

Lecture Series

September 8 – October 6, 2010



Art of Spain's Golden Age El Greco to Goya

with Dr Frank I Heckes

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Art of Spain's Golden Age : El Greco to Goya



This lecture series will explore the development and significance of painting and sculpture created during Spain's Golden Age from the ascent of Philip II to the throne in 1556 to the death of Francisco Goya in 1828. Emphasis will be placed on artists who worked in the leading artistic centres, such as El Greco in Toledo, Ribalta in Valencia, Velázquez and Goya at the court in Madrid, Ribera in Naples, Cano in Granada, and Martínez Montañés, Zurbarán and Murillo in Seville. Paintings and sculptures will be considered in relation to Spanish history and culture of the period, artistic patronage and influences from Italian and

Netherlandish art. Particular attention will be given to the qualities that distinguish Spanish artistic traditions from those of other countries.

Lecture Series Details

This lecture series will consist of 5 x 1.5 hour lectures. Each session will allow time for coffee and discussion.

Dates

Wednesdays 10:30 – 12:00 noon (September 8, 15, 22, 29, October 6)

Price

The price for the 5 sessions is \$175 (including GST)

Venue

Alloarmo – 5 Grattan Street, Hawthorn VIC 3122

Bookings

Due to limited availability of places, bookings are essential. Please complete the attached booking form and send it together with your payment to :

Travels Through Time, 5 Grattan Street, Hawthorn VIC 3122.

Places will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Bibliography

These books are readily available from public libraries or on order from amazon.com.

Xavier Bray et al., *The Sacred Made Real: Spanish Painting and Sculpture 1600–1700*, London 2009.

Jonathan Brown, *Painting in Spain 1500—1700*, New Haven and London, 1998.

Jonathan Brown, *Velázquez, Painter and Courtier*, New Haven and London, 1986.

David Davies et al., *El Greco*, London, 2003.

Frank I. Heckes, *Reason and Folly: The Prints of Francisco Goya*, Melbourne, 1998.

John F. Moffitt, *The Arts in Spain*, London, 1999.

A. E. Pérez Sánchez and N. Spinosa, *Jusepe de Ribera 1591-1652*, New York, 1992.

Janis Tomlinson, *Francisco Goya y Lucientes 1746—1828*, London, 1994.

Session Details



Session 1 – September 8

El Greco to Martínez Montañés

This session will focus on the development and characteristics of Spanish painting and sculpture from the late sixteenth century through the middle of the seventeenth century. Emphasis will be placed on the contribution to Spanish art of El Greco (Domenicos Theotokopoulos) and the development of the so-called “new realism” as represented by the still lifes of Juan Sánchez Cotán, the religious paintings of Francisco Ribalta and the sculptures of Juan Martínez Montañés and Alonso Cano.

Session 2 – September 15

The Sacred Made Real : Spanish Seventeenth–Century Sculpture

This session will be devoted to Spanish polychromed wood sculpture of the seventeenth century and its relation to painting. Works by major sculptors, including *pasos* or processional sculptures, such as Gregorio Fernández’s *Christ at the Column* in Valladolid demonstrate a predilection for dramatic effects, blood and suffering, and a deeply moving pathos. In contrast, those of Seville range in style from the restrained classicism of Juan Martínez Montañés’s *Christ of the Passion* to the decorative exuberance of *The Virgin of the Macarena*. These hyper-real Spanish sculptures made the sacred truly palpable.



Session 3 – September 22

The Art of Velázquez and Ribera

The focus of this session will be on the artistic careers of Diego Velázquez, who worked at the court in Madrid, and Jusepe de Ribera, who was born in Játiva, Spain but worked mainly in the Spanish territory of Naples. There will be detailed study of Velázquez’s *The Waterseller of Seville* and *Las Meninas* (The Maids of Honour) and Ribera’s religious paintings, such as *The Holy Trinity*, and his interest in the grotesque, as seen in *Magdalena Ventura with Her Husband and Son* (The Bearded Woman).

Session 4 – September 29

Zurbarán to Murillo

This session will focus on the development of Spanish painting from the middle to the end of the seventeenth century with emphasis on the major works of Francisco de Zurbarán and Bartolomé Esteban Murillo. Detailed analysis will be given to Zurbarán’s only series on monastic history still in situ at the Hieronymite Monastery of Guadalupe, while Murillo’s radical transformation of the subject of the Virgin of the Immaculate Conception will be examined in relationship to social and economic changes that had taken place in Spain.



Session 5 – October 6

The Art of Goya

The artistic career of Francisco Goya (1746–1828) will be studied in all its depth and variety from the Rococo beauty of his tapestry cartoons and the social satire of his etched series *Los Caprichos* (1799) through the denunciation of war and inhumanity in *The Third of May, 1808* (1814) and the savage attack on Spanish society in the “Black Paintings” (c.1822–23) to the reflective philosophy of his late drawings.