The Lázaro Galdiano Museum
Press dossier
Who we are?

The Lázarro Museum: a centre for art collection. This is our slogan. It expresses the wealth and eclecticism of the museum, as well as our strategy and the direction in which we want to develop. We aim to be a benchmark and a point of reference in the study and promotion of art collecting, and seek to encourage reflection and dialogue in this fascinating area.

Our mission is to enrich the quality of life of our visitors by conserving the legacy of José Lázarro and promoting cultural education. For this reason, one of our main tasks is to offer an interesting, regular and varied cultural programme that allows us to continue the generous cultural work that José Lázarro began.

At the Lázarro Galdiano Museum, we strive for creativity, empathy, transparency, excellence, commitment and loyalty. These are all key values in our management model and we want to include them in all of our projects.

Board of Trustees

The Lázarro Galdiano Foundation, F.S.P., is a private foundation and independent legal entity belonging to the state. The foundation manages the legacy of José Lázarro Galdiano, who donated his collection to the state after his death. Due to his great generosity, we are now able to enjoy a museum that houses more than 12,000 works of art as well as an important archive and library. The foundation also publishes the leading quarterly art magazine GOYA.

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the foundation. Its responsibilities include the approval of management plans and programmes, annual accounts and budgets, loans of works and plans of action. In short, it is responsible for the management and preservation of the assets of the Lázarro Galdiano Foundation, ensuring that it keeps up to date and looks to the future. The Board of Trustees meets at least twice a year and is chaired by the Minister of Education, Culture and Sports.
Who was José Lázaro Galdiano?

A passionate collector, editor and bibliophile

José Lázaro Galdiano (1862-1947) was a twentieth-century humanist, interested in all different forms of art and cultural knowledge. He was committed to social issues and was a firm believer that culture can have a positive effect on society. José Lázaro’s broad range of interests, his philanthropy and the fact that he was the most important figure in the world of Spanish culture from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century are key reasons as to why we continue to research his life, highlighting the fact that he was a socially committed and dedicated member of society.

José Lázaro Galdiano was born in Beire, Navarre, in 1862. He finished his studies in Zaragoza in 1877 and began his career as a clerk in the branch of the Banco de España in Pamplona, settling in Barcelona in 1882. It was here that he started as a gossip columnist and an art and literature critic for La Vanguardia, whilst at the same time growing his hobby of collecting, which he continued throughout his life. His literary criticism reveals that his passion for art was just as deep as his devotion to books and literature, the result of which was his fabulous library containing over 20,000 items including illuminated manuscripts, literary works, drawings and prints.

It was his passion for literature that spurred him to start his most adventurous project La España Moderna (1889-1914), a magazine and publishing house that published over six hundred monographs on legal science, sociology, philosophy, and, of course, the literature of the time. La España Moderna also published works by foreign authors as yet unpublished in Spain, thereby contributing significantly to the cultural development of the country. The magazine was also very successful and partnered with the leading writers of the day including Emilia Pardo Bazán, Galdós, Clarín, Zorrilla, Concepción Arenal, Cánovas and Unamuno.

José Lázaro combined his editorial work with the creation of his extraordinary collection of art, books and illustrations. These jobs took up most of his time and energy. In 1903 he married Paula Florido y Toledo. Through her he had an enthusiastic partner who supported the growth of his collection, for which he built a special residence in Madrid called Parque Florido, which was finished in May 1909. It has housed and exhibited his collection to the public since 1951.
When Paula died in 1932, José Lázaro dedicated his time to travelling and to expanding his collection. He lived mainly in Paris and New York, where he bought at auction houses and from antique dealers to form new collections that were later incorporated into his collection in Madrid. José Lázaro Galdiano died in 1947 leaving his entire property and fortune to the Spanish state. A year later the Lázaro Galdiano Foundation was created and the Museum opening took place on the 27th of January 1951.
The Parque Florido Villa

Private residence and home of the Lázaro Galdiano Museum

The Lázaro Galdiano Museum is located in the building that used to be the collector’s home, the place that, in its day, was the centre of the Lázaro family. It was used for parties and concerts and to host artistic and literary circles at the beginning of the century.

José Lázaro Galdiano began building this villa in 1903 soon after his marriage to Paula Florido. Paula was a wealthy Argentinean lady who had come to Madrid with her two children, Manuela and Rodolfo, both from previous marriages.

