

El Greco Rediscovered: A Case Study of Digital Curation in Museums



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THE PROJECT: A WEB BASED EXHIBITION

El Greco Rediscovered: The Treasures of the Chapel of San José in Toledo is a digital project conceived by the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., and it's focused on the history of the Chapel of San José in Toledo (Spain). El Greco completed four paintings for that Chapel, and two of them are today owned by the National Gallery: *Saint Martin and the Beggar* (1597-1599) and *Madonna and Child with Saint Martina and Saint Agnes* (1597-1599).

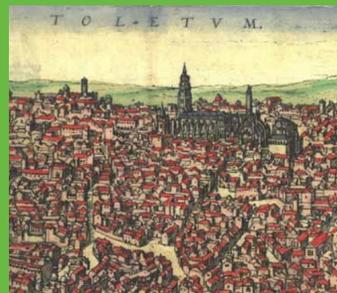
The Chapel of San José still constitutes one of the best preserved examples of Toledan architecture and art dating from the late sixteenth century. It is a private Chapel closed to the general public.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the death of the master (1614-2014), Felix Monguilot, along with curators, conservators, educators, and technologists, is working with the Fundación El Greco 2014 in Spain to participate in the year of El Greco.

The idea is to create a web exhibition that will bring new light to the history of the Chapel and its masterpieces. This website, with the help of digital technologies, will reinterpret the paintings inside of their original context.



Courtesy: Fundación El Greco 2014, Toledo



Courtesy: Biblioteca Digital de Castilla y León, Valladolid



LOCATION

After previous research and completing the field work in museums, archives and other historic laboratories from Spain and the United States, the project is now evolving to its next step.



MADONNA AND CHILD

Conceived for both English and Spanish speakers, the web project, has been divided in four main sections focused on the history of the Chapel, the works of El Greco, the conservation process of the painting of Saint Martin, and a panorama or 360 degree view of the inside of the Chapel.



SAINT MARTIN

Educational videos and texts have been produced to explain the process of conservation and analysis, to provide the general public a better understanding of the fields of preservation and conservation inside museums.

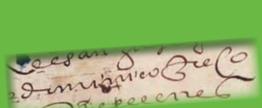
St. Martin and the Beggar Conservation process



Archival images will be made available to the public, presenting the history of the paintings before and after their removal from the church: from the period when they were still in Spain until their transport to the Widener collection in Philadelphia, where they were for almost 30 years, and their final location inside the National Gallery of Art.

CONCLUSIONS

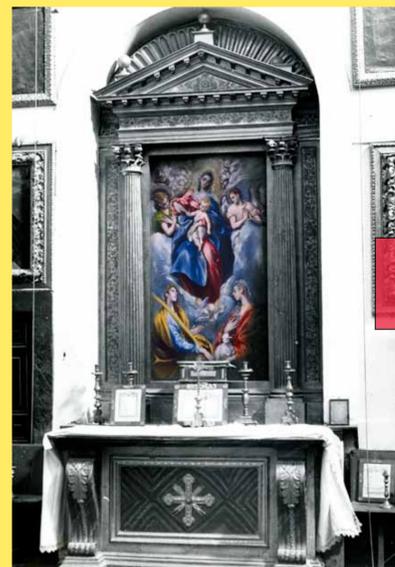
The project will include images, texts, videos and previously unreleased documents that will be available to the public, establishing and developing a long term repository of digital assets for current reference for researchers and scholars.



Photos: Department of Image Collections, National Gallery of Art Library, Washington D.C.

RESOURCES

- Archivo del Congreso de los Diputados, Madrid
- Archivo Histórico Provincial de Toledo
- Archivo del Senado, Madrid
- Arxiu Mas, Barcelona
- Biblioteca Nacional de España, Madrid
- Biblioteca Digital de Castilla y León, Valladolid
- Gallery Archives, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.
- Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles
- Library of Congress, Washington D.C.
- Library Image Collections, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.



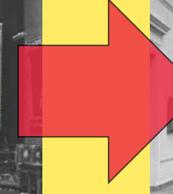
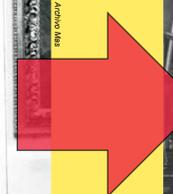
Capilla de San José, Toledo



Lynnewood Hall, Philadelphia



National Gallery of Art Washington D.C.



Department of Image Collections, National Gallery of Art Library, Washington D.C.