



THE 4TH CENTENARY OF EL GRECO

FRIDAY 9 MAY TO MONDAY 12 MAY 2014

NICHOLAS FRIEND

To mark the fourth centenary of El Greco's death in 1614, special exhibitions and installations will be on view throughout Toledo beginning in mid-March 2014. Fulfilling a dream that has haunted the imaginations of many El Greco scholars, curators, and aficionados preparing for this event, the fruits of El Greco's entire forty-year career will be displayed throughout his beloved adopted city, including the privately-owned Chapel of San José with El Greco's rarely seen altarpiece. To honour the Cretan-born artist whose work has been described as "a fusion of Eastern late Palaeologan and Western Renaissance art, ...of Michelangelo's form and Titian's and Tintoretto's colour" the first and largest exhibition devoted to his work in Toledo opens at the Museo de Santa Cruz. Other buildings which hold original works by him, including the Sacristy of Toledo Cathedral, the Chapel of San José, the Convent of Santo Domingo el Antiguo, the Church of Santo Tomé and the Tavera Hospital will be staged to display his paintings as well as his designs for complex altarpiece frames. INSCAPE eagerly joins this beautiful city's proud celebration of one of the most distinctive painters who ever held a brush.

No longer considered an unhinged visionary artist in thrall to the writings of the barefoot Spanish mystical saints, St John of the Cross and Teresa de Avila, Domenikos Theotokopoulos, or El Greco as he came to be known, was a strikingly original and paradoxical figure in art as well as in life. In the last thirty years more than 500 documents from his Cretan, Venetian, Roman and Toledan periods coupled with some 20,000 words found in the margins of his copy of Vitruvius' *De Architectura* reveal him as a learned and deliberate painter. Putting into practice thoughtfully defined aesthetic and compositional principles, El Greco created a visual language unlike any other.

To the English critic, Roger Fry, El Greco was the archetypal genius who did as he thought best "with complete indifference to what effect the right expression might have on the public." His "indifference" is entirely our gain as this unique concentration of his work will undoubtedly deliver a once-in-a-lifetime experience for us all.

INSCAPE CULTURAL STUDY SOCIETY

FRIDAY 9 MAY

- 09:20 Flight leaves City Airport
- 12:45 Arrive Madrid Airport
- 14:00 Optional lunch at El Cervantes, near El Prado Museum
- 16:00 Visit to *El Greco's Library* exhibition, El Prado Museum
- 17:00 Transfer to Toledo
- 18:00 Arrive Toledo, check in Hotel
- 19:30 Group dinner in hotel

SATURDAY 10 MAY

- 09:30 Toledo historic district: Mezquita del Cristo de la Luz, Convento de Santo Domingo el Antiguo, Sinagoga de Santa Maria La Blanca (Ibn Shushan Sinagoga), and Museo El Greco
- 13:00 Lunch break
- 14:30 Cathedral de Toledo
- 15:30 Museo Santa Cruz
- 17:00 Return to Hotel or free time
- 19:30 Optional dinner, recommendations with maps available

SUNDAY 11 MAY

- 10:00 Sinagoga del Tránsito and Museo Sefardí with private guide TBC
- 11:30 Capilla de San José
- 13:00 Lunch break
- 15:30 Hospital de Tavera for El Greco's last painting, *La Sagrada Familia*
- 16:00 Return to Hotel or free time
- 19:30 Optional dinner, recommendations with maps available

MONDAY 12 MAY

- 09:00 Transfer to Santo Tomé
- 09:30 Private view of *The Burial of Count Orgaz* in Church of Santo Tomé
- 10:00 Transfer to Illescas
- 11:00 Arrive Illescas, Chapel in the Hospital de la Caridad
- 12:30 Private group lunch at El Bohio, 3 Michelin stars restaurant
- 13:45 Leave for Madrid Airport
- 14:45 Arrive Airport and check in
- 16:55 Flight to London
- 18:10 Arrive London City Airport

COST £1250 members, £1300 non-members, no SRS, deposit £200. Price includes London-Madrid-London flights, private transfers, three nights' accommodation, all breakfasts, one evening meal with wine, closing lunch with wine in a 3 Michelin stars restaurant, tuition, all private views, entry fees, donations gratuities and VAT.

HOTEL

Hacienda del Cardenal, Toledo, Spain (for description please see following page)



HOTEL: HACIENDA DEL CARDENAL

Paseo de Recaredo 24, 45004 Toledo, Spain

This charming small hotel, whose garden dining area is surrounded by an original 11c Arab wall, is next to the Gate of Alfonso VI. Parts of the gate date from the 10c; it is the only remaining Moorish gate in the medieval walls around Toledo. The Hotel stands a few metres from an escalator that leads to the city centre. It has one of the most renowned restaurants in Toledo, where traditional, regional cuisine draws from the freshest, locally-sourced ingredients.