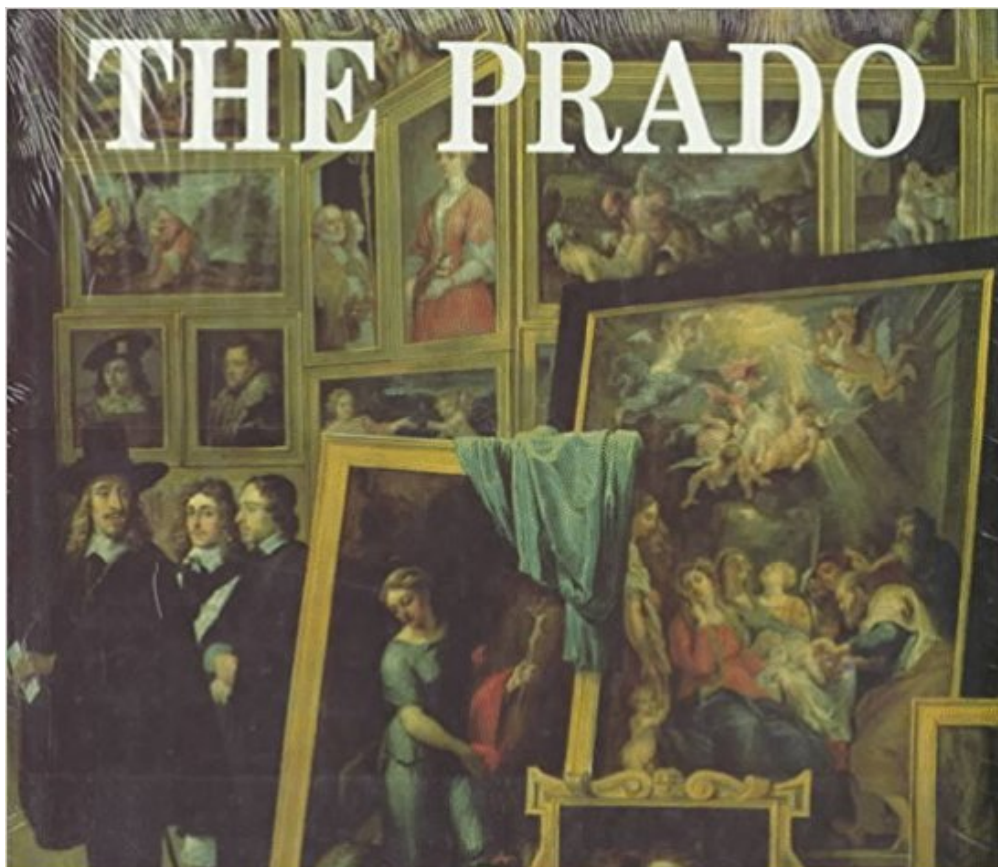


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# Prado



## Synopsis

Beginning with an illustrated history of the Prado Museum in Madrid, this book then takes readers on a guided tour of the galleries. It is illustrated with full-page colour reproductions of 275 works by artists such as Bosch, Raphael, Velazquez and Goya.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

One of Europe's finest museums, the Prado in Madrid boasts masterpieces by El Greco, Velazquez, Titian, Raphael, Rubens, Watteau and Gainsborough, to name a few. This tony album lets one trace Goya's years of exile in Bordeaux, stumble into Bosch's fiery allegorical world and confront the intense, defiant gaze of Durer's Self-Portrait. There are a few modernist works here (Picasso, Miro), but emphasis is on the 15th through 19th centuries, with paintings organized by school (Spanish, Italian, German, etc.) so that readers can follow the evolution of each national style. With 275 color reproductions plus essays on each school and a ponderous 102-page history of the museum by Spanish art historian Blanch, the album is studded with delightful surprises, including Spanish artist Mariano Fortuny (1838-1874), who must rank as one of Europe's great lyric painters. BOMC featured dividend. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Blanch offers readers a tour of the treasures of Madrid's Prado Museum in this lavishly illustrated volume that is buttressed with 275 full-page color plates. Originally published in 1991 for a hefty

\$95, this is a steal at \$40 and essential for serious public and academic art collections. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

It is an interesting walk through memory lane, as the actual museum was a real treat and well worth many days touring. We only allowed for one full Prado day. Their collection is massive with tapestries, furniture and sculptures besides all the incomparable art works. An insight into the history of the museum building was well done.

