



Marina Núñez. Vanitas

24 May to 29 August 2021

Curator: Rocío de la Villa

The Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza is presenting *Marina Núñez. Vanitas*, an exhibition in which this multi-media artist (born Palencia, 1966) revives and reinterprets the traditional still life or *vanitas* - considered a minor genre in the past and often relegated to women painters - with the aim of analysing our present-day relationship with nature from a post-human, ecological and feminist standpoint.

Marina Núñez. Vanitas is the fourth edition of the “Kora” programme, curated by Rocío de la Villa, which presents an annual exhibition in the museum’s galleries devised from a gender perspective. This year’s event devoted to Marina Núñez presents a total of 15 works, including oil paintings, videos and laser-cut glass pieces, some specially created for this event. Ten of them are on display in the Balcony Gallery, with direct access from the museum’s Main Hall, while five establish dialogues with Renaissance paintings in the galleries of the permanent collection.

Within the tradition of art, men were identified with rationality and progress and created heroic paintings while women were associated with nature and the primitive and produced floral compositions. Aware of this incorrect appreciation, Marina Núñez has moved away from the idea of the still life as something merely ornamental and uses her work to refer to the organic nature of human beings and our vulnerability, to the connection between the body and nature, incarnated in different varieties of flowers, and to the transformations, tensions and processes arising from them.

Three oil paintings, painted during the COVID19 lockdown period, are based on the fusion of human faces with roses, irises and lilies which function in the manner of a veil and a transforming element. This motif, which is particularly present in the artist’s work, encouraged her to move from painting to video in order to convey this metamorphosis in a more expressive manner. Examples include the videos from the **Nature** (island, mangrove swamp and mountain) series, which refer to our colonial past and to western civilisation’s exploitation of the natural world and other cultures; and **Vanitas**, the work that provides the title for the project as a whole and which features a combat in which two stone busts eventually dissolve and turn into flowers that emerge triumphantly from among the material.

Images (from left to right.): Marina Núñez. *Painting of Flowers (Rose)*, 2020. / *Heroic Flowers (Roses)*, 2021. Courtesy of the artist and La Gran

More information and images:

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<https://www.museothyssen.org/en/private-area/press/dossiers/marina-nunez-vanitas>

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This idea of union is also present in the series **Marejadas (Swells)**, comprising three pencil drawings with woodblock print in which the female body combines with plant forms to produce strange and sinister hybrids that float in a sensual manner.

Shown in Rooms 5, 6 and 10 of the permanent collection alongside works such as *Vase of Flowers* by Hans Memling (the reverse of *Portrait of a young Man praying*), *The Annunciation* by Jan de Beer and *Portrait of a young Man* by Paris Bordone are three videos from the series **Heroic Flowers** in which the lilies, roses and irises explode in a spontaneous combustion and are reborn as the victors in the struggle against inequalities.

Another of the artist's series, **Portraits**, consists of laser-cut glass pieces that depict branching hands almost transformed into trees; a fusion which compares love of nature to the newly-wed sitters seen in works in the collection with which they establish a dialogue, such as *Self-portrait* by Joos van Cleve and *Portrait of a Woman* by an anonymous German artist.



Marina Núñez. *Heroic Flowers (Lilies)*, 2021. Courtesy of the artist and La Gran

Marina Núñez (Palencia, 1966)

Marina Núñez graduated in Fine Arts from the University of Salamanca and has a PhD in that subject from the University of Castilla la Mancha. Her work is represented in numerous public institutions, including the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (Madrid), Es Baluard (Palma de Mallorca), the CAAM (Las Palmas), the Panera (Lleida), the CAB (Burgos), the FRAC Corse, the Artium (Vitoria), the MUSAC (León), the TEA (Tenerife), the Fundación La Caixa, the Fundación Botín (Santander), the Patio Herreriano (Valladolid), the MAC (La Coruña), and the American University (Washington D.C).

The artist currently lives in Madrid and Pontevedra and is a tenured professor of painting in the Fine Arts faculty at the University of Vigo.

ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

Conversation-talk with Marina Núñez and Rocío de la Villa, 24 June, 5.30 pm

EXHIBITION DETAILS

Title: *Marina Núñez. Vanitas*

Organiser: Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid

Venus and dates: Madrid, Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, 24 May to 29 August 2021. Balcony Gallery, 1st floor, and Rooms 5, 6 and 10 of the permanent collection

Curator: Rocío de la Villa

Coordinator: Laura Andrada, Área de Conservación del Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza

Catalogue with text by Rocío de la Villa. Bilingual English/Spanish edition

VISITOR INFORMATION

Address: Paseo del Prado, 8. 28014, Madrid.

Opening times: Mondays, 12 noon to 4 pm; Tuesdays to Sundays, 10 am to 7 pm

Free entry to the Balcony Gallery

Ticket prices:

Combined ticket: Permanent collection and temporary exhibitions

-Standard: 13 Euros

-Reduced price: 9 Euros for visitors aged over 65, pensioners and students with proof of status

-Groups (7 or more people): 11 Euros

-Free entry: visitors aged under 18, officially unemployed Spanish citizens, disabled visitors, Large Families, currently working teachers and holders of the European Youth Card.

More information: www.museothyssen.org

PRESS INFORMATION

<https://www.museothyssen.org/en/private-area/press/dossiers/marina-nunez-vanitas>