The Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza

The Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, which contains one of the world’s foremost and most distinguished private art collections, opened on 8th October 1992. Acquired over two generations, the collection is directly linked to the names of Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza (1875-1947) and Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza (1921-2002). The most important group of paintings gathered together by the Thyssen-Bornemisza family was acquired by the Spanish State in July 1993 and spans a period dating from the late-13th century to the 1980s. In 1992 this historic collection was installed in the Palacio de Villahermosa after the building’s conversion into a museum by the architect Rafael Moneo.

The Permanent Collection is distributed over three floors with a suggested tour beginning with Old Masters on Level 2. The visit starts with the Italian Primitives and continues with examples of Renaissance and Baroque art. The route includes two monographic rooms, one devoted to Renaissance portraiture (the genre best represented in the Museum), and the other to urban views dating from the 18th century.

The first rooms on Level 1 display works from the Dutch school, beginning with scenes from daily life, interiors and landscapes and ending with a selection of still lifes with Dutch paintings exhibited beside examples from other schools. The Modern Painting section begins in Room 29 and consists of two galleries devoted to North American artists of the 19th century – one of the Museum’s most interesting features and novelties – and continues with examples of Impressionism, Post-Impressionism and German Expressionism, this last section being one of the Museum’s most brilliant due to the high quality of the works it brings together.

Level 0 is reserved for the 20th century and contains outstanding examples of Cubism, abstract art, Surrealism, Pop Art and European post-war figurative art. The tour covers seven centuries of the history of painting.

< Domenico Ghirlandaio
Portrait of Giovanna degli Albizzi Tornabuoni, 1489-90 (detail). Level 2, Room 5

Pablo Picasso
Harlequin with a Mirror, 1923
Level 0, Room 45
The Colección Carmen Thyssen-Bornemisza

The Colección Carmen Thyssen-Bornemisza is exhibited in an extension which was added to the Palacio de Villahermosa in 2004. Consisting of more than two hundred paintings from both Spain and abroad, it spans the period from the 17th to the 20th century.

Carmen Thyssen-Bornemisza began collecting works of art in 1987. Her major contribution to the creation of the Museum and growing interest in collecting led her husband, Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, to bequeath her in 1993 a large number of paintings by artists such as Fragonard, Courbet, Monet, Renoir, Gauguin, Rodin and Picasso which came to form the core of her Collection. Over the next few years she acquired works by masters such as Simone Martini, Canaletto, Guardi, Corot, Van Gogh, Braque, Nolde and Delaunay. Originally intended as an extension of the Museum’s Permanent Collection, the Colección Carmen Thyssen-Bornemisza reveals the Baroness’s preference for arcadian landscapes and the expressive qualities of colour.

The visit begins on Level 2, where the first rooms are dedicated to 17th-century Italian and Dutch painting. This area leads to a large gallery with five adjoining rooms, in which, except for the last, which resembles a chapel and contains a selection of Impressionist works, major 18th- and 19th-century landscape paintings are exhibited. Level 1 houses magnificent examples of late- and Post-Impressionist painting, together with a sizeable number of works by Gauguin and members of the Nabis group. This floor also contains two splendid rooms devoted to German Expressionism and Fauvism. The tour ends with a section on avant-garde art, after which it returns to the Palacio de Villahermosa.
Selection of works

Hans Holbein the Younger
Portrait of Henry VIII of England, c. 1537
Level 2, Room 5

Vittore Carpaccio
Young Knight in a Landscape, 1510
Level 2, Room 7

Albrecht Dürer
Jesus among the Doctors, 1506
Level 2, Room 8

Auguste Rodin
Christ and the Magdalene, c. 1905
Level 2, Room H

Caravaggio
Saint Catherine of Alexandria, c. 1598
Level 2, Room 12

Canaletto
The Piazza San Marco in Venice, c. 1723–24
Level 2, Room 17

Venus and Cupid, c. 1606–11
Level 2, Room 19

Ernst Ludwig Kirchner
Fränzi in front of a Carved Chair, 1910
Level 1, Room 36

Rembrandt
Self-Portrait Wearing a Hat and Two Chains, c. 1642–43
Level 2, Room 21

