

# The building and its collections

## The Museum of Fine Arts

in Seville, was founded as "Museum of Paintings" in 1835 and opened its doors to the public in 1841 with works confiscated from convents and monasteries by the State. It occupies the former Convent of the Merced Calzada, which was founded following the conquest of Seville in 1248.

## The collections

correspond to its own historical development: confiscated assets from the Church, donations from private collections created during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and acquisitions by public administrations in recent decades.

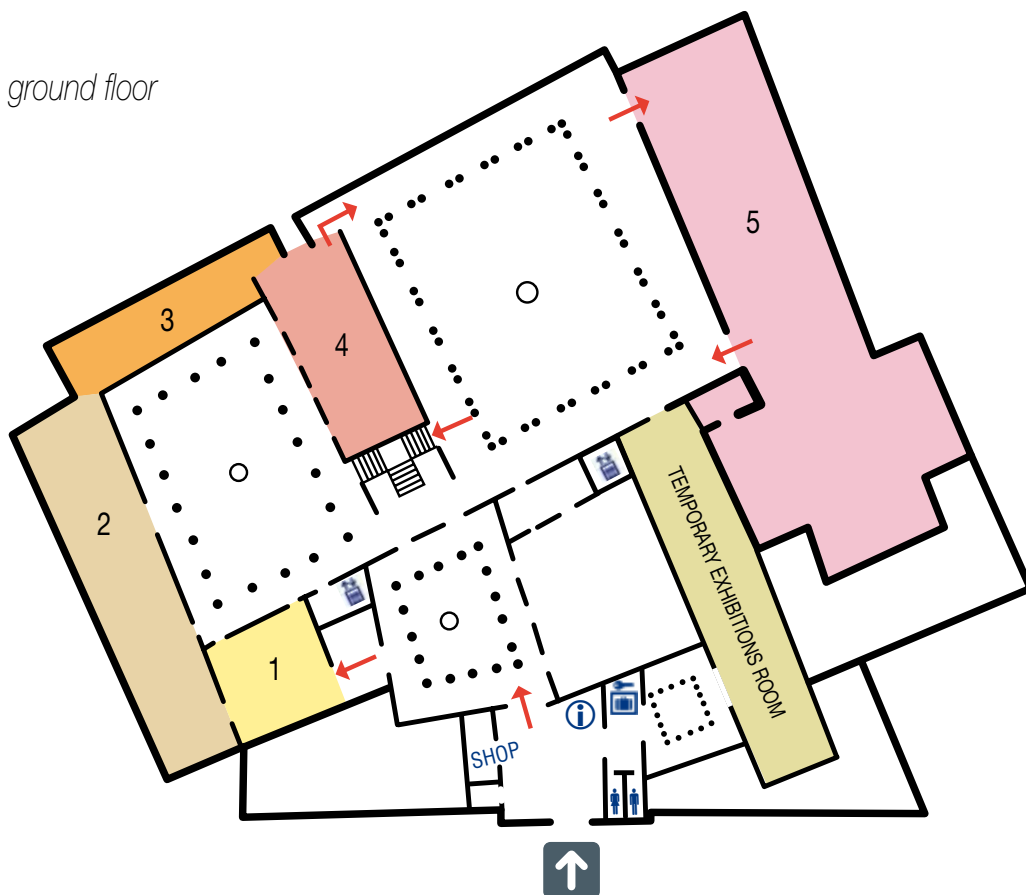
## Sevillian painting

and its own historical development. The principal Museum's discourse is Sevillian paintings from 17<sup>th</sup> century, our most noteworthy artistic period, although it boasts varied collections of painting, sculpture, ceramics, goldwork, furniture, etc.

## The building

is organised around three courtyards and a large stairway. Its current appearance is the result of reconstructions made in the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The architectural project was presented in 1603 by architect and sculptor Juan de Oviedo y de la Bandera. Works began with the demolition of the former construction, built in the Mudejar art style. The church was completed in 1612, and the rest of the building work was finished almost 150 years later. The end result is a fine example of Andalusian Mannerism.

ground floor



- 1 ROOM 1  
15<sup>th</sup> century Sevillian painting and sculpture
- 2 ROOM 2  
Renaissance
- 3 ROOM 3  
Mannerism
- 4 ROOM 4  
Naturalism
- 5 ROOM 5  
Murillo and the Sevillian Baroque
- S TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS ROOM

ground floor



The entrance hall is decorated with tiled panels from Sevillian convents and monasteries that were seized by the State. The most important of these are from the Monastery of El Pópulo and the ones on the arch that leads to the Cloister of the Aljibe, produced around 1600 by Hernando de Valladares for the Convent of San Pablo. The Cloister of the Aljibe features the ceramic panel of the *Virgin of the Rosary*, produced by Cristóbal de Augusta in 1577 for the Convent of Madre de Dios.

### ROOM 1 15<sup>th</sup> century Sevillian painting and sculpture

Works from Spanish Gothic style and the beginning of the Sevillian School of painting are on display. The sculptures created by Lorenzo Mercadante de Bretaña and Pedro Millán are remarkable. The paintings from Juan Sánchez de Castro's group also stand out.



### ROOM 2 Renaissance

The arrival of Italian works and artists, such as Torrigiano, and Flemish artists, such as Alejo Fernández, represents the beginning of Renaissance style in Seville. The room features works by El Greco and Lucas Cranach. It's important to highlight *St Jerome*, an interesting study of human anatomy sculpted by Pietro Torrigiano.