Ok

Beautiful book at a great price.

Content is great. I got this along with another book on the Prado, and although that book has more prints, this book is wonderfully imposing in its hardback form. It's got some real heft, at almost three inches thick. Worthy of display, if you have a library or on top of the coffee table book pile.

Completely satisfactory in every way.

A beautifully printed book, divided by area. It starts with the history of Spain's museums then continues on with a thorough history of the Prado museum. This large heavy book has 273 of the Prado's finest artwork with very fine reproductions of the paintings on bright white matte paper at the Prado in Madrid. The paintings are arranged by 'school' & by age with the oldest painting first ending with the most recent. A fine addition to any library of art books.

This is an exquisite table top book that you won't want to shelve anytime soon. Lavish in detail the book has 275 paintings that are world famous. The time period covered is the 12th right up through the 20th century. No easy task to get a sampling from the Prado, one of the greatest museums in the world. The author manages just that as he doesn't over emphasize the "known" masters and unveils some of the lesser and even unknown artists. Since the author, Santiago Alcolea Blanch, a renowned art historian, is Spanish, there is a leaning towards the works of the well known Spanish masters like El Greco and Velasquez, right up to the more modern Picasso. This is not to say that it only features Spanish artists as it includes the masters from throughout Europe. Anyone interested in art will love and benefit from this book. There is much to be learned from superb works that have

withstood world wars and other atrocities of mankind and been viewed by millions of people. The first paintings revealed are those painted on murals and board, eventually working its way to oil on canvas. Since much of the works from the masters is of a religious nature one will find superb paintings inspired from the divine, mans earliest works as manifested through his interpretations of God and his glory. Marveling at these works leaves no doubt about the everlasting impression this subject matter must have had on the artists. That we would be given the opportunity to view such inspirational works from the comforts of our living rooms is an additional blessing. The works are not limited to religious themes as there are countless portraits of the nobility and loyalty that shaped the world events of their time and even directed the course of history. These were the photographs of their day, long before digital images could be loaded instantly on a computer, only the wealthy could afford such a luxury. The works, as perceived through the eyes of the artist are uncommon and magnificent testimonials of a bygone era. As an additional bonus the book is also a history book. The first 139 pages are a concise explanation of the origins of the Royal Collection and the Academy of Fine Arts. Included in the historical tour are great black and white photographs of the Prado in various time periods, including draft plans for the additions. Each director is profiled in story book fashion to illustrate the achievements and problems encountered during their time as directors. Captivating and informative, the written word in this book is an excellent source of information for the art historian. Follow the trial and tribulations of those most influential in giving the world one of it's greatest museums. For further exploration there is also a pretty extensive bibliography. This is a quality book that any lover of art will cherish, highly recommended for those that like the works of the masters.

Take a tour of the fabulous Prado museum with this lavishly illustrated volume. Featuring over 300 full page photos, this work reveals the astounding depth of the Prado's collection. The book is arranged by "schools" of nationalities, just as the museum is, and features many of the most classic and cherished paintings Europe has produced from medieval triptychs to Picasso's "Guernica". These aren't the only paintings featured, however. The reader is invited to see the collection longitudinally. I really enjoyed, for example, seeing the wonderful variety of Velasquez' paintings - those he did in the employ of the royal court were markedly different than his early work. The book is not just colorplates, though. The first 125 pages give a detailed history of the museum itself, which is very fascinating (especially the travails of the building and the collection during the civil war). There is also included a reprinting of the royal proclamation establishing the museum in 1432. The book is published by Abrams' reprint service, but the quality is still exceptional. The colors are

beautiful and the binding is very nice and durable as well. Enjoy it!

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