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LIFESTYLES
REVISITED

ART
&
LITERATURE

My
Favourite Spanish
Artist

SANTIAGO CALATRAVA



He was born in Benimámet (Valencia) on the 28th of July 1951.

In 1984, Calatrava designed the bridge Bac de Roda in Barcelona which was the first work that gave him international acknowledgment.

His following works were the bridges of Mérida, Sevilla, Valencia, Bilbao, Ondarroa in Spain and those of Buenos Aires, Orleans, Athens, Venice, Jerusalem and Dublin. The Tenerife's Auditorium, the wineries in La guardia and in his region: The City of Arts and Sciences (Valencia), Llotja of S. Jordi (Alcoy) and the Exhibitions and Market Site (Castellón). Some of his works out of Spain are the Railway Stations in Liège, Lyon and Lisbon.

Today Calatrava is considered one of the architects specialized in big structures given his education as architect and engineer. He has received many awards and acknowledgment for his work such as the Prince of Asturias Award of Arts in 1999, the National Architecture Award of the Ministry of Housing in 2005 for his extensive and prestigious professional career and he has been given the status of *Doctor Honoris causa* twenty times.

The work of Calatrava means an authentic revolution in architecture because he connects architecture and engineering, which had been separated since the 18th century. Santiago Calatrava meets again the architecture's construction tradition, influenced by Fernando Higuera, Jørn Utzon, Antonio Gaudí and Gothic and Roman architecture. However his works are also criticized and questioned.

ANTONIO GAUDÍ



The exact place of birth of Gaudí is unknown but in most of his documents it says that he was born in Reus (Barcelona).

Gaudí was an architect with an innate sense of geometry and volume, and also with a great imaginative capacity that allowed him to mentally design most of his works before he even drew them in plans. In fact, only few times did he create detailed plans of his works, he rather recreated them on three-dimensional models, adding all the details as he mentally imagined them.

Gifted with a strong intuition and creative capacity, Gaudí imagined his buildings in a global way, taking care of both their structural and functional and decorative solutions. He studied every single detail of his creations, incorporating to architecture a whole range of handcrafted works in which he was an expert: ceramics, glassworks, iron forge, carpentry, etc. He also introduced new technics to work the materials, such as his well-known “Trencadís” made out of waste ceramic pieces.

As time goes by, Gaudí’s work has reached a wide international acknowledgement and there are innumerable studies dedicated to the way he understood architecture. Today he is admired by both professionals and the public in general: Nowadays, the **Sagrada Familia** is one of the most visited monuments in Spain. Between 1984 and 2005 seven of his works have been given the status of World Heritage Site by the UNESCO.

JOSEP LLUIS SERT

Barcelona 1902-1983.

In 1927 he joined the Le Corbusier's studio and he worked with him for a few years. In 1930 he began to design his first buildings, which through their white color, lack of ornament and light profusion reflected an unmistakable Mediterranean style. Sert was the one to create buildings with rationalist character in Spain for the first time.

He attended to the firsts CIAM's meetings, the International Congresses of Modern Architecture, of which he would be chairman after Le Corbusier. He was a founder member of GATEPAC, constituted to promote the rationalist style in Spanish architecture.

In 1941 he went into exile to the United States, where together with other architects he created an architecture and city planning studio. He also taught architecture in the University of Yale and became dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He carried out projects all around the United States, such as shopping centers, residential housing, institutional buildings and offices. He designed some of the buildings around the Harvard University that are among his most representative works and that reflect the Mediterranean atmosphere that he showed in his designs all along his professional life.

TAMARA ROJO

She was born in Montreal (1974), where her parents were working. They came back to Spain when she was 4 months-old. She has Spanish nationality.

She began to dance at the age of ten in the Dance Studio of Víctor Ullate (1983-1991), and at the age of 17 she became the first dancer.

She was invited to dance with the Scottis Ballet (1996-1997).

In 2000 Sir Anthony Dowell invited her to join the Royal Ballet of London.

Tamara Rojo, is a great dancer, one of the most important references of classical ballet.

At the age of 25 she was the first Spanish dancer to dance with the most important company in the United Kingdom.

She has received invitations from different ballet companies of Milan, Niza, Berlin.

