

## 20th Anniversary

This year, 2012, marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza. Two decades have passed since the Museum's inauguration on 8 October 1992, during which time it has established itself as one of the most important cultural institutions in Madrid. As a museum, the Thyssen is now an international reference point. Also during this period the works from the Carmen Thyssen-Bornemisza collection have been placed on display at the Museum where they have been seen by hundreds of thousands of visitors. Finally, the temporary exhibitions held at the Museum have become events keenly anticipated by art lovers.

Over the course of 2012 a wide range of activities and innovative programmes will be marking our celebration of this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Some, such as those detailed below, have already been organised while others will be added to this calendar over the coming months.

We have started by designing a logo to commemorate this special year:





- **Free entry for all visitors born in 1992.** The first initiative, starting on 15 January, will be to offer free entry to the permanent collections and temporary exhibitions to all young people who are also celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. These visitors, who must provide proof of age, can visit the Museum for free until 31 December
- **<exchanging gazes>.** This new exhibition programme will present special installations of works from the permanent collections with the aim of establishing a dialogue between old and modern painting and of consequently encouraging a more reflective gaze on the part of the viewer, leading to new interpretations. “Overlapping Gazes 1” is entitled *Mondrian, De Stijl and the Dutch artistic Tradition: 17<sup>th</sup>-century Dutch Painting (Koninck, De Hooch and Vrel) and Works by Piet Mondrian and his colleagues from the De Stijl group (Van Doesburg and Van der Leek)*. The next in the series will present Expressionist painting alongside German Medieval and Renaissance painting (14 May to 19 August) while the third will juxtapose Freud and Watteau (4 September to 9 December).
- **Temporary Exhibitions.** 2012 will be a particularly good year for temporary exhibitions at the Museum. It starts with *Chagall* (14 February to 20 May, in collaboration with Fundación Caja Madrid), followed by *Visions of India* (28 February to 20 May, with works loaned from the San Diego Museum of Art). June sees the start of the major exhibition on the American painter *Edward Hopper* (12 June to 16 September). To end the year there will be two very different events: *Gauguin: Voyage to the Exotic* (8 October 2012 to 13 January 2013) and *Cartier* (24 October 2012 to 17 February 2013).
- **Open Doors Day.** There will be free entry throughout the day on Sunday 7 October, the day before the exact date of the Museum’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our aim with this initiative is to make the collections even more accessible to all our visitors.
- **Illustration Competition.** *A Museum as young as You*. This competition is held in conjunction with the Youth Affairs Office of the Region of Madrid, the Escuela Artediez, the IED Madrid and Treseditores. The competition is open to the Museum’s youngest visitors, who will be invited to offer their vision of the Thyssen Museum in the form of a drawing. Entry opens on 8 February and closes on 15 April. The winner will be announced on 15 May. The competition will be launched in the Museum’s Auditorium on 8 February at 12 noon.
- **Nights at the Thyssen.** There will be late-night opening on Saturdays until 11pm throughout the year. Either the temporary exhibitions will remain open until that time or the 20<sup>th</sup>-century galleries of the Permanent Collection when there are no exhibitions on at the Museum. As has been the case up to now, Saturday evenings will be the time for special events such as concerts, dj sessions, dance and more. The first Saturday in



each month is Young People's Night when all holders of Young People's Cards issued by the Region of Madrid can take part in the activities listed on [www.carnejovenmadrid.com](http://www.carnejovenmadrid.com)

- **Literary Creation.** The Museum's building, its paintings, the galleries etc...All can be a source of inspiration for a literary text. In March we will be launching a short story competition based on the Museum.
- **Restoration of *The Paradise* by Tintoretto.** With the support of Bank of America Merrill Lynch, the month of June sees the start of the restoration of this masterpiece from the Thyssen Collection. The restoration work will be carried out in the Museum's Main Hall where visitors can watch it as it takes place.
- **The most faithful Friend.** During our anniversary year we would like to pay tribute to all those who support us through their financial contributions. There will be a special day for Friends of the Museum and we will be honouring the longest serving - some of whom have been supporting us and participating in our projects for almost twenty years - with a special badge.
- **Symposium on Hopper and Film.** The work of this American painter has inspired numerous filmmakers. On various days in June the Museum will be bringing together specialists in the work of the artist, film directors and directors of photography to discuss and show some of their films and documentaries.
- **Thematic Routes.** The Museum's website will be offering a series of thematic routes aimed at all sectors of the public. This extension of the Collection onto the web will allow users to pursue multiple directions including gastronomy, music, portraiture, Don Quixote, jewels in paintings, inventions and artistic techniques: all will become keys to discovering new and further aspects of the works in the collections.
- **Lectures on the Thyssen Family as collectors.** Guillermo Solana, the Museum's Artistic Director, will give a series of lectures that will analyse the collecting activities (tastes, acquisitions, the *petite histoire* etc) of the first two Barons, Heinrich and Hans Heinrich, and of Baroness Thyssen, whose passion for art gave rise to the collections now housed by the Museum.



- **International Conference.** *Museums in Education: from Action to Reflection.* In November the Museum's Department for Research and Further Education will be organising the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Education and Museums. Over the past twenty years the educational role of museums has undergone profound changes resulting in a greater number of activities and in a more diverse public. This conference will firstly focus on an analysis of the significance of the past two decades and will also look ahead to the future of educational activity in museums over the coming decades. A new feature this year is the launch of a “virtual” conference that will run alongside the “real” one with the aim of making this event as accessible to as many professionals as possible and of facilitating access to education professionals in other parts of the world.