

# **Art, Heritage & Diplomacy. Belgium and Spain: a case study**

*On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of our embassies, 1921 – 2021: Art and Heritage in the official diplomatic representations in Madrid and Brussels.*

Webinar - **Thursday, 16 September 2021, 11h00-13h00**

## **1. OFFICIAL WELCOME & OPENING**

- **María Celsa Nuño García**, undersecretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain

-**Theodora Gentzis**, president of the Board Of Directors a.i. of the Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of Belgium

## **2. ART, HERITAGE AND DIPLOMACY**

**Why should a Ministry of Foreign Affairs have an art collection?**

**The art curators of the MFA's situate the art collections historically and in the artistic landscape. They explain the very specific collection management in the diplomatic representations abroad with particular focus on the art projects and art works in the residences and embassies in Brussels and Madrid.**

- **Ramón Abadal**, head of area, Deputy-Directorate General for Heritage, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain.

- **María García-Rivero**, Art and heritage curator, Deputy-Directorate General for Heritage, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain.

- **Ilse Dauwe**, Art and heritage curator, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Belgium

## **3. HERITAGE AND ART ON LOAN IN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS**

**The Official Residence: a window of opportunity for museums?**

**Museum curators discuss the loan policies of their institutions and get into detail on 'diplomatic paintings' in their collections and the specific art works on loan in the Embassies in Madrid and Brussels.**

- **Dr. MBA Joost Vander Auwera**, Senior Curator Old Masters Department Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium in Brussels (RMFAB)

- **Dr. Andrés Úbeda de los Cobos**, Deputy Director, Conservation and Research, Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid.

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## 4. CONTEMPORARY ARTWORKS IN THE CONTEXT OF AN EMBASSY

**The Embassy: a challenging venue for an artist?**

**Artist talks about their general art practice and their art work in the embassy. The conversations bring up subjects such as the state as a commissioner, multilayered interpretations of art works and exchanges with a diversified public (at a distance).**

- **Esther Pizarro & Olimpia Velasco**, *A wall against climate change: Butterfly Effect 2020*, a pictorial-sculptural mural on the courtyard wall of the Embassy of Spain in Brussels, part of the “Parcours Street Art” of the City of Brussels
- **Philip Aguirre**, *Exodus*, lightbox, based on an in situ installation in 1999 in Senegal, installed in the Embassy of Belgium in Spain in 2013

## 5. ART & HERITAGE AS A TOOL FOR DIPLOMACY

**Can art change the world?**

**The Ambassadors unveil the role of art as a cultural ambassador. They point out how art can play a role in the diplomatic work: how art can be part of a bigger story of representing, building and branding an image of the country and how they can build bridges and open up dialogues to strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation.**

- **Gerard Cockx**, Ambassador of Belgium to the Kingdom of Spain, Madrid
- **Beatriz Larrotcha Palma**, Ambassador of Spain to the Kingdom of Belgium, Brussels

## 6. DIGITAL TOUR OF THE EMBASSIES

- Presentation of the virtual 3D tour of the Official Residence “Embajador Marqués de Villalobar”, Embassy of Spain in Belgium.
- Presentation of the virtual 3D tour of the Official Residence ‘Palacio Marqués de Rafal’ - Embassy of Belgium in Spain.

## 7. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Moderator: **Sergi Farré**, Cultural and Scientific Counsellor of the Embassy of Spain in Belgium