

## Contemporary Spanish Realism May 17th to September 1st

This year the Hoki Museum will hold its first exhibition from an overseas collection, *Contemporary Spanish Realism - MEAM*. This exhibition features 59 works from the collection of European Museum of Modern Art (MEAM), which has fervently displayed Figurative art (Realist) since its opening in 2011. The MEAM's collection includes works by artists worldwide. This selection focuses on works by living Spanish artists in their 30s to 70s. The exhibition features prizewinners, including grand prize works, from the Figurativas contest held biennially since 2006 by the Fundación de las Artes y los Artistas, MEAM's parent organization. Six or seven of the displayed artists will also visit Japan during the exhibition.

Today Spain and Japan are recognized as the leaders in Realist painting. Following discussions begun in 2015 between the Hoki Museum and the MEAM, 60 works from the Hoki Museum were displayed in an exhibition in Barcelona in 2018. That exhibition was extremely well received with many visitors enjoying a chance to see Japanese Realist paintings.

Spain is a country with a long tradition of Realism that stretches from Velázquez in the 17th century through Goya in the 18th century to López García today. Indeed, they have influenced many Realist painters in Japan. We hope that visitors will enjoy viewing this selection of Spanish contemporary Realist art, and that it will stimulate artists in both countries to produce all the more wonderful works in the future.

Exhibition title: Contemporary Spanish Realism - MEAM

Dates: May 17 (Fri.) – September 1 (Sun.), 2019

Opening hours: 10:00 – 17:30

Closed on Tuesdays (Except open on August 13 (Tues.),

Organizer: Hoki Museum

With the patronage of: Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (requested), Embassy of Spain (requested), Instituto Cervantes (requested)

Admission fees: Adult - 1800 yen, High school and university students and those over 65 - 1300 yen, Middle school students - 900 yen

Elementary school students and younger – free (up to two children per adult)

Admission includes both the MEAM exhibition and permanent collection galleries.

Venue: Hoki Museum, Asumigaoka-higashi 3-15, Midori-ku, Chiba 267-0067

Access

By train and bus: JR Sotobo Line, Toke Station South Exit, then Bus "Asumigaoka Brand New Mall" (5 minutes) to "Asumigaoka Higashi 4-chome" stop, walk 1 minute.

By car: 15 minutes from the Nakano Interchange on Chiba Togane Road.

10 minutes from the Mobarata Kita Interchange on the Ken-O Expressway.

Paid parking spots for 40 cars available at the Museum.

Contact information: Ph: 043-205-1500

English website: [www.Hoki-museum.jp/en/](http://www.Hoki-museum.jp/en/)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/hokimuseum315/](https://www.facebook.com/hokimuseum315/)

Related Events:

Workshops:

May 17, 2019 (Fri.)

10:00 – 13:00 Speaker: Kike Meana

13:00 – 16:00 Speaker: Jaime Valero

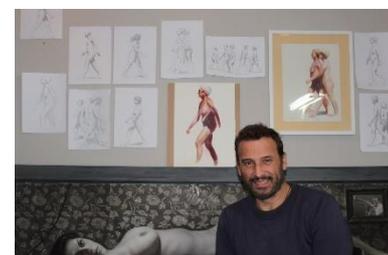
Experience making paintings with renowned Spanish artists. (Conducted in Spanish and Japanese)

May 18, 2019 (Sat.)

Gallery Talks and Talk Show by MEAM Director José Manuel Infiesta and Spanish artists.

(Conducted in Spanish and Japanese)

These events will all be held in Gallery 6. Please see the Hoki Museum website for details on how to attend.



## Traveling Exhibition Information:

An exhibition of 59 works from the MEAM collection and 64 works from the Hoki Museum will be held at the Saga Prefectural Art Museum.

Hoki Museum/MEAM, Japan/Spain -- Astonishing Realism (proposed title)

September 14 – November 10, 2019      Saga Prefectural Art Museum

Organizer: Saga Television

## Upon the Opening of the Contemporary Spanish Realism - MEAM exhibition

This exhibition -- part of an exchange of programs between Japan's Hoki Museum and Barcelona's European Museum of Modern Art (MEAM) -- provides an opportunity to see numerous works by Spanish painters active today.

