



MEADOWS MUSEUM
SMU · DALLAS

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MEADOWS MUSEUM TO EXTEND *IN THE SHADOW OF DICTATORSHIP: CREATING THE MUSEUM OF SPANISH ABSTRACT ART* EXHIBITION THROUGH JULY 30

Free admission offered June 20-July 30

DALLAS (May 3, 2023) – With summer around the corner and the desire for more people to experience the celebrated exhibition before it returns to Spain, the Meadows Museum, SMU, will extend *In the Shadow of Dictatorship: Creating the Museum of Spanish Abstract Art* through July 30, 2023. *In the Shadow of Dictatorship*, called “riveting” by *The Dallas Morning News* and “brilliant” by the *National Review* is the first major exhibition of Spanish abstract paintings and sculptures to take place in the United States since the 1970s. It presents a comprehensive selection of highlights from the eponymous museum (Museo de Arte Abstracto Español) whose historic building in Cuenca, Spain, is currently undergoing renovations.

As a special summer offer, the Meadows Museum will offer free admission from June 20-July 30.

The Dallas presentation is the only American venue for this multiyear touring exhibition, which includes stops in Spain and Germany. It features globally recognized artists such as Eduardo Chillida, Antonio Saura and Antoni Tàpies, as well as their lesser-known contemporaries, encompassing more than 40 works of art by over 30 artists active in the 1960s and 1970s under the Francoist regime.

Upcoming programs associated with *In the Shadow of Dictatorship* include:

LECTURE | *A Brief History of the Euro-American Public Art Museum and Community Art Spaces*

Thursday, May 18, 6 p.m.

\$10

John Vincent (J.V.) Decemvirale, Weisman Postdoctoral Instructor in Visual Culture and CalTech Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow in the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, California Institute of Technology

This lecture brings together the distinct but entangled histories of the Euro-American public art museum and culturally specific community art spaces. Through contemporary case studies in the United States and Latin America, Decemvirale offers his perspective on the current cultural landscape, in which community art centers do the everyday work of supporting the creative (and economic) lives of artists and people of color in times of crisis. Asking whether the public art museum model is willing to disobey its own rules so as to fulfill its

self-defined democratic mandate, this lecture considers the possible shared objectives between these distinct models and the politics at the root of contemporary museology's agenda of diversity. This lecture is presented as part of Mellon Curatorial Fellow Clarisse Fava-Piz's capstone project.

[Tickets](#)

ROUNDTABLE | *Democratic Promises: A Roundtable on Dallas-Fort Worth's Community Art Realities*

Friday, May 19, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Free; by invitation only

Organized by Clarisse Fava-Piz, Mellon Curatorial Fellow, and aimed at community art leaders, artists, scholars, and museum professionals, this discussion brings together three Dallas-Fort Worth community-focused arts organizations for a roundtable event at the Meadows Museum at SMU.

Responding to the museum's exhibition *In the Shadow of Dictatorship: Creating the Museum of Spanish Abstract Art*, which explores the story of the first artist-run museum created in Spain under the Francoist regime, the conversation will focus on artist collectives and community art spaces working to democratize the infrastructure and practice of culture in Dallas. Moderated by community art scholar J.V. Decemvirale, leaders from The Cedars Union, Oak Cliff Cultural Center and Kinfolk House will discuss the current realities of doing community-based work in a "post-Covid" Dallas.

For more information email cfavapiz@smu.edu.

FILM AND FRANCO | *Viridiana* (NR, 1961)

Thursday, May 25, 7 p.m.

\$5

This spring the Meadows Museum is proud to collaborate with Dallas Film to present a series of films that address the effects of Franco's dictatorship. Each of these in-person screenings includes a brief talk to introduce the film and relate it to themes in the museum's current exhibition. Banned in Spain and denounced by the Vatican, Luis Buñuel's irreverent vision of life as a beggar's banquet is regarded by many as his masterpiece. In it, novice nun Viridiana does her utmost to maintain Catholic principles, but her lecherous uncle and a motley assemblage of paupers force her to confront the limits of her idealism. Co-winner of the Palme d'Or at the 1961 Cannes Film Festival, *Viridiana* remains as audacious as ever today.

[Tickets](#)

This exhibition has been organized by the [Meadows Museum](#) and [Fundación Juan March](#) and is funded by a generous gift from [The Meadows Foundation](#). Promotional support is provided by 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'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.

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