

THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA



EXHIBITIONS 2024



THYSSEN-
BORNEMISZA
MUSEO NACIONAL

EVERY
ONE'S
MUSEUM

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Isabel Quintanilla's intimate realism.

Retrospective

From 27 February to 2 June 2024

For the first time, the museum is devoting a retrospective to a Spanish woman artist, Isabel Quintanilla (1938-2017), one of the key figures of contemporary realism.

The exhibition features around 100 works spanning the artist's entire career and including her most important paintings and drawings. Many have never previously been seen in Spain as they are principally housed in museums and collections in Germany, a country where she was widely recognised in the 1970s and 1980s. Quintanilla lived and worked during a period in Spain when women artists lacked the status and recognition accorded to their male counterparts, an issue that she herself confronted in her public statements with the aim of defending the significance of her work and that of her female colleagues.

Isabel Quintanilla's painting is the result of an absolute mastery of technique and of skill acquired at different art schools but above all the consequence of a lengthy and ongoing working process. She always referred to the constant struggle involved in resolving the problems posed by painting to all artists who wish to make use of it in order to experience reality in a different way.

The selection of works on display offers a fascinating survey that introduces visitors to the "world of Quintanilla": filled with her most personal possessions, with the intimacy of the rooms and spaces in her different houses and studios and with her family and friends. This is a world in which we recognise settings and objects that trigger our emotions, which was one of the artist's constant aims. As Quintanilla herself said on numerous occasions, painting was her life and her life was painting.



Isabel Quintanilla
Homage to my Mother, 1971
Pinakothek der Moderne, München
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The De-centred Gaze. Art and Colonialism in the Thyssen Collections

From 25 June to 20 October 2024

The colonial system lies at the origins of modern western society while its legacy continues to affect human and geopolitical relations around the world. As Europe advanced in the conquest of liberties, it simultaneously imposed a regime of extractivism and physical domination on its territories across the globe.

This exhibition sets out to decipher the elements of colonial power within the iconography of certain works in the Thyssen-Bornemisza collections. A selection of paintings will reveal "invisibilised" stories of racial domination, maronage and the civil rights struggle, as well as the introduction of the modern mercantile system based on European military control, the use of enslaved African workers and the appropriation of firstly Latin American and later Asian

and African land and raw materials. Visitors will be introduced to fictitious representations of new Arcadias and will witness the western projection of its unsatisfied desires in the form of the "Orient" and the construction of the "other" as barbarian or primitive.

With the aim of rethinking the future through the parameters of cultural diversity the exhibition benefits from a curatorial team comprising Juan Ángel López (curator at the museum and director of this project), Alba Campo Rosillo (art historian), Andrea Pacheco González (artistic director of "FelipaManuela - Research residencies Madrid"), and Yeison F. García López (director of the "Espacio Afro" cultural centre).



Frans Hals
Family Group in a Landscape, ca.1645-48
Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid

Gabriele Münter

The Great Expressionist Woman Painter

From 12 November 2024 to 9 February 2025

Gabriele Münter (1877-1962) was one of the founders of **The Blue Rider** [Der Blaue Reiter], the legendary group of Expressionist artists based in Munich. With their precise lines and intense colours, the works of this German painter envelop the viewer in her private world. Through her acute gaze, lovers, friends, everyday objects, landscapes and Münter herself are refined to their essence.

The exhibition, which includes more than one hundred paintings, drawings, prints and photographs, aims to reveal an artist who rebelled against the limits imposed on women of her day and who succeeded in becoming **one of the most notable figures of German Expressionism in the early 20th century**. It opens with an extensive section devoted to the **start of Münter's activities as an amateur photographer**, analysing the way in which her relationship with this modern medium of expression, which was less codified than the traditional fine arts, was fundamental for her subsequent development. The exhibition continues with a focus on her pictorial activity through a chronological-thematic survey which starts with works executed during **the artist's travels**

around Europe and North Africa with her partner Wassily Kandinsky, followed by a large section on **masterpieces by Münter from the Blue Rider period**. The final section centres on her **exile in Scandinavia during World War I and the different expressive pathways that she pursued following her return to Germany**. Over the course of her career Münter frequently demonstrated her powers of adaptation, her tireless desire to experiment and her unprejudiced attitude towards the new and the different.

The exhibition aims to reveal the rich complexity of an artist who is well known in Germany but has only started to acquire greater status in the rest of Europe in recent years. Housing four of her works in its permanent collections, the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza is now holding **the first retrospective on the artist in Spain**, thus continuing with its endeavour of researching and promoting the work of many great women artists and the place they merit in history.

The Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza is collaborating on this project with the Gabriele Münter-und Johannes Eichner-Stiftung and the Städtische Galerie am Lenbachhaus und Kunstbau in Munich. After its Madrid showing a modified version will be seen at the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris.



Gabriele Münter
Self-portrait (detail), ca. 1908
Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid
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