



Celebrating Modern Hispanic Masters & Their Influencers

University of Central Oklahoma
Max Chambers Library
Archives & Special Collections

Edmond, OK
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Cover artwork: *The Picnic* (1776) by Francisco de Goya (Spanish, 1746-1828)

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Special Thanks

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Chambers Library Archives & Special Collections presents *Celebrating Modern Hispanic Masters & Their Influencers*. The exhibit features reproductions of Mexican and Spanish artists' works found in the Melton Art Reference Library Collection of lithographs. The prints include works by prominent, influential artists from the Baroque period, 17th Century, and the Rococo period of the 18th century. The modern period is illustrated with 20th Century Cubism and Surrealism. Each of these Hispanic artists made significant cultural and political contributions during their time and continue to inspire artists today.

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Diego Velazquez (1599-1660)



The Water Carrier,
c. 1618-1622



Infanta Maria Theresa,
1653



The Needle Woman, c. 1643



Ladies in Waiting, 1656

Diego Rodríguez de Silva y Velázquez was born in Seville, Spain in 1599. At an early age Velazquez began studying with painters, first with Francisco de Herrera and then as an apprentice to Francisco Pacheco. By the time Velazquez was 20 years old, he had established himself as a fine painter in Seville. His early works depicted genre scenes, images of everyday life, as seen in *The Water Carrier*.

In 1623, Velazquez was commissioned to paint a portrait of Phillip IV. Having pleased the king, Velazquez was ordered to move to Madrid where he became the leading artist of the King's court. For nearly forty years, Velazquez remained in Madrid painting portraits of the monarch and the royal family. His painting of *Infanta Maria Theresa* was probably one of three portraits of the daughter of King Philip sent to potential suitors and who would later marry Louis XIV of France. In his spare time, Velazquez turned to subjects outside of the Spanish royal family as seen in *The Needlewoman*.



The Surrender of Breda, c. 1653

Velazquez is regarded as one of the most important painters of the Spanish Golden Age. In addition to inspiring Picasso and Dali, his work is believed to have influenced the association between Realism and Impressionism.

Francisco de Goya (1746-1828)

Francisco Jose De Goya Y Lucientes was born in Fuendetodos, Spain in 1746. Goya's father taught him his first art lessons. In 1763, Goya began working in Madrid in the studio of painters Francisco and Ramon y Subias. German painter Anton Mengs recruited Goya in 1774 to paint preliminary tapestry cartoons for the Royal Tapestry Factory in Santa Barbara. He completed 63 Rococo style cartoons for two royal palaces.



The Grape Harvest, 1786



The Picnic, 1776



Boys with Mastiffs, 1786



Victor Guey, 1810

Between 1785 and 1788, Goya received commissions for portraits from the Spanish aristocracy. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed painter to King Charles III and then promoted to court painter in 1789. For the next two decades, Goya continued to paint portraits of Spanish royalty and their relatives.

After Napoleon's invasion of Spain in 1808, Goya began a series of etchings entitled *The Disasters of War* (1810-1814). The series depicts the brutality, slaughter and misery of the Spanish War of Independence. *What Courage!* represents one of the etchings in this series.



What Courage! 1810-1814

Goya is considered one of the most famous Spanish painters of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and is often acknowledged as the "last of the great masters and the first of the moderns."

Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)

Pablo Picasso was born in 1881 in Malaga, Spain but spent most of his life in France. His father was an art teacher, and by the age of 14 Picasso was an accomplished draftsman.



Woman Ironing, 1904



Family of Saltimbanques, 1905

Picasso's life as a young, unknown avant-garde artist living in poverty in Paris between 1900 and 1904 coincides with his *Blue Period*. *Woman Ironing* was completed during this time. Shortly thereafter, Picasso's palette of pinks, reds, and grey featured circus players as seen in *Family of Saltimbanques*.

Card Player and *Still Life* are examples of the style of art for which Picasso is most recognized, Cubism. The subjects in each work are represented by simple shapes and flat planes of color. In 1907 Picasso painted what is regarded as his first Cubist masterpiece, *Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. Version O)*. Picasso's subsequent work asserted the enduring value of Cubist art and celebrated the contemporary developments of another movement in which he was involved, Surrealism.