She has interpreted roles with multiple nuances, from which we can highlight the neoclassic choreographies and those of Spanish meaning and roots of Ullate.

She received the Prince of Asturias Award of Arts in 2005.

Today she is the director of the English Nacional Ballet, being this the first time that a Spaniard holds that position.



NACHO DUATO

Juan Ignacio Duato Barcia was born in Valencia, in 1957.

Dancer and choreographer, he is one of the most relevant international figures in the sphere of Spanish Contemporary Dance.

He received his education in the Rambert School in London and he widened it in the Mudra School of Maurice Béjart, in Brussels and in the American Dance Center of Alvin Ailey, in New York.

His professional career began in 1980, in the prestigious Cullberg Ballet of Stockholm but it was in the Nederlands Dans Theater (1981), directed by Jirí Kylián, where he really became relevant.

There he created his first choreography “Jardí tancat” (1983), with music of Maria del Mar Bonet.

His ballets and choreographies are part of the most prestigious international companies’ repertoire.

He was the artistic director of the National Lyrical Theater Ballet of Spain in Madrid, today called National Dance Company (1990-2010).

In 1999 he founded the National Dance Company 2, with the aim of educating and preparing dancers for his professional life.

He leads the ballet of the Mijáilovski’s Ballet in Saint Petersburg.

EUSEBIO SEMPERE

Sculptor, painter and graphic artist born in Onil (Alicante) on April 1923, he died in that city in 1985.

He is the most internationally known artist from Alicante and one the most genuine Spanish representatives of geometric abstraction and optical and kinetic tendencies.

His work is the result of a continuous and strict work on geometry, movement and optical illusion, in which he also develops, from composition and shape, a lyrical poetic art of singular beauty.

In the late 70's, Sempere felt an special attraction towards volume, convinced of the fact that the fullness of light and movement could be reached in the three-dimensionality of the object: "simple geometric shapes (made out of iron or chroming steel) are gathered in order or repeated in the air, being expanded through the light reflected with mobile effects that multiply the poetic sensation, reinventing it in time", words of the artist.

He introduced kinetism and was consolidated as contemporary artist once and for all. He began to work with computing seeking new languages for his art. During this time two new types of sculpture were born: sculptures of rotating base, which he informally called "tortas" and the sculptures hanging on fixed elements.

In 1983 he was given the Prince of Asturias Award of Arts.

OSCAR ESPLÁ

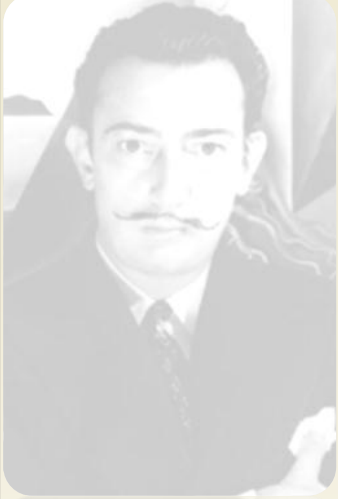
This Spanish composer began to learn music at an early age with Juan Latorre in Alicante but his parents wanted him to be an engineer, so he had to study for that degree in the University of Barcelona (1903-11). At the same time he studied for a doctorate in philosophy and art. In 1911 his composition Suite Levantina won the international award of the Vienna International Association for Music (with Strauss and Saint-Saëns as members of the jury) and then he decided to devote himself to his music.

In 1930 he began to teach at the Madrid's Conservatory and he also became its principal from 1936 to 1939. He was also president of the National Board for Lyrical Music and Theater from 1931 to 1934, director of the Musical Science Laboratory in Brussels in 1946 and he was entrusted by the UNESCO to investigate the feasibility of an universal standard tuning in 1948.

In 1958 he was the principal of the Oscar Esplá's Conservatory in Alicante where in 1955 an Oscar Esplá's composition award had been created. He also held a position in the Consultative Board of Music in 1962.

Esplá was a learned and talented musician that contributed prolifically to every musical genre. With a style influenced by Debussy and Stravinsky, he achieved simplicity, freshness and harmonic refinement. He was also influenced by the Spanish popular rural music from the Mediterranean Coast, which was the basis for one of his original scales appropriate for his artistic temperament.

