



2021: the year of Baron Thyssen

- This year marks the centenary of the birth of Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza
- The anniversary will be marked with exhibitions, lectures, a symposium, educational activities and more
- On 13 April entry to the museum will be free

This year, 2021, sees the centenary of the birth of Baron Hans Henrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, born one hundred years ago on 13 April, and the museum that has borne his name since 1992 will be marking the event with a series of exhibitions and activities. These commemorations began in October last year with the inauguration of the exhibition *German Expressionism from the collection of Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza* (open until 14 March).

“Hans Henrich Thyssen-Bornemisza was above all a person captivated by painting”, explains Juan Ángel López-Manzanares, the curator of this centenary commemoration. “As a young man he showed little interest in art but over the course of his lifetime he became increasingly active in its defence and promotion. Not only did he complete his father’s collection but he updated it with acquisitions of modern art. In addition, he opened it to the public and enabled many people to appreciate it through exhibitions and specialist studies.”

More information and images:

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<https://www.museothyssen.org/en/baron-thyssen-bornemisza-centenary-2021>

THYSEN-BORNEMISZA
MUSEO NACIONAL



In 1957 the Baron inherited a collection that he expanded with acquisitions of works by the masters of classic art, while from 1961 he assembled one of the finest private collections of 19th- and 20th-century painting. The Baron wanted his works to be kept together and also had the aim of sharing them, leading to his decision in 1988 to sign a loan agreement with the Spanish State covering 775 works. This agreement was followed by their definitive sale in 1988, creating what would subsequently become the collection of the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza.

According to López-Manzanares: “His decision to bring his collection to Spain - in which his wife Carmen Cervera played a key role - represents one of the most important modern-day contributions to culture in Spain. For this reason, and on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth, the museum would like to express everyone’s thanks with a significant homage: a year devoted to the figure of the Baron, with exhibitions, restoration projects, lectures, symposia, educational activities, videos, podcasts and more: all initiatives that will celebrate his great legacy.”



Baron and Baroness Thyssen-Bornemisza with Auguste Rodin's sculpture *Christ and the Magdalene*, Madrid, May 1996

Following the above-mentioned exhibition on German Expressionism, the museum will be presenting *Goldsmith's work, painting and sculptures from the collection of Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza* (16 March 2021 to 23 January 2022); *Italian painting of the 14th to 18th centuries from the collection of Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza at the MNAC* (26 October 2021 to 9 January 2022), and *American art in the Thyssen collection* (23 November 2021 to 26 June 2022), all on display in the galleries of the permanent collection. In addition, the exhibition of portraits of the Baron by Lucien Freud will remain on show.

Among the other activities organised for this centenary year will be a lecture series on German Expressionism (20 and 27 January and 3, 10 and 17 February); the *Educational talks: Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza as a collector* (January to March 2021); the restoration of Vittore Carpaccio's *Young Knight in a Landscape*, which is carried out on view to the public, and the subsequent exhibition of the results of that project; and the free entry day on 13 April, the date of the Baron's birthday.

A symposium, concerts and other initiatives will be announced during the course of the year. Like all the other activities, they will be available on the special microsite devoted to this centenary, which will feature videos, lectures and other resources:

<https://www.museothyssen.org/en/baron-thyssen-bornemisza-centenary-2021>

**GOLDSMITH'S WORK, PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURES
FROM THE COLLECTION OF BARON THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA
16 March 2021 to 23 January 2022**

As part of its celebrations in 2021 to mark the centenary of Baron Thyssen, the museum will be presenting a selection of twenty works that were in the Baron's collection before it was divided among his heirs and prior to the installation of most of his paintings in the Palacio de Villahermosa, the current home of the museum.



Selected for this occasion are ten examples of 16th- and 17th-century Dutch and German goldsmith's work of the highest quality; two Italian and German Renaissance sculptures; three spectacular, Italian Baroque carved rock crystal objects; four 17th-century oil paintings from different schools; and a remarkable travelling case housing 66 items, made in 18th-century Germany.

Image: Hans Petzoldt. *The Imhoff Cup*, ca. 1626. Nuremburg, Germany.
Silver-gilt with reliefs and cast decoration. Height: 46.3 cm

**ITALIAN PAINTING OF THE 14TH TO 18TH CENTURIES
FROM THE COLLECTION OF BARON THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA AT
THE MNAC
26 October 2021 to 9 January 2022**

In 1993 the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza deposited an important and representative selection of Italian and German paintings from its collections at the Monastery of Pedralbes in Barcelona. In 2004 these works were moved to the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya where they are currently on display.



A selection of them will arrive at the museum in October as part of the celebrations taking place in 2021 to mark the centenary of the birth of Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza. Travelling to Madrid from Barcelona will be twelve paintings by artists including Taddeo Gaddi, Fra Angelico, Giambattista Piazzetta and Giacomo Ceruti, which will be displayed in the galleries of the permanent collection.

Image: Giacomo Ceruti (known as "Il Pittocchetto"). *Group of Beggars*, ca. 1737.
Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, on deposit with the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC)

AMERICAN ART IN THE THYSSEN COLLECTION
23 November 2021 to 26 June 2022

In the early 1970s Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza became an active collector of American art, particularly 19th-century landscape painting. As a result of his endeavours the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza possesses an extensive collection of American painting that has become an essential reference point for the study of this subject in Europe.



As part of the celebrations that will take place in 2021 to mark the centenary of Baron Thyssen's birth, the museum will be presenting a new installation in its ground floor galleries of around 170 works of American art from its permanent collection, the Carmen Thyssen Collection and the Thyssen family collection. This new display will offer a reconsideration of the current chronological presentation through a new transversal, thematic approach. The emphasis will now be on categories such as religion, politics, the environment, popular culture and city life with the aim of providing more information and a greater understanding of American art and culture. With the support of Terra Foundation for American Art.

Image: George Inness. *Morning*, ca. 1878. Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid