

Information for teachers

# Um paseo por el arte

A RESOURCE KIT

FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF SPANISH

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## *The Resource*

This resource aims to allow students to experience the rich heritage of Spanish art and to realise its potential as a portal to illuminating and appreciating Spanish history and culture.

It is designed to complement a visit to the National Gallery of Victoria to experience at first hand iconic works of Spanish art.

The educational material in this section of the resource is intended for Middle Years teachers and students of Art and Spanish and includes:

- Thirteen colour reproductions of Spanish works of art in the NGV collection.
- A description of each work of art and biographical details about the artist who created it.
- Suggested questions and activities to be used with students before, during and after their visit to NGV International to view the works of art. These are core ideas that can easily be adapted by teachers to suit their particular students' age and needs.

In cases where a work of art in the resource is not currently on view at the NGV, the questions and activities designed for the gallery visit can be carried out in the classroom using the relevant image in the resource.

The Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS), Levels 4–6, in particular the domains of the Arts, Languages other than English (LOTE) and Thinking Processes underpin the suggested questions and activities.

## *Preparing for a visit to NGV International*

As some students may not be familiar with viewing and discussing art, preparatory discussions relating to the nature of art and a public art gallery can greatly increase the students' enjoyment, confidence, and understandings during the visit.

Education officers will be imparting information during their tour and they will also be interested in questioning the students to learn about their individual ideas and viewpoints.

It is therefore important for students to understand that there is often no definitive 'right' or 'wrong' when discussing art. In the gallery conversations all student ideas will be welcomed, provided they have been carefully considered and reasoned.

## Gallery etiquette

The gallery visit should be a magical and pleasurable learning experience, particularly for first-time visitors, but a few simple rules should be adhered to.

- Inform students of the rules of security and courtesy: In a gallery one does not run, one does not call out, one does not touch the works of art.
- Bags are to be left in the cloakroom. Students are permitted to carry only paper and a pencil.

## Booking your visit to NGV International

- Contact NGV Schools Programs several weeks in advance to book in your class for a visit, including a guided tour in English conducted by an Education officer who will focus on Spanish works of art featured in the resource.
- Some of the works of art in the resource may not always be on display. To avoid disappointment, it is advisable to check in advance with a bookings officer regarding exactly which works will be on view at the time of your visit.

**Phone** 03 8620 2340

weekdays 12 noon – 5 pm

**Fax** 03 8620 2550

**Email** education.schoolprograms@ngv.vic.gov.au

## *Suggested ideas for discussion*

- What is art?
- What do you believe is the role of art in society? Discuss whether that role has changed over time.
- In what ways can art be regarded as a reliable source of history?
- What inspires an artist to make a work of art? Consider factors such as self-expression, cultural expression, storytelling, religious or political conviction.
- Discuss the many different traditional mediums, such as painting, sculpture and printmaking that artists use to create art. What additional mediums are available today because of new technologies?
- What is beauty? Discuss whether it is necessary for a work of art to be beautiful.
- The Spanish modernist artist Joan Miró said: 'I try to apply colours like words that shape poems, like notes that shape music.' Use this quotation to discuss how visual art might be similar to or different from other art forms such as literature, music, drama and dance.
- What do you believe is the role of a public art gallery?
- What can viewers learn by looking at and thinking about art?
- For what reasons might students of the Spanish language visit a public art gallery?

Before discussing images in the resource, it would be helpful to practise looking at and talking about well-known works of art by Spanish artists such as Francisco de Goya y Lucientes (1746–1828), Diego Rodríguez de Silva y Velázquez (1599–1660) and Salvador Dalí (1904–1989), or a building designed by Spanish architect Antoni Gaudí (1852–1926).

The following questions are suggested entry points for opening up discussion:

- What are your first thoughts when you look at the work of art?
- How does it make you feel? What does it make you think or wonder about?
- Describe what you can see.
- Discuss the colours in the work. What mood do they convey?
- What do you think was the artist's intention when they made the work? Discuss whether they might be communicating a story, message or meaning.
- What clues are there in the work of art which could suggest when it was made?
- If the artist were alive, what questions would you like to ask her or him?

## *Useful link*

<http://www.pz.harvard.edu/Research/ArtThink.htm>

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