Contemporary Spanish painting is one of the most powerful painting forms in the world today. The Spanish painting community has built an extremely strong foundation for all of the various styles of painting that have succeeded internationally, including Figurative painting, Realism and Hyperrealism. The long years that Spanish painters have put into creating in these styles have produced truly splendid works.

We began the Figurativas painting contest in 2006. There has been a continuous increase in painters who self-identify as Figurative painters and this has led to the emergence of a true school of Realist painters continuing in the footsteps of Antonio López García, the great master of Spanish Realism. The European Museum of Modern Art (MEAM) opened in Barcelona in 2011, providing the public with an ongoing opportunity to see the works of these painters of this new century. These painters will surely bring changes to the contemporary art world, stimulate a new generation of artists and create a new period in art.

Only a selection of works from the Japanese exhibitions are introduced in these materials. We hope that you will enjoy seeing works by an even wider array of artists at the Hoki Museum in 2019 and then in the traveling exhibition at other venues in Japan.

José Manuel Infiesta

Director, MEAM



Since its opening in 2011, the Hoki Museum displays have focused on works in the Museum collection. In recent years traveling exhibitions of collection works have been held at other Japanese locations. All of these efforts are part of the Hoki Museum's goal of making all the more people aware of Realist painting. This exhibition of 59 works from MEAM marks the first time that the Hoki Museum has held a large-scale exhibition of artworks from an overseas museum.

Barcelona's MEAM and Japan's Hoki Museum. This is part of an exchange of exhibitions between these two museums founded to further the development of Realist painting. The Hoki Museum aims to be a museum in which painters play an active role and this exhibition will give visitors a chance to see works by living artists. Many of Japan's painters have learned from Spain's long tradition of Realist painting. We hope that this exhibition will encourage interactions between Spanish and Japanese artists and audiences, and we anticipate that it will lead to yet more new artworks. My greatest wish is that this exhibition will be a first step, opening a new door to the world's understanding of Realist painting.

Hiroko Hoki

Director, Hoki Museum



MEAM - Carrer de la Barra de Ferro 5, 08003 Barcelona, Tel 93.310.53.62



## First Time in Japan!

### Contemporary Spanish Realism - MEAM Exhibition

The day Japanese Realist art influenced by Spain reencounters Spanish contemporary Realism. This exhibition is part of an exchange of exhibitions featuring Japanese Realist paintings (Hoki Museum) and Spanish Realist paintings (MEAM).



2018 – The 150th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Spain

The year 2018 marked the 150 anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Spain. Various commemorative events were held in Spain, including the first exhibition of Japanese Realist painting held in Barcelona from September 20 to December 1, 2018. More than 1,000 people attended the opening reception, including numerous artists and others active in the arts. The exhibition was a great success, welcoming just under 30,000 visitors during its 64-day run. Workshops by Japanese artists were also very popular and were featured in the press for several days. All and all, this was an extremely meaningful exhibition.

Japanese Realist Painters Who Studied the Velázquez Tradition in Spain

The Realist painting connection between Japan and Spain dates back to when oil painting techniques were imported to Japan from Europe. Spain has a long tradition of Realist painting, from the mirror-like Realism of the court painter Velázquez to Spain's greatest court painter Goya and then today in artists such as Antonio López García, Eduardo Naranjo and Golucho. However, given the absence of places in Spain that teach traditional oil painting techniques, MEAM has established an academy to preserve this tradition as it strives to further disseminate Realist techniques.



Numerous Japanese painters have gone to Spain to study traditional Realist techniques. Tsuyoshi Isoe set off on his own for studies in Madrid around 50 years ago, after he graduated from high school in Osaka. There he trained himself by copying Spanish paintings and was active in Spanish painting circles as Gustavo Isoe, Kenichiro Ishirugo and others also studied in Madrid. An exhibition of Spanish contemporary Realism was held in Japan in the 1980s, and the Realist viewpoint of Isoe, López García and others greatly inspired the first wave of contemporary Japanese Realist painters such as Nobuyuki Shimamura and Osamu Obi. The exhibition that opens on May 17, 2019 will be the debut Japanese showing of 59 contemporary Spanish Realist paintings like those that have influenced many Japanese artists.

