey Through the Collections

Virtual Lecture

Thursday, September 16, 12 pm CDT

Elvira González Asenjo, curator, Museo del Traje, Centro de Investigación del Patrimonio Etnológico

The Museo del Traje (Spanish National Museum for Fashion) in Madrid is Spain’s premier museum of historic dress and fashion. While the institution was only founded in 2004, its core collection has a much longer history, dating back to the influential 1925 exhibition *Traje Regional e Histórico (Regional and Historic Dress)*. Since that time, and over the course of the collection’s history, it has changed names many times but has also developed considerably in breadth and diversity. This lecture will tell the story of the Museo del Traje and its holdings.

The Clothes Make the Man: Masculinity and Fashion at the Meadows **Gallery Talk**

Friday, October 22, 12:15 pm CDT

Amy Freund, associate professor and Kleinheinz Family Endowed Chair in Art History, SMU

Free with regular museum admission, Meadows Museum gallery talks feature art research and perspectives from local experts. Dr. Freund is a specialist in 18th-century European art. Her first book, *Portraiture and Politics in Revolutionary France* (Penn State University Press, 2014), examines the ways in which sitters and artists used portraiture to reformulate personal and political identity during the French Revolution.

Fashion and Fantasy in Eighteenth-Century France and Spain

Virtual and In-Person Lecture

Friday, October 22, 6 pm CDT

Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell, fashion historian, curator, and journalist

During Spain's Golden Age, Spain's fashions were admired and imitated across Europe. But the decline of Spanish power and the ascendancy of France under Louis XIV shifted the axis of fashion, art, and culture to Paris. Eighteenth-century travelers remarked that Spanish women dressed in "modern French fashion." But their French counterparts increasingly looked to Spain's past glories for inspiration. Neither antique nor modern, traditional Spanish costume was a picturesque and timeless alternative to the increasingly fickle fashions of the era, inspiring masquerade, theater, and court costumes as well as genre scenes and portraits *à l'espagnole*. Once easily distinguishable from French fashion, Spanish style began to permeate everyday dress and by the reign of Louis XVI, even the royal family embraced the new Spanish-accented rustic elegance. This lecture will explore the relationship between French and Spanish fashion during the 18th century.

Making It: Creating Fashion in Early Modern Europe

Virtual and In-Person Lecture

Thursday, November 18, 6 pm CST

Annette Becker, director and curator, UNT CVAD Texas Fashion Collection

Have you ever wondered how delicate, handmade lace was created, or how stiff ruffs stayed so crisp and white? And before department stores and boutiques, how did gentlemen procure elaborately embroidered suits? In celebration of the exhibition *Canvas & Silk: Historic Fashion from Madrid's Museo del Traje*, join Texas Fashion Collection director Annette Becker in an exploration of the lives of garments from the 16th through the 18th centuries. Together we'll discover the surprisingly laborious and often creative processes of commissioning, creating, and caring for garments represented in portraiture and featured in the exhibition, allowing us a greater understanding of how people's lives were intertwined with clothing.

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's 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 10th to the 21st centuries and includes medieval objects, Renaissance and Baroque sculptures, and major paintings by Golden Age and modern masters.

About the Museo del Traje

The Museo del Traje in Madrid is the primary museum dedicated to clothing in Spain. It opened its doors under its current name in 2004, though its history stretches back to 1925. Since then, it has housed rich and varied collections, including both historical and traditional clothing, as well as the latest designs from the 21st century. The Museo del Traje is responsible for the study and care of these collections and their mission is to bring these collections to the public. Using something as ordinary and everyday as clothing, the Museo del Traje analyzes Spanish society in a Western context throughout history by creating a close bond with its visitors. Its permanent exhibition allows visitors to travel through the history of fashion from the 18th century to the 21st century, providing context through vintage objects, photos and posters. This experience is enriched by the diverse temporary exhibitions and activities designed to bring the history of clothing to a broad public.

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