

# ART, HERITAGE & DIPLOMACY.

## BELGIUM AND SPAIN: A CASE STUDY

*Webinar. Thursday, 16 September 2021 11h-13h*

### ◆ MEET THE SPEAKERS:

#### **Luis Manuel Cuesta Civis**

**Permanent Undersecretary. Ministry for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain**

Born in 1968 in the Pobla de Segur (Lleida). Career diplomat since 1993. Secretary General of Defense Policy (2007-2012) Ambassador Permanent Representative of Spain to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), based in Vienna (2019 to 2021). Ambassador of Spain to Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and the East African Community (2012-2015). Diplomatic assignments in the Embassies of Spain in Colombia, Italy and in the Permanent Representation of Spain to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as Deputy Representative for Political-Military Affairs. Diplomatic advisor of the Minister of Defense (2005-2007). Previously, Counselor for Cultural Promotion at the Directorate for Cultural Relations and expert at the UNDP in New York.



#### **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**

Born in 1975 in Brussels. Bachelor in Economics, Politics and Social Sciences, Faculté Universitaire Saint-Louis, Belgium. Master's degree in Political Science (International Relations), Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium. Master's degree in European Studies at the Institute of European Studies, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium. Director-general European Affairs, member of the executive board, since 2017. Advisor

to the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, in charge of European issues and Relations with partners in the East and South-East of the EU (2014-2017). Counsellor in the EU External Relations Directorate on issues of EU enlargement, Eastern Partnership and Relations between the EU and the neighbouring countries, Belgian member of the Administrative Board of the European Fund for Democracy, Belgian delegate at the European Committee for the Neighbourhood Program (2009-2014). Counsellor in the Directorate for Internal Market and Transport, Telecom and Energy (2007-2009). Desk officer in the Directorate-General for Coordination and European Integration, desk officer (2000-2006).

## **Gerard Cockx**

### **Ambassador of Belgium in Spain**

Born in 1960 in Mechelen (Belgium). He holds degrees in Political and Social Sciences, Economic Sciences and English Literature. He started his diplomatic career in 1989 at the Belgian Embassy in Tel Aviv, followed by assignments at the Embassy in Madrid (1992), the Belgian Permanent Representation to the United Nations in New York (1999), and the Embassy in London (2002). He served in the Ministry's Trade Department (1996) and as Director Internal Market and Services (2006) and Director for Economic Affairs (2017). He was Consul General in Jerusalem (2009) and Ambassador in Singapore (2013). He took up his current function as Ambassador of Belgium to Spain and Andorra in September 2020.



## **Beatriz Larrotcha Palma**

### **Ambassador of Spain to the Kingdom of Belgium, Brussels**

Born in Jaén in 1959, she holds a degree in Law and has been a member of the diplomatic corps since 1987. She has been posted in the diplomatic representations of Algeria, Belgium and Peru as well as in the Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union. She was delegate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Barcelona 92 Olympic Organizing Committee, deputy assistant director general of Personnel, assistant director general of Patrimonial Affairs and advisor at the General Inspectorate of Services, at the Diplomatic Information Office and at the Directorate General of Spaniards Abroad and of Consular and Migratory Affairs. In 2012 she was appointed director of the Cabinet of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. She has been Technical Secretary General and Undersecretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.

## **Ramón de Abadal**

### **Head of area, Deputy-Directorate General for Heritage, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain**

Carreer diplomat since 1988. In charge of cultural affairs at the Spanish Embassy in Athens for 5 years in the 90's. Deputy director for cultural affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1999-2000. Political counsellor at the Spanish Embassy in London 2001-2004. Private sector 2005-2019 dealing mainly with interior design, art and related matters. 2020-today counsellor at the Deputy Directorate for property management at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



## **María García-Rivero Gener**

### **Curator. Head of the Cultural Heritage Area at the Deputy-Directorate General for Property Management in the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.**

Heritage restorer since 1996 and official State curator since 2006. Expert in Fine Arts, cataloguing works of art, as well as cultural heritage conservation and restoration. Extensive experience in both public and private institutions (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Heritage, Institute of Cultural Heritage, National Maritime Archaeology Museum, Museum of America, National Museum of Decorative Arts, Ministry of Culture, Auctions Alcalá, Sotheby's, Wallace Collection, etc.). University degrees in both Art History and Fine Arts (Universidad Complutense de Madrid).

## **Ilse Dauwe**

### **Art and heritage curator, Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of Belgium**

Ilse Dauwe graduated as an aggregated art scientist at the Ghent University and is also trained as an antiques dealer and art dealer at Syntra Brussels. Since 2002, she is the conservator of the art collection of the FPS Foreign Affairs and (co-)curator of the summer exhibitions at the Egmont Palace, including the last once, Art & Diplomacy, in the summer of 2019. Her achievements include the creation of an internal art depot, an art database, an active restoration policy and a targeted collection policy. She realized art projects in Tokyo, Madrid, São Paulo, Kinshasa, New Delhi and Rabat. She is an editor and author of several



publications and is co-manager of the website and social media Belgian Art & Diplomacy. She is the chairwoman of the internal art committee, responsible for the exhibitions at the Egmont Palace, and coordinator of the external art purchasing and advisory committee that consists of external art directors and curators who give advice and validate art projects.