The Creation of the World's Two Museums Collecting Realist Paintings and Their Coming Together

Fate played an interesting hand in the creation of this exchange exhibition. In 2010, the businessman Masao Hoki established the Hoki Museum to house his collection of Realist painting and to further the development of the painting style. Likewise in Spain, the renowned architect José Manuel Infiesta founded the MEAM and its parent organization in 2011 to focus solely on Realism, passionately pouring his efforts into preserving and developing this artistic form. Strangely enough, these two art museums were being created at the same time on opposite sides of the world.



It was this quirk of timing and fate that led these two museums to agree to a mutual exchange exhibitions to introduce their respective collections to the other's country.

The Goal – The Further Development of Realist Painting

The world has started noticing the as yet small number of Realist paintings being created. Infiesta has said that his goal is to secure a bigger place for Realist painting in the art world, and Hiroko Hoki has said that this exchange of exhibitions with Spain is the Hoki Museum's first step towards opening exhibitions in New York and other world capitals.

Amidst the dizzying speed of technological innovation and progress in digitization, humans have the immense power to simply and honestly create a Realist painting, stroke by stroke of the brush. The fascination of such paintings seeps steadily into people, pulling us into an all the more profound world. Can't we call this an

expression of the truth, one that both asks what is it to be human, and one that can be expressed because the artist is human, one that goes beyond photographic-like expression. I hope that you will all have the chance to visit the exhibition and experience these truths for yourself.

## Major Works in the Contemporary Spanish Realism – MEAM Exhibition

Generación @ (2015)

María José Cortés

"This painting shows the computer screen of two people having a video chat. The young woman's face occupies an important place in the work's visual field, while the man's face is extremely small. These were intentional choices, expressing how our forms are received by others and how our forms conveyed to others are deformed, warped.

To further enforce this focus, I have added fragmentary pixels to the green lettering and computer screen image. These are signs that at times computer screen images are indistinct or disrupted. This shows that while we seek to express ourselves in our own fashion, that we lead other people to talk about us, in other words, the information and methods we use to interact at times lack veracity, at times are only partial, at times are just to attract people's gaze, at times are underestimated. This picture expresses all of these as either error or abnormality."



María José Cortés (b. 1965, Badajoz)

Artist living in Seville, graduated in Fine Arts at the University of Barcelona. Her artistic career started from her unquenchable curiosity spanning everything from musical composition and performance to drama, theology, poetry, theater, photography and sociology. She continues to explore her own roots in painting. Her paintings can be found in the MEAM, Banco Sabadell, Vila Casas Foundation, and Patrimonio Artístico Universidad de Barcelona collections.

Homenaje a Velázquez: Felipe IV, a caballo (2017)

Jordi Diaz Alamà

"In this new series #ClásicosDesollados, I have added a bit of abstract painting dazzle. In order to show the true contemporaneity of such great masters as Velázquez to Rembrandt, I cut them, fragment them in order to confirm the true nature of their masterpieces."

Jordi Diaz Alamà (b. 1986, Barcelona)

After graduating in Fine Arts at the University of Barcelona, Alamà studied at the Florence Academy of Fine Arts. In 2013 he established the Barcelona Academy of Art, a specialist art school teaching traditional drawing, painting and sculpture techniques. His own works created in academic methods that faithfully render their subjects also exude a sense of the various things he has perceived in the works of painters active in the late 1980s. His works have been finalists in numerous competitions, including Figurativas, the BP Portrait Award and Art Renewal Center Salon.

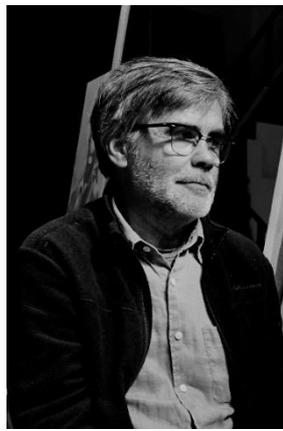


Retrato de insomnios (2007)  
 Golucho (Miguel Ángel Mayo)

"This painting does not explain, it only hints."