SALVADOR DALÍ



Salvador Dalí is considered one of the top representatives of surrealism. He is known for his impressive and oneiric images as painter, with a strong personal and recognizable style but he also worked on other disciplines such as sculpture, cinema and photography. The artist spent his youth in Madrid and Paris.

He received his education in the Royal Academy of Fine Art of San Fernando and he stayed in the Students' Residence of Madrid, where he met future figures of the Spanish art, such as Federico García Lorca or Luis Buñuel. Dalí was expelled from the Academy in 1926 and on that same year he visited Paris for the first time, where he met Pablo Picasso, among others. During this period he was influenced by many artistic styles, from classical academicism to the most innovative avant-gardes.

After the Second World War and already married to Gala, he moved to the United States and stayed there until 1948.

In 1949 Salvador Dalí came back to Catalonia. It was the beginning of his mystic and nuclear period, as he called it, characterized by religious themes and the scientific progress of that time.

During his last years, artists like Andy Warhol said that this Catalanian artist was one of the most remarkable influences of pop art.



BARTOLOMÉ ESTEBAN MURILLO

Coming from a humble family he was orphaned at the age of 10 so he went to live with his uncles. Juan del Castillo was his first master. By the end of 1650, being part of the court Velázquez gave him access to the royal collections and so did he copied Tiziano, Rubens and Van Dyck.

In Sevilla he painted for churches and monasteries. His first important assignment was about Franciscan subjects (Fray Francisco and the Angels' Kitchen. Louvre. París). The illustrations of the Virgin and Baby Jesus, among them the one that is in the Palazzo Pitt of Florence, belong to this period.

The acknowledgement that this painter received went through different periods. In his time he enjoyed popularity and received many assignments, both from religious people and individuals. He also painted out of Spain: Antwerp, Genoa... Charles II wanted him to be his chamber painter but Murillo turned down the offer.

The King Philip V and the Queen Elisabeth Farnese helped to the diffusion of his work buying his paintings. Romanticism was the period when he was more internationally valued.

In 1682 while he was painting at the capuchin monastery in Cadiz, he had an accident which would cause his death two years later.

MATILDE ASENSI



With more than twenty millions of readers all around the world, the writer from Alicante Matilde Asensi has become a reference for all those who follow quality best sellers.

She is called «the queen of adventure novels». Her books take us to countries and historic times in which the experiences and the adventures of the main characters always involve the reader in the situation.

In 1999 she published her first novel, *El Salón de Ámbar*, and with *Iacobus* (2000) she began to reach some kinds of readers that were only reached by great foreign writers. With her following novel, *The Last Cato* (2001), she was established as an expert narrator and she made the jump to other countries. Not only is *The Last Cato* her most sold novel but it is also a reference for those who like history, adventure and knowledge. In 2003, in *The Lost Origin*, Asensi cleverly combines secrets with hackers, and in *Everything under the sky* (2006) she takes her readers to the China of the Great Emperor. Among this two titles she published *Peregrinatio* (2004), a guide written as a novel that brings back the main characters of *Iacobus* to make a journey along the road to Santiago. *Martín Ojo de Plata*, is the approach of the writer to the Golden Age, with the volumes *Tierra firme* (2007), *Venganza en Sevilla* (2010) and *La conjura de Cortés* (2012).

Matilde Asensi's novels have been translated into 15 languages.



FERNANDO FERNÁN GÓMEZ

My life has gone by at the same time than the ascent and the triumph of this great writer and artist.

He was a great cinema and theater actor and director.

He has a wide literary work: *“Las bicicletas son para el verano”*, *“La puerta del sol”*, *“El viaje a ninguna parte”*, etc.

He had one of the best voices of the Spanish scene and the way he recited was unmistakable.

I will always remember a recital that I was lucky to attend to, here in Alicante, where he mixed Bernard Shaw, jokes, classic poems and even newspaper advertisements.

He, alone before a lectern and with a small light, was able to transmit to us an emotion that I can still remember.

I have many memories of his art, but I don't want to miss the opportunity to mention the one that for me is one of his best creations, the film “Butterfly” an example of excellent cinema, excellent script and better actors.