The architecture of the villa reveals the aesthetic tastes of José Lázaro, who was closely involved in its construction. The project was entrusted to the architect Jose Urioste, designer of the Spanish pavilion at the Exposition Universelle in Paris in 1900. It was later restored by the architects Joaquín Kramer y Francisco Borras, who followed José Lázaro’s very precise instructions. In keeping with the fashion of the time, José Lázaro decorated his villa in neo-Renaissance style, incorporating classical elements taken from Ventura Rodriguez.

The decoration of the ceiling was entrusted to Eugenio Lucas Villamil. The extensive design filled it with mythological, literary and artistic allusions, truly reflected the intellectual tastes of José Lázaro. The villa was completed in 1909.
The Lázaro Galdiano Museum

The Lázaro Museum: a collection

The Lázaro Galdiano Museum is located in what was one of the most sumptuous private residences in Madrid in the early decades of the twentieth century and is a testimony of the way of life at that time. Your visit will be a unique experience. It starts with the garden that surrounds the museum and continues with the antique lift that leads you up to the elaborate rooms with their fantastic architectural and decorative features. It is a trip back in time during which you will discover the taste of José Lázaro Galdiano and his family and the 13,000 works of art housed within these walls, making it one of the most important private collections of its time.

The magnificent collection of paintings, sculptures, jewellery, fans, ivory objects, textiles, coins, weapons, miniatures, glass and ceramics, reflect the personality of José Lázaro Galdiano, his interests and his boundless passion for the arts. The visitor is able to view a whole range of exceptional pieces spanning from antiquity to the early twentieth century and enjoy some of the great artistic masters.

One of José Lázaro’s main aims as a collector and patron of the arts was to retrieve and preserve Spain’s artistic heritage. Due to the fact that the museum houses pieces by the most important and influential Spanish artists, it has become an important point of reference. The collection includes works of art from Tartessian and Roman cultures right up to the Golden Age. The Lázaro Galdiano Museum has an excellent collection of gold and silver work, luxurious Moorish fabrics and Hispano-Flemish jewellery, as well as paintings by El Greco, Goya, Zurbarán, Murillo, Velázquez and Federico de Madrazo – a real delight for those who want to gain a deep understanding of Spanish art.

However, José Lázaro Galdiano’s interest in artistic genius and beauty also made him look beyond his native borders. His contacts in the art world and his constant trips abroad helped him obtain a truly outstanding collection of art from other countries. His collection includes porcelain from Limoges, ceramics, Italian Majolica, ivory objects, French watches and one of
the most important collections of miniatures Europe. He also collected as well as fantastic works by artists from different European schools, including great masters such as Bosch, Frans van Mieris, Lucas Cranach and Sir Joshua Reynolds. It is the collection of collections and leads you through the entire History of Art in one city, Madrid.
Library and archive

The library is made up of 877 manuscripts, more than 40,000 books and over 1,100 periodical titles. Of particular interest are the collection of illuminated manuscripts, autographs, literary and historical works, and the remarkable selection of incunabula and printed volumes from the 16th to 18th centuries. This impressive collection makes José Lázaro Galdiano one of the most important Spanish bibliophiles of the late 19th and of the first half of the 20th century.

The art magazine GOYA

The historian José Camón Aznar started the magazine in 1954. Since then it has been published without interruption every three months. The magazine includes articles about the research in the area of the History of Art and is a leader in its field in Spain. The magazine is also well-respected and widely-read internationally.
We aim to work together, come up with imaginative concepts, exchange works of art, thoughts and ideas. It is in this way we set out to offer society a continual, enjoyable, approachable way of getting to know the collection of the art collector José Lázaro Galdiano.

COLLECTING

The Museum aims to be a point of reference for the support, study and promotion of art collecting, encouraging reflection and dialogue on this subject. It does so through programmes such as ‘The Guest Collection’, which allowed us to exhibit private contemporary art collections such as the Maria José Jove Foundation (2011), the Leandro Navarro (2012-2013), the Jozami Collection (2014) or VIDEO-REGIME: Collectors in the Audiovisual Era (2015), a project by LOOP Barcelona, as well as the Coca Cola Foundation. Since 2014, the Museum presents the Reinterpreted project curated by Rafael Doctor Roncero that invites established and internationally acclaimed contemporary Spanish artists to interact with the collection. Enrique Marty, Santiago Ydáñez, Jorge Galindo or Alicia Martín have been part of this programme. On the other hand, the collections inspired other artists such as José Manuel Ballester or Guillaume Bruère to create new work, which was shown in different rooms of the Museum. Moreover, in 2012 we started the series ‘Guest Works’ and brought Goya’s Young Woman with a Letter from the Museum of Lille (France), Van Gogh’s Enclosed field with ploughman from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (USA), Portrait of Best Maugard by Diego Rivera from the Museo Nacional de Arte (México) or Fray Pedro de Oña by Francisco de Zurbarán from Seville Council. With initiatives such as these, the Museum continues to bring outstanding pieces of art from international museums to its visitors.
EDUCATION AND LEISURE

We offer an annual programme of activities aimed at children and families. We organise workshops for adults and teenagers, summer camps, themed-guided tours, tours outside of normal opening hours, book readings and classical music and flamenco concerts.