Golucho (Miguel Ángel Mayo) (b. 1949, Madrid)

A self-taught artist who calls himself an "extremely self-demanding painter." This painting can be positioned within the flow of New Realism. Golucho lived in Paris from 1968 to 1978, a period of violent political and social conditions. After returning to Spain he joined renowned painters such as Andrés García



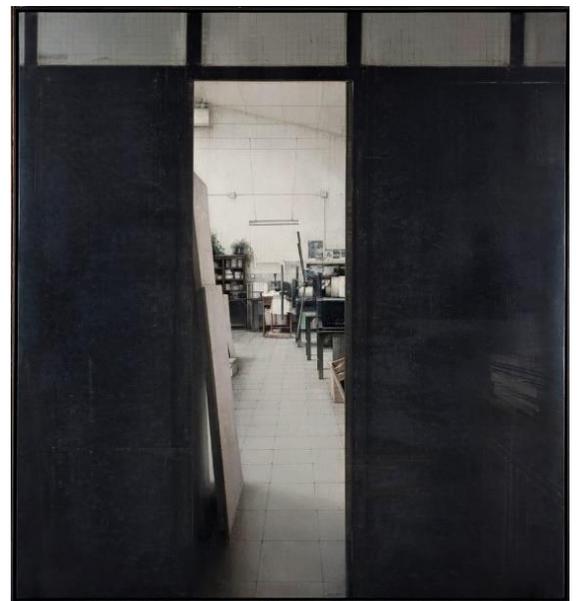
Ibáñez, Dino Valls and López Garcia in forming the artist group La gallina ciega [blind man's bluff after a cartoon by Goya] as they sought the

connectivity of Realist expressive methods. Golucho pulls at the heart through his depiction of people, discerns harmonies in subtle color shifts, layers on gouache pigments, and uses the cracks in the painting support medium to create extremely high quality paintings.



El taller de grabado (2013)  
 Carlos Morago

This painting depicts the entrance to a print studio. This essentially geometric composition is made up of three vertical sections, topped by a horizontal array of closed windows, with an overall use of clearly defined changes in light and dark tonalities. The two side sections are essentially flat planar areas without any light. The viewer is drawn into the contrastingly bright skylight-lit interior. At the same time the various parts of the studio seen in the central section are depicted in an intricately accurate touch and emphatic use of perspective. He has used collage to accentuate the actuality of parts of that interior setting.



Carlos Morago (b. 1954, Madrid)

Morago first studied art at an arts and crafts school in Madrid after having watched his father copy masterworks at the Prado. His works have been displayed in numerous solo and group exhibitions since 1976. They have also been featured in exhibitions in Spain and major world cities such as New York, Chicago, Paris, Amsterdam, Ghent, Munich, Bologna and Sydney. An award recipient in the 2013 Figurativas competition and other competitions, in 2002 he was named a member of Seville's Real Academia de Bellas Artes de Santa Isabel de Hungria. His works depict simple themes and everyday still-lives in an intricately exact method, as if to harmonize visual experience with cognitive experience.



The Mermaid (2016)  
Miguel Ángel Moya

"This is one work from my still-life series on biological themes that I have created over several years. I took up new concepts in this 2016 work, which I have repeatedly used since then.

This concept is the dualism of logical thinking and magical thinking. The left side of this picture shows biological samples preserved for research, expressing left-brain, logical and scholarly thinking. The right side, conversely, shows a Victorian era photograph of a mermaid pasted on the open cupboard door, showing magical thinking, creativity or something that can go beyond the limits of our logical and fact-based thinking."



Miguel Ángel Moya (b. 1970, Valencia)

Moya's works have been displayed in China and various European countries, with solo exhibitions held at Santiago Echeberría in Madrid, the OK Harris Gallery in New York City and Arcadia Contemporary in Los Angeles. His paintings are characterized by his creation of new Realist expressive

methods such as using expression built on hints from the model's poses and techniques based on materials. Influences ranging from Baroque Old Masters to contemporary artists can be seen in his work. His latest works depicting biological specimens and Victorian era people are a consideration of the duality of rational thinking and transcendent magical thinking that exist within people.