### **Joost Vander Auwera**

#### **Senior Curator Old Masters Department Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium in Brussels (RMFAB)**

Graduate of Ghent University, teaching assistant to the eminent Jordaens scholar Roger d'Hulst, Dr. MBA Joost Vander Auwera has authored some 75 publications on 17th Century Flemish painting and museum administration. Curated with Dr. Sabine van Sprang the exhibition Rubens. A Genius at Work, 2007-8 at the Brussels museum and in 2012-3 the first exhibition on Jacques Jordaens held in Brussels since 1928 and the first in Germany, Jordaens and the Antique, with Dr. Irene Schaudies and Dr. Justus Lange. Contributing author to the Jordaens 1593-1678 exhibition catalogue, Petit Palais, Paris, in 2013. Was professor in museology and cultural management at the University of Ghent and visiting professor at VUB Brussels university for the master post master on connoisseurship as well as for the summer course program on Art of the Netherlands of Duke University (North Carolina –USA). Visiting professor on the summer course at San Lorenzo El Escorial, on the iconography of the Eighty Years War (Prof.dr. Bernardo García (Universidad Complutense de Madrid); Prof.dr. Werner Thomas (KULeuven): La imagen de la guerra en el arte flamenco y holandés de los siglos XVI y XVII. Senior curator at the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium and the co-founder and project leader of the Jordaens Van Dyck Panel Paintings Project. Acted also as the representative of the Brussels museum to Airchecq, an international project on the quality of air in museums. Board member of the Centrum Rubenianum in Antwerp and vice-president of the 'Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art' (C.I.H.A. Paris - Rome).

### **Andrés Úbeda de los Cobos**

#### **Deputy Director, Conservation and Research, Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid.**

(Madrid, 1959). Andrés Úbeda de los Cobos is currently Deputy Director for Collections and Research (Museo del Prado). Before that, he was the Chief Curator of Italian Paintings in the same museum for 15 years. He has been the responsible for many temporary exhibitions such as Lorenzo Tiepolo (1999), The Palace of the Planet King (2005), Luca Giordano (2008), Rome : Nature and the Ideal: Landscapes, 1600-1650 (Museo del Prado



– Musée du Louvre, 2011), Georges de La Tour (2016), among others. In 2022 the Prado will open his latest project, about the Herrera Chapel in the Spanish church in Rome, San Giacomo degli Spagnoli, by Annibale Carracci. This exhibition will be seen in three venues: Museo del Prado, MNAC (Barcelona) and Palazzo Barberini, in Rome.



**Esther Pizarro** (Madrid 1967) is a visual artist, researcher and senior lecturer at Universidad Europea de Madrid. After obtaining a PhD in Fine Arts from the Complutense University of Madrid, she completed her education in the United States with a Fulbright postdoctoral scholarship. Mobility maps, vegetation mapping and data display constitute the conceptual basis of her artistic practice. Her work has been shown in individual and collective exhibitions both in Spain and abroad: Ponce+Robles, Matadero-Madrid, La Fragua-Tabacalera, and LABoral Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial. Her artistic work has been recognised with grants from numerous institutions,

including the Pollock-Krasner Foundation in New York, the Academy of Spain in Rome and the Spanish College in Paris. Among other accolades, she has received an Ojo Crítico award from Radio Nacional de España, a Buitblanc prize from Las Cigarreras Cultural Centre in Alicante, a Propuestas award from artists' rights management non-profit VEGAP, and an Inéditos prize from the Caja Madrid savings bank. She has collaborated on large installations for the Bilbao Guggenheim Pavilion, Shanghai World Expo Exhibition 2010, China; and for the Acciona Pavilion, Expo Zaragoza 2008, Spain.

**Olimpia Velasco** (Madrid 1970) is a visual artist. After earning a Degree in Fine Arts from Universidad Complutense de Madrid, she undertook doctoral studies at the same university and at T.E.I. Athinon in Athens (Socrates Fellowship). She has a Diploma in Graphic Design from the Centro Español de Nuevas Profesiones in Madrid. Her art explores connections between nature and humans in terms of (radicant) nomadic thought and from a female perspective. She has participated in national and international exhibitions, both individually and collectively. She has received grants for artist residencies in France, Italy and China, as well as Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IEB grants to carry out projects in Spain and abroad, most recently: La Montaña Mágica, in Bai & Yun Art Museum, Moganshan, China (2019) La Partida (acción de peso) (2018) at the Santo Domingo Convent Church and Municipal Museum of Pollença (Mallorca); La Oscuridad (2018) at Espai Dipòsit del Casal Solleric in Palma, and Friluftsliv (2017) at the Palacete del Embarcadero in Santander and at Galería Maior in Palma and Pollença. Her work is present in public and private collections.





**Philip Aguirre y Otegui**, born in Schoten, Belgium, is a sculptor trained at Antwerp Royal Academy of Art. He uses a wide range of materials for his sculptures and installations: clay, terracotta, bronze and iron, and he also makes drawings, etchings and video art. His work is a constant exploration of the human ability to survive, and the stories that are connected to this subject. There is a social and political awareness lurking behind the pure form of his sculptures, that are often shown in the public spaces. Philip Aguirre has his own name for his visual practice about being human. He calls it "picture poetry. In 2008 he had a retrospective exhibition at Middelheimmuseum in Antwerp. In 2009 he built the monumental sculpture Gaalgui in Senegal, a sculpture that was shown at the Beaufort Triennial in 2009. Realisation of the Holocaust-Memorial in Dossin-kazerne Mechelen, 2012. A large retrospective at the MUZEE Ostend in 2013. Realisation of monumental work "Théâtre-Source" in

Douala, Cameroon 2013. Participates at Irish Biennial in 2016. Working on lot of public sculptures. At this moment solo exhibition at Valerie-Traan gallery in Antwerp.

**Elliott Hillaert.** As a managing partner at Lunaus - Your Digital Hub and founder of Panoraman, Elliott is a tech passionate and innovative entrepreneur, interested in the emancipatory potential of technology. His mission is to support organisations and enterprises through their digital journey with innovative solutions. Those solutions are the result of a multidisciplinary and holistic approach.

