

# What's On

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## Event details

### Renaissance to Goya: Prints and Drawings from Spain

*Until 6 Jan 13*

In this exhibition, Mark McDonald, the curator of Old Master prints and Spanish drawings at the British Museum, has made a careful selection of Spanish works on paper from the 15th to the early 19th centuries from the museum's vast holdings.

These works, many by little known draughtsmen and print-makers, including some Italian émigrés (in addition to examples by the more famous Old Masters, such as Velázquez, Cano, Murillo, Zurbáran and Ribera), give the viewer not only a sense of Spain's lively regional variety and styles, particularly in Andalusia and Valencia, but also an awareness of the wide spread of art-making throughout the Iberian peninsula.

The exhibition is arranged chronologically as well as by centres, and the earliest examples relate mainly to decorative and architectural schemes for the Escorial.

The lion's share of the 17th-century drawings and prints are, unsurprisingly, of religious subjects, with a sprinkling of images drawn from classical mythology.

A major turning point for the graphic arts was the establishment of the Academy of San Fernando in 1744 in Madrid when the secular categories of landscape, portraiture, literary illustration and genre were added to the canon, paving the way for the extraordinary imagination of Goya.

The history of Spanish art—in contrast to that of France or Italy— has been given over almost entirely to painting and, more recently, to sculpture.

This exhibition now goes some way to getting the historical picture into better focus. D.L.

Categories: Old Master Medieval Thematic

## Venue details

### British Museum

Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, United Kingdom

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[www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)