La joven del piercing (2006)  
Eduardo Naranjo

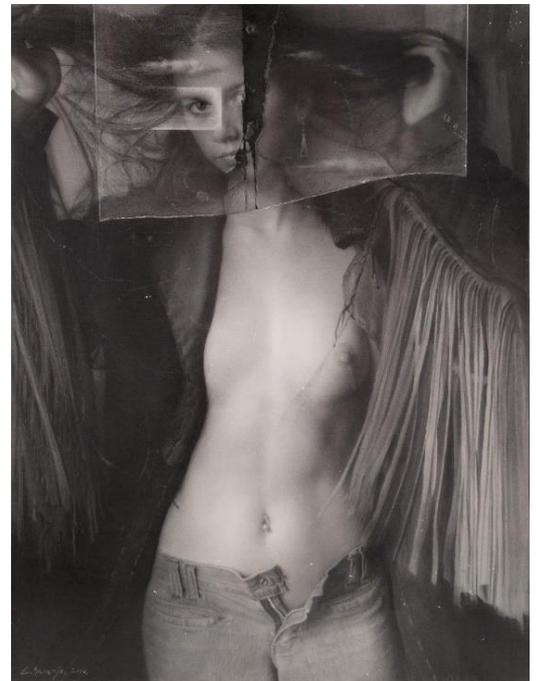
"This woman with a piercing is simply what I dreamed up as my image of young women today. I dreamed up everything, what she is wearing, how she is acting and her emotions. I then expressed those imaginings unconsciously in this drawing. It is also Onirism, an approach invariably seen in my other works."

Eduardo Naranjo (b. 1944, Badajoz)

Naranjo began his art studies in 1957 at an art technical school and then entered the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de Santa Isabel de Hungría in Seville. In 1961 he transferred to the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando in Madrid, and there completed courses in mural painting and copperplate printing. His



works have been featured in numerous exhibitions in Spain, France, Switzerland, Russia, the Dominican Republic and Japan. In Spain, his works are in the collections of the Congress of Deputies, Madrid Barajas International Airport, Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, Calcografía Nacional, Museo Reina Sofia and the MEAM.



## Retrato Número 5 (2013)

Jaime Valero

"In 2012 I began to introduce new working methods that differed from my previous methods. During the creative process I grasp the true nature of my theme, forms and concepts. These all matured accidentally through some strange process, and I had a sense of accomplishment when I completed *Retrato Número 1* and *Retrato Número 5*.

Officially this work is my first large-scale portrait of a woman, and of course in it I used the water that is indispensable to my works. Thanks to this new production process I have been able to greatly broaden the skin colors and tones, and for the first time I have been

able to arrive at subtly intricate cool colors and completely harmonized, refined warm colors. While the large depiction of the bewitching model's face overwhelms the work's horizontal composition, it imbues the painting with a sense of roundness. This work was given an Honorable Mention in the 2013 Figurativas competition, and since then it has hung in the MEAM's authority-filled display space in Barcelona, and in a sense, has become a flagship work for me."



Jaime Valero (Perandones) (b. 1967, Madrid)

Valero graduated with a Fine Arts degree from the Complutense University of Madrid in 1990. Over the course of the past 20 years he has established his own distinctive style and creative realm. After considering genre options he basically homed in on portraits and figurative painting. Over the course of a two-year stay in America he began to figure out ways of painting large-scale portraits of figures either soaking wet or in water and other figurative paintings, and this has become his unique painterly realm. He learned how to weave together the techniques he gained from his study of the old masters and the bewitching realm constructed by contemporary artists. His unquenchable curiosity is the motive force behind his continuing search for endlessly new potential and projects in terms of both form and concept.



In Memoriam (1993)  
Dino Valls

"There is the tendency to misinterpret this painting as simply a single brutal painting, but I really intended to create a richly emotive, moving portrait depicting the psychology of a brave woman who does not know a single person's limits.

This person's aspects and that experiment were simply an expression that can be interpreted many ways, but my final intention was for the viewer to connect with this model, have a dialogue of hearts."



Dino Valls (b. 1959, Zaragoza)

Dino Valls began studying oil painting on his own in

1975. In the early 90s he became interested in egg tempera techniques, and began to create works using a combination of the two techniques. Conceptually he grapples with the human soul and figurative methods are the basis of his expression. His paintings differ from basic Realist concepts in that he does not use actual models; instead he paints idealized concepts, the realm of the unconscious in which intellectual symbols unfold.



**Press Inquiries: Hoki Museum Press Office**

**Fumie Matsui, Shigemi Yasuda (IMPERSSION Co., Ltd) 502 Minami Aoyama Compound 2-18-20 Minami Aoyama Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0062 Japan TEL +81-(0)3-6312-4098 e-mail: [hoki-museum@mbn.nifty.com](mailto:hoki-museum@mbn.nifty.com)**