

PRADO MUSEUM MASTERPIECE QUEST:

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„Las Meninas” (The Maids of Honour)

Author - Diego Velazquez

Spain, 17th century, Baroque

The painting features a portrait of the Spanish royal family. It is a picture of life in the court of King Philip IV of Spain. In today's world it is considered to be one of the most significant paintings in all of Western art history. This iconic piece of art is certainly one of the biggest accomplishments of Velazquez's portfolio and it still remains an inspiration for artists.



„La rendicion de Breda” (The Surrender of Breda)

Author – Diego Velazquez

Spain, 17th century, Baroque

This painting is a highlight of the Spanish takeover of Breda. The symbolic exchange of keys is a metaphor of the lost battle and surrender of Dutch troops. It definitely found recognition in the world of art.



„La maja desnuda” (The Naked Maja)

Author – Francisco de Goya

Spain, 18th century, Renaissance

The painting features a naked woman lying on a bed of pillows. Legend says that the pictured female was the Duchess of Alba but she can also be identified as the mistress of Manuel Godoy (He was First Secretary of State).

Sofonsiba Anguissola(1525-1625)



He painted a portrait of Philip II. He lived between 1525 and 1625. The portrait of this ruler was painted in the 16th century, more precisely in 1573. The monarch is wearing a black dress and a hat. He is wearing the Order of the Golden Fleece around his neck. In the left hand is a rosary symbolizing the victory over the Turks in 1571 and the Catholic faith.

Durer (1471-1528)



Adam

Ewa

These works were created in the Renaissance in 1507. These pictures show the ideal of the human figure. Both the images of Eve and Adam are set against a dark background, so that the viewer is not distracted from his surroundings and focuses on the ideal of humanity.

Rubens (1577-1640), The Three Graces



It is an oil painting of the Three Graces by Peter Paul Rubens. Rubens spent 5 years (1630-1635) on painting it.

The painting was held in the personal collection of the artist until his death, then it was purchased by King Philip IV of Spain and in 1666 it went to the Royal Alcazar of Madrid, before hanging in the Museo del Prado.

Emperor Charles V at Mühlberg
Author Tiziano



1548. Oil on canvas.

This portrait commemorates Charles V's victory over the Schmalkaldic League at Mühlberg on 24 April 1547. The Emperor is equipped in the manner of the light cavalry with a half pike and wheel-lock pistol. His suit of armour was made around 1545 by Desiderius Helmschmid and has an image of the Virgin and Child on the breastplate, as was customary with Charles' armour from 1531.

Adam and Eve



Ca. 1550. Oil on canvas.

Author Tiziano

The painting is a faithful visualisation of Genesis 3, 9-19 in which Eve is blamed for accepting the forbidden fruit (although the type of fruit is not stated, Titian follows tradition and opts for an apple) and there is a reference to a second tree, a fig, whose leaves are used by Adam and Eve to cover their nakedness.

The Annunciation



Ca. 1426. Tempera on panel.

Author: Fra Angelico

This altarpiece was painted for the monastery of Santo Domenico in Fiesole, near Florence. The central panel shows the Archangel Gabriel's Annunciation to Mary under a portico.