We continually update our programme offering and direct our activities towards new audiences, organising them at special times if required. So we combine the cultural experience of the visit with the fun of our exhibition spaces in a refreshing and informal way.

IN MADRID

We take part in the cultural events that take place in Madrid such as Gastrofestival, PHotoESPAÑA, Noche de los libros, Semana de la Arquitectura, Semana de la Ciencia, Noche de los Museos, the Ellas crean festival, Miradas de mujeres and ARCOmadrid, amongst others.

THE LÁZARO GALDIANO MUSEUM FOR EVERYONE

At the Lázaro Galdiano Museum we believe that the museum can become a driving force for social inclusion. Like all ambitious goals, we are aware that this will take time and perseverance. For this reason we have set ourselves achievable goals each year. For example, in 2011 we introduced GVAM guides allowing those with hearing and visual disabilities to visit the museum independently. The introduction of these special guides was a first and significant step on our part to bring the collection closer to the public.

Our second step in this direction was the series of workshops for young people with Down Syndrome. We began organising these in 2012 together with Madrid’s Fundación Arte Down and the Fundación San Patricio.

Since 2013 we have focused on bringing those in long-term unemployment closer to the museum by offering them a beginner’s art course.

In addition, we are offering working placement for people with intellectual disability and autistic spectrum disorder in collaboration with the Argadini Association since 2016.
Moreover, we are currently a member of the EU funded project **ARCHES** (Accessible Resources for Cultural Heritage EcoSystems) which aim is to provide new tools and strategies in order to facilitate cultural resources access to people with cognitive and sensory impairments. The Lazaro Galdiano Museum is a participant along other thirteen institutions such as the Victoria & Albert Museum, The Wallace Collection, Kunst Historisches Museum Wien, Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza and Museo de Bellas Artes de Asturias.

All of these as well as future measures are geared towards the same goal, namely to increase the knowledge and appreciation of our collection amongst all of our visitors and to contribute to their wellbeing through the channel we know best, namely through art.
Elena Hernando Gonzalo studied geography and history at the Complutense University in Madrid. She was appointed Director of the Museum on the 21st May 2010. Previously, for a period of nine years, she held the position of Assistant Director for the Promotion of Fine Arts in the Ministry of Culture.

Before that, Elena held other senior positions in the Ministry of Culture. These included Advisor for Intellectual Property and Technical Advisor to the Autonomous Communities for the Department of Cultural Communication, where she was responsible for the launch of the Ministry’s ‘Punto de Contacto Cultural’ (Cultural Contact Point).

Elena Hernando Gonzalo began her professional career at the Ministry of Public Administration, where she had various roles having joined the Senior Civil Service Corps in 1991.
USEFUL INFORMATION

We are located at:
C/Serrano 122, Madrid www.museolazarogaldiano.es
facebook.com/FundacionLazaroGaldiano
twitter.com/Museo_Lazaro
youtube.com/user/MuseoLazaroGaldiano
instagram.com/museolazarogaldiano/
pinterest.com/museolazaro/

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Tel: +34 91 561 60 84 (ext. 126)

OPENING HOURS
Open from 10am – 4.30pm
Sundays from 10am3pm
Closed on Mondays

TICKET PRICES
General: €7
Reduced: €4 (only available at the ticket office with appropriate documentation)
Free: 3.30pm-4.30pm;
Sundays between 2pm and 3pm;
Children under 12 years old accompanied by an adult;
Officially unemployed;
Private tutors (according Article 104 of the Education Law 2/2006, 3rd May);
Visitors included in an agreement / partnership with the Lázaro Galdiano Museum such as ICOM, schools, etc.

HOW TO GET HERE
Bus: C/ Serrano – Nos. 9, 16, 19, 51
Underground: L5- Núñez de Balboa or Rubén Dario; L10- Gregorio Marañón