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# SMU's Meadows Museum receives in Madrid the 10th Bernardo de Gálvez Award in recognition of its devotion to Spanish art



From left to right: the president of the Spain-USA Council Foundation, Josu Jon Imaz, the director of the Meadows Museum, Amanda Dotseth, the president of The Meadows Foundation, Peter Miller, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Global Affairs, Ángeles Moreno Bau, and the secretary general of the Spain-USA Council Foundation, Fernando Prieto, at the ceremony of the X Bernardo de Gálvez Award held at the Teatro Real in Madrid on May 26, 2023. Photo: Fundación Consejo España – USA / Lourdes Martín.

>> This recognition by the Fundación Consejo España – EE.UU. is given to individuals or institutions that have contributed to improving reciprocal knowledge between the two countries and highlights the role of the Meadows Museum as a **“permanent cultural embassy of Spain in the United States.”**

>> Museum Director, **Amanda Dotseth, the first woman in the history of the institution to hold the position**, received the award from the Chairman of the Fundación Consejo España – EE.UU., Josu Jon Imaz, in a ceremony held today at Teatro Real in Madrid.

>> Founded in 1965, after Texas philanthropist Algur H. Meadows donated his private art collection to Southern Methodist University, the Meadows Museum has built an **important**

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**collection of 10th- to 21st-century Spanish art**, with standout works by El Greco, Velázquez, Ribera, Murillo, Goya, Sorolla, Picasso, Dalí and Fortuny.

**Madrid, May 26, 2023**—Fundación Consejo España – EE.UU. today awarded the **10th Bernardo de Gálvez Award to SMU's Meadows Museum of Dallas**, Texas, at an event held this morning at the Teatro Real (Royal Theater) in Madrid. With this award, the foundation is highlighting the role of the museum, **exclusively devoted to the study and dissemination of Spanish art** since it opened in 1965 following the donation by philanthropist Algur H. Meadows (1899-1978) of his private collection, as a “permanent cultural embassy of Spain in the United States.”

“Our mission is clear: to be THE place for excellence in the study of Spanish art and culture in the United States. The Gálvez Award is a remarkable recognition of our past successes and our future potential in this grand endeavor,” stated **Amanda Dotseth**, recently named the Linda P. and William A. Custard Director of the Museum and Centennial Chair in the Meadows School of the Arts, who received the award from the Fundación Chairman Josu Jon Imaz, in the company of Sam Holland, Dean of SMU's Meadows School of the Arts, and Peter Miller, President of The Meadows Foundation. “For the past 60 years, this institution has striven to fulfil and broaden the vision of our founder. I speak for many when I say we are so thankful for this recognition,” she added.



The director of the Meadows Museum, Amanda Dotseth, speaks at the Bernardo de Gálvez Award ceremony held at the Teatro Real in Madrid on May 26, 2023. Photo: Fundación Consejo España – USA / Lourdes Martín

For his part, Imaz stressed the importance of the work of figures like Gálvez and Meadows in strengthening the ties between Spain and the United States: “The history of relations between our two countries is, to a large extent, the personal history of Algur Meadows, Archer

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Huntington, Bernardo de Gálvez and so many other figures who have brought us together and still inspire the work of great institutions like the Meadows Museum, The Meadows Foundation and SMU.”

The event was also attended by Spain’s Secretary of State for Foreign and Global Affairs, **Ángeles Moreno Bau**, who again underscored the excellent relations between Spain and the United States and the importance of educational and cultural exchange in strengthening them, highlighting the role of the Meadows Museum as “one of the main players” in this arena.

In recent decades, the Meadows Museum has cultivated fruitful relationships with major Spanish art museums and cultural institutions such as the Museo Nacional del Prado, the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, the Museo Reina Sofía, the Museo Nacional de Escultura in Valladolid, Fundación MAPFRE, Fundación Juan March, and Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí, and on a regular basis has collaborated in the organization of prominent international special exhibitions and research programs.

### **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 Bernardo de Gálvez Award**

The Bernardo de Gálvez Award is named after the former governor of Louisiana and viceroy of New Spain, the politician and military man from Málaga (Spain) Bernardo de Gálvez (1746–1786), founder of the city of Galveston (Texas) and a decisive figure in the triumph of the armies of George Washington in the struggle for the independence of the Thirteen Colonies.

With this recognition, Fundación Consejo España – EE.UU. aims to highlight the endeavors of those American people and institutions that, through their work, example, or dedication, have fostered cooperation between Spain and the United States, and contributed to enhancing reciprocal awareness or strengthening the relations between the two countries. Past recipients include the **Hispanic Society of America**; Senators **Bob Menendez** and **Tim Kaine**; and the **Library of Congress**.

### **About Fundación Consejo España - Estados Unidos**

Fundación Consejo España – EE.UU. is a private, not-for-profit organization whose Board consists of major Spanish corporations, cultural and academic institutions, and members of the Spanish public administration. It was created in 1997 to **strengthen the bonds between Spain**

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**and the United States in all areas** and to achieve greater mutual understanding and awareness in order to foster common initiatives. Since its inception, it has shared this mission with its U.S. counterpart, the United States - Spain Council.

Through its programs and activities, as well as supporting other similar initiatives, Fundación Consejo España – EE.UU. **promotes dialogue and facilitates connections** between the people of Spain and the United States, having become the organization of reference for public diplomacy between both countries.

**Fundación Consejo España – Estados Unidos**

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