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The Meadows Museum in Dallas granted the 10th Bernardo de Gálvez Award



Room devoted to medieval and renaissance art in the Meadows Museum. Photo: Dmitris Skliris.

>>The 10th Bernardo de Gálvez Award, granted by the Fundación Consejo España - Estados Unidos, highlights the role of the Meadows Museum at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas as a “permanent cultural embassy of Spain in the United States.”

>>Founded in 1965, the museum houses renowned works by El Greco, Velázquez, Zurbarán, Murillo, Goya, Miró, Picasso, and Tàpies, among other great masters of the 10th to 21st centuries, in one of the largest and most complete collections of Spanish art outside of Spain.

>>Among others recognized by the Bernardo de Gálvez Award are the United States Library of Congress, the Hispanic Society of America, Senators Tim Kaine and Bob Menendez, and historian and Hispanist Stanley G. Payne.

Madrid, January 23, 2023 The Fundación Consejo España - Estados Unidos has awarded the 10th Bernardo de Gálvez Award to the [Meadows Museum in Dallas](https://www.meadowsmuseum.org/), Texas, the art museum of

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Southern Methodist University (SMU), which houses one of the largest and most complete collections of Spanish art beyond our borders.

The award—which bears the name of Bernardo de Gálvez (1746-1786), former governor of Louisiana, founder of the city of Galveston, Texas, a key figure in the American Revolutionary War, a politician and soldier from Málaga—honors individuals or institutions in the United States that have contributed to improving relations between the two countries. “We feel highly honored that our mission to **preserve, study and advance Spanish art and culture** in the state of Texas and, by extension, throughout the country, has been recognized with this award. The museum’s success is the result of the dedication of many people who work both at SMU and abroad. Its commitment to strengthening relations between Spain and the United States through art is constant and admirable,” stated Samuel S. Holland, dean of the Meadows School of the Arts, which operates the museum within SMU. In the words of Mark A. Roglán—director of the museum from 2006 until his death in 2021—since its founding in 1965, the Meadows Museum has functioned as a veritable **“permanent cultural embassy of Spain in the United States.”**

The heads of the institution also highlighted its distinction of being the only university-linked museum exclusively devoted to Spanish art in the United States. “The Meadows Museum is absolutely unique in the world,” noted the museum’s interim director and curator, Amanda Dotseth. “We fulfill our mission by organizing international exhibitions that involve works on loan, academic publications, our consolidated educational programs aimed at all audiences, and also through collaborations with cultural institutions, in both the United States and abroad.”

Spanish art in Texas

Founded in 1965 when oil magnate and philanthropist Algur H. Meadows (1899-1978)—who was compelled to create “a miniature Prado” in Dallas—donated his collection to SMU, and thanks to the successive acquisition campaigns implemented in subsequent years, the Meadows Museum has been able to form an imposing collection of Spanish art ranging from the 10th to the 21st centuries, featuring the great masters: Gallego, El Greco, Velázquez, Ribera, Murillo, and Goya. Select paintings by Zuloaga, Sorolla, Miró, Dalí, Picasso, Fortuny, Gris and Tàpies complete the superb catalogue of works of art that can be admired by the museum’s **50,000 plus visitors** each year.

Mindful of its origins, the museum is also looking toward the future with determination, making significant efforts aimed at expanding its collection of contemporary art and devoting resources to research. “The inauguration in 2021 of the Custard Institute for Spanish Art and Culture, a new division within the museum, augurs a significant expansion of our initiatives and academic

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collaborations in the coming years, thus establishing SMU as the most important center for the study of Spanish art in the United States,” Dotseth added.



A group of students studies the work of Antoni Tàpies, *Grand Noir* (1973), with the sculpture by Juan Muñoz, *Seated Figure Looking Backwards* (1996) in the foreground. Photo: Guy Rogers III

Collaborations with Spanish and U.S. museums

For 20 years, the Meadows Museum has cultivated a fruitful relationship with distinguished cultural institutions in both Spain and the United States and has collaborated regularly with the organization of temporary exhibitions and research programs in tandem with such prestigious museums as the Museo Nacional del Prado, the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, the Frick Collection in New York, and the San Diego Museum of Art.

Following this path, the museum maintains an active exchange with cultural entities such as the Fundación Mapfre, the Casa de Alba, and the Fundación Juan March, among other collections and cultural centers. As a result of its alliance with the Fundación Juan March, next February 26 the Meadows Museum will inaugurate the temporary exhibition *In The Shadow of Dictatorship: Creating the Museum of Spanish Abstract Art*, which will showcase the history of the Museo de

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Arte Abstracto Español in Cuenca and the firm commitment of its founder, artist, curator and collector Fernando Zóbel (1924-1984), through Spain's mid-20th-century avant-garde art, by exhibiting over forty distinguished works from the museum's collection, many of which will travel to the United States for the first time.

The temporary exhibitions promoted by the museum in recent years include *Balenciaga and His Legacy: Haute Couture from the Texas Fashion Collection*, *Sorolla and America*, *Treasures of the House of Alba: 500 Years of Art and Collecting*, *Dalí: Poetics of the Small, 1929–1936*, and *Alonso Berruguete: First Sculptor of Renaissance Spain*.

The Fundación Consejo España - Estados Unidos has planned to hold the ceremony to award the 10th Bernardo de Gálvez Award to the Meadows Museum in Madrid in the spring of this year.



Bernardo de Gálvez Award: a scale model bronze reproduction of the equestrian sculpture of the soldier of Málaga, located in front of the Department of State in Washington, D.C. Photo (fragment): Fundación Consejo España - Estados Unidos/Bruno Maestrini

About the Bernardo de Gálvez Award

Through this award, the Fundación Consejo España - Estados Unidos seeks to honor and publicize the work of those U.S. individuals or institutions that have promoted cooperation between Spain and the United States through their work, example or dedication and have thus

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contributed to improving reciprocal knowledge or have strengthened the relationship between the two countries.

Since it was first awarded in 2007, it has been conferred on former governor of New Mexico **Bill Richardson**, the **Hispanic Society of America**; art historian **Jonathan Brown**; former U.S. ambassador to Spain **Richard Gardner**; Senators **Bob Menendez** and **Tim Kaine**; the **Ford Motor Company**; historian and Hispanist **Stanley G. Payne**; and the **United States Library of Congress**.

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 Fundación Consejo España - Estados Unidos

The **Fundación Consejo España - Estados Unidos** is a private, not-for-profit entity with a board of trustees comprising large companies, cultural and academic institutions and members of the government. Founded in 1997, it has the purpose of strengthening ties between Spain and the United States in all spheres, to achieve **better knowledge and mutual understanding** that will promote initiatives in common.

Through its programs and activities, the Fundación Consejo España - Estados Unidos **promotes dialogue and fosters relations** between Spanish and U.S. corporations and has established itself as a benchmark organization for public diplomacy between the two countries.

Fundación Consejo España – Estados Unidos

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