*Lament over the Dead Christ.*  
Pedro Millán

### ROOM 3 Mannerism

Paintings from artists who worked in Seville in the last third of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, such as Francisco Pacheco, Alonso Vázquez and Vasco Pereira are shown in this room. Part of a series of paintings intended for the Main Cloister of the Convent of the Merced Calzada, the present Museum, painted by Alonso Vázquez and Francisco Pacheco are on display.

### ROOM 4 Naturalism

Naturalism emerges in Sevillian painting with artists such as Francisco Pacheco and his followers Diego Velázquez and Alonso Cano. Juan de Roelas's work is an approach to a mundane expressivity, where emotions, immediacy and stories take place.



*Old Lady and Gentleman praying.*  
Francisco Pacheco

### ROOM 5 Murillo and the Sevillian Baroque School

This room, the Convent's former church, is the grand backdrop for displaying the essence of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Sevillian School of painting. Ranging from Mannerist formulas and an incipient Naturalism that begins with Roelas, it evolves toward the art work of Murillo, the greatest exponent of the Sevillian Baroque School of painting. Alonso Vázquez and Roelas embarked on the production of large paintings for altarpieces. In the second third of the century, Herrera the Elder, Zurbarán and Juan del Castillo continued this trend. This period is culminated by the paintings of Murillo for the Convent of Capuchinos. His well-known piece *Virgin of the Napkin* is among this ones.



Former church of the Convent of La Merced

#### Opening hours\*

From Tuesday to Saturday:

9am - 7:30pm.

Summer: 9am - 3:30pm.

Sundays and public holidays:

9am - 3:30pm.

Closed: Mondays (except public

holidays); January 1, 6; May 1;

and December 24, 25, 31.

\* Last admission 15 minutes before

closing. Galleries are also cleared

15 minutes before closing.

\* Opening times and public holidays

are subject to change; consult the

Museum's website.

#### Groups

Information and schedules must

be arranged in advanced on the

Museum's website.

Visits can be booked for groups

up to 30 adults for the permanent

Collection and up to 20 adults for

temporary exhibitions.

#### Library

Open for research purposes by

prior appointment.

#### Visitor photography

Use of flash photography or videos

is not permitted in the Museum's

rooms.

Taking photographs is not permitted

in the temporary exhibitions.

Permission to reproduce works from

the Museum must be requested

through the website.

#### Facilities

There are wheelchairs, lifts and

restrooms adapted for people with

physical impairments. Ask our staff

for assistance.

#### Museum of Fine Arts, Sevilla

Plaza del Museo, 9

41001 Sevilla

[www.museodebellasartesdesevilla.es](http://www.museodebellasartesdesevilla.es)

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The Friends of the Museum

Association: 954560956



#### Public Transport

City buses: 3, 6, 13, 27, 32, 43

and C3, C4, C5.

Intercity bus station:

Plaza de Armas.

#### Public car parking:

Plaza de Armas, Plaza de la

Concordia and San Pablo Street.

#### Nearby taxi ranks:

Marqués de Paradas Street,

Plaza del Duque and Hotel

Gran Meliá Colón.



## upper floor

### ROOM 6

#### Spanish and Sevillian Baroque

This room shows a selection of Sevillian and Madrid Baroque paintings. The series of martyr saints from Zurbarán's studio are remarkable.

### ROOM 7

#### Murillo and his disciples

This room features works from Murillo and some of his closer followers. His style and themes persist in painters like Juan Simón Gutiérrez.

### ROOM 8

#### Juan de Valdés Leal

This entire room is dedicated to the work of this artist. The series of paintings he produced for the Convent of San Jerónimo and for the Professed House of the Society of Jesus in Seville are worthy of note.

### ROOM 9

#### European Baroque painting

This room is dedicated to the Italian and Flemish School. Worthy of mention are painters José de Ribera and Jan Brueghel the Younger.

### ROOM 10

#### Francisco de Zurbarán

This room features paintings made by this artist for the Carthusian Monastery of Santa María de las Cuevas and the Convent of San Pablo. Sculptures from Juan Martínez Montañés and Juan de Mesa, his disciple, are also exhibited.

### ROOM 11

#### 18<sup>th</sup> century Sevillian painting. Goya

The room features paintings under the influence of Murillo and Valdés Leal coupled with the openness toward European trends. It ends with a portrait by Francisco de Goya.

### ROOM 12

#### 19<sup>th</sup> century Sevillian painting

This room shows the evolution of Sevillian painting from Romantic Costumbrism to Realism. Worthy of note is the work of García Ramos, José Villegas and a painting, *The Cigarette Makers*, by Gonzalo Bilbao.

### ROOM 13

#### 20<sup>th</sup> century Sevillian painting

This room houses works from Sevillian painters in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The most representative painters from this period are Gonzalo Bilbao and Gustavo Bacarizas.

### ROOM 14

#### 20<sup>th</sup> century Spanish painting

This room features works from different artists such as Zuloaga, Vázquez Díaz and Sorolla.

## upper floor



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Spanish and Sevillian Baroque
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Murillo and his disciples
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Juan de Valdés Leal
- 9 ROOM 9  
European Baroque painting
- 10 ROOM 10  
Francisco de Zurbarán
- 11 ROOM 11  
18<sup>th</sup> century Sevillian painting. Goya
- 12 ROOM 12  
19<sup>th</sup> century Sevillian painting
- 13 ROOM 13  
20<sup>th</sup> century Sevillian painting
- 14 ROOM 14  
20<sup>th</sup> century Spanish painting

# museum of fine arts sevilla

[www.museodebellasartesdesevilla.es](http://www.museodebellasartesdesevilla.es)