



THE MUSEO THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA IN WORLD PRIDE MADRID 2017

During the celebration of World Pride 2017 in Madrid, the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza will be presenting two projects associated with LGBT iconography and culture as represented in paintings in its collection: the restoration and technical study of *The Death of Hyacinthus* by Tiepolo, and the thematic route *Inclusive Love*.



Édouard Manet,
Horsewoman, Full-Face
(*L'Amazone*), ca.1882.

Inclusive Love

Themes, iconography and figures relating to LGBT culture, sensibility and experience have always been present in art, although often in an almost invisible manner. Maintaining the chronological approach that characterises the display of the museum's permanent collection, *Inclusive Love* is a thematic route that runs from Bronzino to Hockney, offering a different gaze in order to focus on concepts such as identity and sexual orientation.

The route includes commentaries on paintings such as *Portrait of a Youth as Saint Sebastian* (1533) by Bronzino; *Hercules at the Court of Omphale* (1537) by Hans Cranach; *The Death of Hyacinthus* (1753) by Tiepolo; *Boy in a Turban with Flowers* (1658) by Michiel Sweerts; *Female Rider* (1882) by Manet; *Portrait of George Dyer in a Mirror* (1968) by Francis Bacon, *Love, Love, Love. Homage to Gertrude Stein* (1928) by CharlesDemuth; and *In Memory of Cecchino Bracci* (1962) by David Hockney.

Inclusive Love can be followed with an audio guide that is available with the purchase of a ticket to the Museum at a cost of 16 Euros.

More information and images:

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The Death of Hyacinthus

The Museum's Restoration Department has recently worked on one of the most important and fascinating works in the collection and possibly its greatest gay icon: *The Death of Hyacinthus* by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo. Painted more than 260 years ago, in 1752, it was commissioned by the German Baron Wilhelm Friedrich Schaumburg-Lippe as a homage to his lover, a Spanish musician with whom he lived in Venice until the latter's death in 1751. The painting depicts an episode from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* but with certain details that bring it close to the period of the Baron and his lover. Tiepolo depicts the death of the beautiful young Hyacinthus, Prince of Sparta, who is killed by a tennis ball (a discus in the original story) hit by the powerful Apollo while they were playing.



Tiepolo, *The Death of Hyacinthus*, 1753.

The story recounts how Zephyrus, god of the west wind, became aware of Apollo's growing interest in the young prince and out of jealousy blew so that the discus (or ball in this case) veered off course and killed Hyacinthus. Apollo immortalised the dead youth by making the hyacinth sprout from his blood on the earth. Tiepolo's painting includes details such as the serious expression of King Amyclas and his court as they come across the scene; the mocking expression of the statue of the demigod Pan, protector of male sexuality, as he observes the god's desperation; Apollo's hand covering Pan's genitals while his thumb imitates an erection; and the parrot as a symbol of courtship.



Tiepolo, *The Death of Hyacinthus*, 1753
(detail), before and after its restoration.

Following its recent cleaning, technical study and restoration the painting will be exhibited in Room 17 at the Museum between 23 June and 17 December, alongside X-radiographs, ultraviolet photographs and infrared reflectographs that will show all the work undertaken as well as revealing new discoveries and details. Also on display will be two drawings by Tiepolo loaned by the Staatsgalerie in Stuttgart. The installation has been devised and created by the Departments of Restoration and Old Master Painting.