INFOFLASH 110

Diego Velázquez, the Impressionnism and the street art

Las Meninas de Canido: An Extraordinary, Original, and Successful Experiment

The inclusion of Las Meninas de Canido in the Impressionisms Routes© network—a connection that has spanned many years—is entirely natural. Just as the Impressionisms Routes follow in the footsteps of 19th-century artists who moved beyond the confines of their studios to paint “en plein air" (from the subject itself), las Meninas de Canido pursues a similar goal: taking art out of the museum and bringing it closer to the public.

Since 2008, the project in Ferrol (Galicia, Spain) has grown into the most significant urban art initiative in Europe. Spearheaded by its creator, Eduardo Hermida—a member of the Impressionisms Routes© Board of Directors—the project sought to use the facades of residential buildings to reinterpret a classic masterpiece from the Spanish Golden Age: las Meninas by Velázquez, a landmark in art history created in 1656. After all, did Pablo Picasso himself not create 58 distinct reinterpretations of this famous painting

Why Velázquez? Why Las Meninas ? Choosing a universal masterpiece allowed the project’s initiator to voice a cry of rebellion, alerting the media and the public to the decay of an entire neighborhood. Las Meninas is one of the most famous works in the history of art—and, in its own way, quite revolutionary. Adapting it for popular culture opened the door to transforming the Infanta Margaret Theresa and her ladies-in-waiting into pop-art icons, serving as a vehicle for a political message. Following exponential growth, the Las Meninas project reached maturity by 2026 with the 18th edition of its September festival, which brought together dozens of artists from across the globe to work alongside Spanish and Galician artists, as well as local residents and schoolchildren.

The Canido neighborhood has undergone a complete regeneration and transformation: it has regained its color, local businesses, a sense of security, and its pride. The success is cultural, but above all, human. The local population embraced the project, ensuring its triumph: *"We are a museum with no roof, no doors, no guards, and no entrance... A museum where people live,"* says Eduardo Hermida.

The Impressionisms Routes© network is immensely proud to have been involved in the extraordinary las Meninas de Canido adventure since its origin, working alongside and in support of Eduardo Hermida. It stands as an exemplary collaboration dedicated to the development of contemporary art, in line with the values of the Council of Europe.







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Las Meninas de Canido

El Ferrol (Spain-Galicia). 2008-2026













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