

MUSEU NACIONAL  
D'ART DE CATALUNYA

ENG

Exhibition

# BERMEJO

The 15<sup>th</sup> century rebel genius



# BERMEJO

15/02 – 19/05 2019

The oeuvre of Bartolomé de Cárdenas, known by *el Bermejo* (Córdoba, c 1445 - Barcelona, c 1501), can be found in museums throughout Europe and the United States. Now we can also see his works at the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, in a retrospective exhibition, organised jointly with the Museo Nacional del Prado.

There will be some 50 pieces from the Museum's own collection, as well as works from other leading institutions such as the National Gallery in London, the Museo Nacional del Prado in Madrid, the Museo de Bellas Artes de Bilbao, the San Diego Museum of Art, the cathedral of Acqui Terme in Italy and the Barcelona cathedral. The latter is where his undeniable masterpiece comes from: *Pietat Desplà*.

## Keys for discovering this 15<sup>th</sup> century rebel genius

- Bermejo was **masterful in his knowledge of oil painting, a new technique in his day**, with which he achieved illusionist effects that can only be compared to the great painters of the Flemish School in Flanders, such as Jan van Eyck and Roger van der Weyden.
- He was **a modern artist, a revolutionary painter who created his own language** marked both by originality when handling religious subjects and by his groundbreaking compositions.
- Bermejo **reproduced textures with surprising realism**: we feel like we can almost feel the silk and gauzes, and the brilliance and reflections of metals dazzle our eyes, along with those of precious stones and jewels. He achieved **a spectacular colour range in greens and reds with a unique intensity**.
- He was a genius with a difficult personality; **a rebellious artist fully aware of his great talent**. Although he was the most sought-after painter of his day, he was excommunicated for breaking a contract and was the victim of religious persecution due to most likely being a Jewish convert.
- Every one of Bermejo's artworks is **a true visual spectacle**. If we look closely at the details, we can discover drama and emotion in the faces, and the devils and demons will captivate us, along with his imagined cities, the background landscapes... and even hidden inscriptions. Bermejo's universe will fascinate us.



In *Pietat Desplà* alone they have identified some 70 different species of plants and animals represented with total exactitude. At the end of the exhibition, we'll view close up many nearly microscopic animals, plants, fabrics, metals, landscapes and portraits, to fully enjoy the vision and scope of Bermejo's paintings.

## Activities

#BartolomeBermejo

### BERMEJO SEEN BY...

- Joan Molina, Art History lecturer at the University of Girona and exhibition curator  
*Bermejo: The glory and misery of a Jewish convert painter during the time of the Inquisition*

One of the main experts on Bermejo will talk to us of the eventful and complex life of the creator of some of the best paintings from the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and his capacity to conceive original and even heterodox images.

**Thursday 14 February, 6.30pm**  
The Cúpula Room

- Ramon Gener, musician, writer and humanist  
*Bartolomé Bermejo: Beyond painting... music*

Let your imaginations fly as we delve into Bermejo's work through music. Beyond colours, we can perhaps find answers to many of the questions that arise surrounding his art.

**Wednesday 10 April, 6.30pm**

- Artur Ramon, art historian  
*Pietat Desplà: anatomy of a painting*

Discovering the rich iconography of Bermejo's masterpiece will help us to understand the context in which it was painted, as well as the relationships between the painter and the man who commissioned it, Barcelona archdeacon Lluís Desplà.

**Wednesday 17 April, 6.30pm**

For the conferences on 10 and 17 April, at the exhibition rooms, you must book in advance on the Museum website

### GUIDED TOURS

**Saturday, 11am (Spanish) and 12.30pm (Catalan)**

Starting 23 February  
Included in exhibition ticket price

### The beginnings: between Flanders and Valencia



*Death and Assumption of the Virgin*. Detail, 1468-1472. Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Gemäldegalerie



*Saint Michael Triumphant over the Devil with the Donor Antoni Joan*. Detail, 1468. © The National Gallery, London. Bought by Private Treaty Saler with a grant from the American Friends of the National Gallery, London, made possible by Mr J. Paul Getty Jnr TM's Edowment Fund, 1995, NG 6553

### A converted Jewish painter in Daroca

כמורה בלח



*Descent of Christ into Limbo*. Detail, 1475. Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya



*Resurrection*. Detail, 1470-1475. Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya

### Luxury and sophistication in the retablo of Saint Engracia



*Arrest of saint Engracia*. Detail, 1472-1477. San Diego, The San Diego Museum of Art, Gift of Anne R. and Amy Putnam, 1941.101

### Apotheosis of the saint and excommunication of the painter



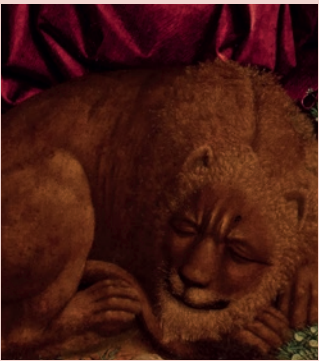
*A Bishop Saint (St. Benedict of Nursia?)*. Detail, 1477-1485. Chicago, The Art Institute of Chicago, Mr. and Mrs. Martin A. Ryerson Collection, 1947. 393

### An international oeuvre, a cosmopolitan painter



*Triptych of the Virgin of Montserrat*. Detail, 1483-1484. Diocesi di Acqui-Cattedrale N. Signora Assunta, Acqui Terme

### The Desplà Pietà, a masterpiece created jointly



*Desplà Pietà*. Detail, 1490. Cathedral of Barcelona. © Catedral de Barcelona (Photographer: Guillem F-H)

Organize

With the collaboration of



Parc de Montjuïc  
Barcelona  
www.museunacional.cat

MUSEO NACIONAL DEL PRADO 200 AÑOS



D.L. B 5958-2019

Recycled paper / Eco-friendly paper

