

**PRESS RELEASE**

**SAINTS OF ZURBARÁN INAUGURATION: DEVOTION AND  
PERSUASION**

**The exhibition will be open until the 20<sup>th</sup> of July with the collaboration of BBVA**

**The Guetaria Museum features Balenciaga dresses from 1961**

**Tickets are available for purchase online and in Santa Clara**

**Seville, May 3rd, 2013.** - After months of negotiations, work and assembly, today in the morning will be the inauguration of the **Saints of Zurbaran: Devotion and Persuasion** exhibition, a stellar sample from the City Hall Cultural delegation of Seville.

With the presence of the mayor of the city, **Juan Ignacio Zoido**, accompanied by the Delegate of Culture, Sports Education and Youth, **María del Mar Sánchez Estrella**; exhibition curator **Benito Navarrete** and **Luis Odriozola**, commercial director of the Southern Regional BBVA, this exhibition, for the first time, brings together the pictorial paintings of the Holy Virgins by Francisco of Zurbaran in Seville.

Zurbaran's painting in the 17th century sought to satisfy a devotional clientele who wanted to decorate the naves of churches. Through the Saints he was allowed on his canvases to portray the real picture linked to a strong mystical intensity and rich wardrobes. The treatment of textiles, the combination of prints, the choice of colors and the use of accessories suggests that this is the first Spanish fashion designer.

The Holy Virgins that are exposed in the bedroom under the Espacio Santa Clara have been offered for the occasion by the National Gallery in London, the Prado Museum, Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum of Madrid, the Museum of Fine Arts of Seville (attributed to the workshop of the painter), the Museum of Fine Arts of Bilbao, the Masaveu Collection of Oviedo, the Strada Nuova White Palace Museum of Génova and the Carmen Thyssen Museum of Malaga. This way we can see the work of Zurbaran of Saint Dorotea, Saint Engracia, Saint Barbara, Saint Matilda, Saint Ines, Saint Marina, Saint Eulalia, Saint Catherine, Saint Isabel of Hungary, Saint Ursula, Saint Eufemia, Saint Isabel of Portugal and Saint Margarita of Antioch.

Each participating designer was inspired to create their image of a saint. Thus: Elio Berhanyer is inspired by Saint Isabel of Portugal and Saint Casilda; Francis Montesinos by Saint Margarita; Pedro Moreno, by two thurifer angels; Roberto Torreta by Saint Marina; Hannibal Laguna by Saint Apolonia; Agatha Ruiz of the Prada, by Saint Agueda; Modesto

Lomba, by Saint Ursula; Ana Locking by Saint Catherine, Victorio and Lucchino, by Saint Isabel of Portugal; Angel Schlessler, by Saint Catalina and Juan Duyos by Saint Eufemia.

The designers trained in the lecture series of Elio Berhanyer and also worked on their own designs. María José Pedrosa Mérida designed by the inspiration found in Saint Dorotea; Rafael Perez Girón in Saint Ines; María José Jiménez Jurado in Saint Engracia; Monica Ruiz Rabadán in Saint Marina; Ana Castilla Portillo in Saint Bárbara; Inmaculada Vergara in Saint Eulalia; Maribel Fajardo Arjona (Tan Gram) in Saint Matilda and Cristina Vázquez Borrego in Saint Catalina.

The exhibition of the Saints of Zurbaran: Devotion y Persuasion will be open to the public until the 20th of July. In addition, the samples contemplate the development of parallel activities. In the refectory of the Santa Clara space you can contemplate the engravings of the painter Charlotte Massip dedicated to the Extremadura titled Homage to Zurbaran.

It will launch the Educational Program for Educative Centers, from May 6<sup>th</sup> to June 19<sup>th</sup> with the schedule from Monday to Friday, 10:00 to 13:30 hours and 18:00 to 20:00 hours on Tuesday and Thursday. Participation will be coordinated through the Educational Programs Department, whose address is [programas.educacion@sevilla.org](mailto:programas.educacion@sevilla.org).

In addition, the Saints Zurbaran International Symposium will take place from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of May from 19:00 to 21.30 in the former Espacio Santa Clara clothing room. With the introduction of the Delegate of Culture, Sánchez Estrella, Odile Delenda will give the inaugural conference. It will be attended as well by Enrique Valdivieso, Benito Navarrete, Gabriele Finaldi, Javier González of Durana, Cécile Vincent Cassy, Guillaume Kientz; Ignacio Cano and Victorio and Lucchino.

Also, on May 28th, the encounter “**Literature in times of Zurburan**” will take place at 20:00 hours, organized by the House of Poets and Literature.

### **Guetaria Museum**

The Balenciaga Museum of Getaria lends the original dress of Balenciaga which triumphed in Paris in his collection from 1961.

The loan of this important dress is an event to be the first time that it appears next to the picture of Saint Casilda of Zurbaran from the Thyssen-Bornemisza Musuem that provided the inspiration for the designer in 1961. It is an evening dress in gazar fabric, original fabric devised by the Swiss factory Abraham exclusively for Balenciaga, who sought a resounding fabric with sculptural qualities and powerful, delicate volumes. In this way, the Spanish designer mimicked zurbaranescos volumes and unwrapped admirably the figure in the space, conquering a good part of the criticism. It is a unique testimony to the elegance that can be seen in Saint Claire thanks to Javier González of Durana, director of the Balenciaga Museum of Guetaria and author of a truly revealing text that is published in the exhibit.

## **Schedule and Ticket Sales**

Visiting hours of the exhibition are Monday to Saturday from the hours of 10:00 to 15:00 and 18:00 to 21:00. Sundays are from 10:00 to 15:00 hours (the last entrance one hour before closing).

Ticket sales will be held in the Santa Clara area, located on Calle Becas s/n. Telephone contact: 955 47 13 02. The online ticket box will state the different portals and options for which each ticket offers.

### **Prices:**

General Entrance: 6 Euros.

Group Entrances of more than 10 people: 4 Euros.

Free Entrance:

- . - Younger than 16 years old accompanied by an adult.
- . - Disabled individuals and their companions.
- . - Visitors born or residing in Seville.

## **Acknowledgements**

The Institute of Culture and Town Hall Arts of Seville (El Instituto de la Cultura y las Artes del Ayuntamiento de Sevilla), ICAS, wishes to acknowledge the participation of those involved in this exhibition, primarily to:

**BBVA**, collaborating institution that made it possible, and secondly to:

**Participating Museums:** National Gallery of London, Prado Museum, Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum of Madrid, Museum of Fine Arts of Seville, Museum of Fine Arts of Bilbao, Masaveu Collection of Oviedo, Strada Nuova Museum, and White Palace of Génova and the Carmen Thyssen Museum of Malaga.

**Participating Designers:** Elio Berhanyer, Agatha Ruiz de la Prada, Devota y Lomba, Francis Montesinos, Angel Schlessler, Juan Duyos, Pedro Moreno, Ana Locking, Roberto Torreta, Hannibal Laguna, Vittorio and Luchino; and trained designers to the Lecture Series of Elio Berhanyer who also worked to make the designs inspired by the saints.

**Writers:** Amalia Descalzo, Peter Cherry and Javier González of Durana.

**Speakers at the Symposium:** Odile Delenda, Enrique Valdivieso, Ignacio Cano, Javier González of Durana, Cécile Vicent Cassy, Guillaume Kientz, Gabriele Finaldi and Victorio and Lucchino.

Also to the media and foreign nationals who have echoed the news, to the schools, organizations, groups, service companies and those professionals who have worked on the project.

## Contact

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An original idea from:



With the collaboration of:

The logo for BBVA is the word 'BBVA' in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font.