Jacob Isaacksz van Ruisdael
View of Naarden, 1647
Level 2, Room 26

André Derain
Waterloo Bridge, 1906
Level 1, Room 34

Martin Johnson Heade
Orchid and Hummingbird near a Waterfall, 1902
Level 2, Room C

Franz Marc
The Dream, 1912
Level 1, Room 38

Lyonel Feininger
The White Man, 1907
Level 1, Room N

Juan Gris
Seated Woman, 1917
Level 1, Room P

Edward Hopper
Hotel Room, 1931
Level 1, Room 40

Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot
Diana Bathing (The Fountain), c. 1869–70
Level 2, Room G

Pierre-Auguste Renoir
Woman with a Parasol in a Garden, 1875
Level 1, Room 32

Claude Monet
The Thaw at Vétheuil, 1881
Level 1, Room 32

Wassily Kandinsky
Picture with Three Spots, no. 196, 1914
Level 0, Room 43

Salvador Dalí
Dream Caused by the Flight of a Bee around a Pomegranate a Second before Waking Up, 1944
Level 0, Room 45

Roy Lichtenstein
Woman in Bath, 1963
Level 0, Room 48
Information

Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza
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28014 Madrid
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www.museothyssen.org

Opening hours
Tuesday–Sunday: 10am–7pm. Monday: 12pm–4pm. Closed 1st January, 2nd May and 25th December. Ticket office closes at 6:30pm. Galleries are cleared five minutes before closing time.

Full-access ticket
Provides access to the entire museum for one day, including all temporary exhibitions on view at the time.

Ticket sales
Our temporary exhibition halls have limited capacity. To guarantee admission to a show on a certain date and time, we recommend purchasing tickets in advance.

Advance ticket sales:
• Museum ticket office
• www.museothyssen.org
• Tel. (+34) 902 760 511

Tickets
• Individual: €12
• Reduced rate (subject to proof of status): €8 (over-65s, pensioners, students, Faculty of Fine Arts staff, members of families with 3 or more children, Youth Card holders and visitors with a minimum disability rating of 33%).
  • Free:
    – Mondays, all visitors from 12 to 4pm, courtesy of MasterCard.
    – Children under 12 accompanied by an adult.
    – Visitors who are officially unemployed (subject to proof of status).
• Groups: €10 (minimum of 7 people. Individual discounts not applicable).

Tours with independent guides

Photography and video
Non-flash photography is permitted inside the Museum.

Transport
“Metro” station: Banco de España.
Buses: 1, 2, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 20, 27, 34, 37, 45, 51, 52, 53, 74, 146 and 150.
Train stations: Atocha, Sol and Recoletos.

Visitor services
Tel. (+34) 902 760 511

Be a Friend of the Museum
For information please go to the Friends of the Museum information desk (in the lobby) or www.museothyssen.org/en/thyssen/hazte_amigo

Education
For information on the Museum’s educational activities and programmes contact: www.educathyssen.org or (+34) 913 600 334

Shop-bookstore
Level 0.

Cafe-Restaurant
Level 0.

Audio guide service
Available in Spanish, English, French, German and Italian. Coming soon in Russian, Chinese, Japanese and Portuguese.

Accessible museum
The museum has been adapted to remove architectural barriers and equipped with special signage to make it accessible to all visitors. For further information about activities and materials designed for visitors with special needs, please contact us.

Cloakroom
Objects that cannot be put through the scanner, animals, food, drinks and plants are not allowed inside the museum. Visit the museum website for a complete list of prohibited items. Pushchairs for young children and wheelchairs are available on request.

Please refrain from using mobile phones in the exhibition rooms.

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As the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza makes constant contributions to temporary exhibitions, works from the Collection are often out on loan. The absence of such works may lead to temporary replacements, changes in installations and the placing of notices with information regarding the loan. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.