Card Player, 1913-1914



Still Life, 1918



The Lovers, 1923

Diego Rivera (1886-1957)

Diego Rivera was born in Guanajuato, Mexico in 1886. Rivera grew up in Mexico City where he attended the San Carlos Academy of Fine Arts and worked with a leading printmaker of the period, José Guadalupe Posada. When Rivera was twenty years old, he was awarded scholarships from the Mexican government and began traveling to Europe. Rivera's first stop was Madrid where he familiarized himself with Spanish masters El Greco, Francisco Goya, and Diego Velazquez. While in Paris, Rivera was influenced by Picasso. When in Italy, Rivera studied Renaissance frescos and murals which became inspiration for his future works.



Detroit Industry, South Wall, 1932-33

Upon Rivera's return to Mexico, he and two other artists José Orozco and David Siqueiros founded the "Mexican school of painting." These three men used mural painting to promote their Mexican heritage and their social and political views to a broader audience. Their artistic movement became known as the Mexican mural renaissance.

Three years after his marriage to fellow Mexican artist Frida Kahlo in 1929, Rivera was commissioned to depict the history of Detroit, including the evolution of the Ford Motor Company, at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Rivera produced 27 panels using the ancient fresco technique he had studied in Italy. Rivera came to consider the Detroit murals his finest work.

Salvador Dali (1904-1989)

Salvador Dali was born in Figuera, Spain in 1904. Dali's parents noticed his sophisticated drawing at an early age and strongly supported his artistic talent. In 1916 his mother and father sent him to drawing school at the Colegio de Hermanos Maristas and the Instituto in Figueres, Spain. The following year, Dali's parents built him an art studio at



Persistence of Memory, 1931

their summer home in the coastal village of Cadaques. In 1918 his father organized an exhibition of his charcoal drawings in the family home.

In 1922 Dali enrolled in the Academia de San Fernando in Madrid, Spain where he studied Valezquez and the avant-garde art movement Dada. Dali was suspended from the Academy in 1923 and expelled in 1926 for criticizing his teachers. Between 1926 and 1929, Dali traveled to Paris where he interacted with other radical artists including Pablo Picasso, Rene Magritte, and Joan Miro who influenced his shift to Surrealism. One of Dali's most famous paintings and best-known Surrealist works is *The Persistence of Memory*.



Sacrament of the Last Supper (1955)

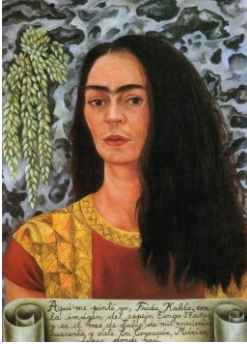
Despite Dali's prominence in the Surrealist Movement, he was expelled from the group in 1934 due to a disagreement with other members. Dali continued to participate in international Surrealist exhibitions through the 1940s. However, after his move to the United States during World War II, Dali's work shifted to a more classical style focused on scientific, historic, and religious themes. Dali often referred to this new period of combined technical skill and imagination as "Nuclear Mysticism," of which *The Sacrament of the Last Supper* is one of his best known.

Frida Kahlo (1907-1954)

Frida Kahlo was born in Mexico City in 1907. Her birth name was Magdalena Carmen Frida Calderon. Kahlo suffered from polio as a child and was nearly killed in a bus accident as a teenager that caused multiple fractures of her spine, ribs, and pelvis. While recovering



Self Portrait with Monkeys,
1943



*Self Portrait with Loose
Hair, 1943*



*Frida and Diego Rivera,
1931*

in a body cast, Kahlo began to paint.

Kahlo became politically active and married fellow communist artist Diego Rivera in 1929. Kahlo followed Rivera to locations in the U.S. where he received commissions. Their marriage was nontraditional as Rivera and Kahlo essentially lived separate lives and became involved with multiple other people.

In 1938 Kahlo had a major exhibition in New York City where she sold half of her works and received two commissions. While living in Paris the following year, she developed a friendship with Pablo Picasso and exhibited more of her work.

In 1941 Kahlo received a commission from the Mexican government for five portraits of prominent Mexican women. Despite her inability to complete the project due to her failing health, she was able to participate in her first solo exhibition in Mexico in 1953, a year before her death. She attended the opening reception from the comfort of a four-post bed set up in the gallery for her.

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