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NY Cervantes Institute inaugurates new exhibition

By: ThinkSpain , Wednesday, November 18, 2009

A selection of fine art by nine Spanish artists who fled to the States during the Civil War (1936-1939) has gone on show at the Cervantes Institute in New York as examples of the city's multicultural art between 1930 and 1960.

"The Spanish Civil War signalled a change in the way America viewed Spain and it was always clear that its exiles were going to leave an indelible mark on New York culture" said Elvis Fuentes, the collection's curator.

The exhibition entitled "El Nexo Español" (the Spanish Link) will be open to the public until January 10th and includes paintings and sculptures by José de Creeft, Julio de Diego, Eugenio Fernández Granell, Esteban Francés, José Guerrero, Miguel Marina, Luis Quintanilla, Esteban Vicente and Juan de Aranao.



Spanish cultural traditions and the main historical events of the era are the inspiration for many of the pieces.

"After the fall of all the other dictators in Europe, the Spanish Civil War and its reinforcement of Francisco Franco's dictatorship made Spain one of the main protagonists of mid-20th century world of art", said a spokesperson for the Cervantes Institute in a press release.

Spanish surrealists and expressionists who travelled to New York at that time had a strong influence on the city's art, both through figurative and abstract work.

Such was the fame and success of some of these artists that they gave classes in leading art schools like the Art Students League, New School for Social Research and New York Studio School, as was the case with José de Creeft, who helped spread the art of sculpting across the city.

According to the press release: "A very varied group of artists migrated here. Artists linked with the surrealist wave, others producing figurative or realist works, like Esteban Vicente or José Guerrero, the main protagonists of abstract expressionism in the New York school".

The Cervantes Institute is the largest organization in the world responsible for promoting the study and the teaching of Spanish language and culture.

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