Fernando Fernán Gómez died short time ago, but his work will last among all of us who had the opportunity to enjoy his creations in every one of his facets.



JOSE MARIA RODRIGUEZ MADOZ

José María Rodríguez Madoz was born in Madrid in 1958.

He has a particular way of creating artistic objects with a camera. From the everyday utensils – such as matches, glasses, spoons or watches – he creates a poetic image. That is why he is more than a photographer. He is the poet of the Spanish contemporary photography.

Madoz himself explains his work this way: “In my work I don’t try to show rebellion.” Actually, his aim is to behold reality in a richer way than we do at first sight. In 1990 he began to develop the concept of objects, with which he became a highly known photographer.

Like a silversmith, he always uses black and white to create his artistic objects. Not involved in the race of the new technologies, his place of work is more like a craftsman’s workshop than a contemporary photography studio.

In 1985 the Royal Photography Association of Madrid decided to exhibit his first individual work. Three years later the famous gallery Sala Minerva del Círculo de Bellas Artes (Madrid) opened its photography program with an exhibition of his works.



JOAN FONTCUBERTA

Joan Fontcuberta is an artist, a teacher, an essayist, a critic and an art promoter specialized in photography. He received the David Octavious Hill Award from the Fotografisches Akademie GDL of Germany in 1988, the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the Ministry for Culture in France in 1994, the National Photography Award, granted by the Ministry for Culture in Spain in 1998 and the National Essay Award in 2011.

With a degree in Information Sciences, Fontcuberta teaches Audiovisual Communication in the University of Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona and in the Harvard University of Cambridge (Massachusetts), simultaneously collaborating with different publications specialized in image. In 1980 he cofounded the magazine PhotoVision, edited in a bilingual format both in Spanish and English, with the position of editor in chief.

His wide photographic work is characterized by the use of computer tools and the way he presents it interactively with the observers. Like other contemporary artists, he represents a critical vision of reality, the photographic, historic or fictitious truths through photography and his context.

Between 1985 and 2001, the work of Fontcuberta was exhibited in more than thirty museums and art galleries of Europe, North America and Japan, like the Folkwang Museum of Essen in 1987, the New York's Museum of Modern Art, in 1988, the Sevilla's Contemporary Art Museum, in 1989, the Valencian Modern Art Institute of Valencia, 1992, the Parco Gallery of Tokyo, 1992, the Fine Art Museum of Bilbao, 1995, the Musée de l'Élysée of Lausana, 1999, the National Museum of Art of Catalonia, Barcelona, 1999, or the Redpath Museum of Montreal, 1999.

FRANCISCO IBAÑEZ



Francisco Ibañez Talavera was born on the 15th of March 1936 in Barcelona.

He published his first drawing when he was seven years-old in the "Collaborations of our readers" section of the magazine *Chicos*. In 1957 he began to work for the Bruguera's publishing company.

The twentieth of January 1958 the first cartoon story of Mortadelo y Filemón appears in the magazine Pulgarcito number 1394. From that moment and during the sixties Ibañez published his better characters in different magazines: *Mortadelo y Filemón*, *La familia Trapisonda*, *13, Rue del Percebe*, *El botones Sacarino*, *Rompetechos* and *Pepe Gotera y Otilio*, that are the ones that stand out the most among all Ibañez creations.

In 1969 - 1974 - 1975 and 1976 he received the "Aro de Oro" Award to the year's most popular children's characters for *Mortadelo y Filemón*.

In 1985 Ibañez left the Bruguera's publishing company and after working for Grijalbo he began to work for EDICIONES B in 1988, where *Mortadelo y Filemón* was published again regularly and his author was able to give to his characters the precise elements to keep the fidelity of the readers. In 1994 he was granted the "Gran Premio del Salón del Cómic" for all his work and in 2002 he received the "Medalla de Oro al Mérito en las Bellas Artes 2001".

Then in 2003 he had great success in all big screens with the film based in the Ibañez cartoon story, "La gran aventura de Mortadelo y Filemón" (Mortadelo and Filemón's Great Adventure), what shows how deeply liked is the great creation of Francisco Ibañez by the public of every age.



My Favourite Spanish Artist

Thank you for your attention
