THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

CATALOGUE OF PAINTINGS BY JOAQUÍN SOROLLA Y BASTIDA
UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HISPANIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA
FEBRUARY 14 TO MARCH 12, 1911
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JOAQUÍN SOROLLA
JOAQUÍN SOROLLA, the son of humble parents, was born at Valencia, Spain, on February 27, 1863. Two years later, the cholera epidemic which was raging in that city carried off both his father and his mother, and the orphan, together with his infant sister, was adopted by his aunt upon the mother’s side, Doña Isabel Bastida, and her husband, Don José Piquerés.

When Joaquín was of an age to go to school, he manifested little inclination for his studies proper, though he revealed a stealthy and incorrigible craze for scrawling embryonic drawings in his copy-books, until impressed by the precocious merit and persistence of this extra-pedagogic labor, one of his masters was intelligent enough to overlook his inattention to the tasks appointed him, and even made him surreptitious presents of material for the prosecution of his hobby.

In course of time, since young Sorolla made no visible progress at his lessons, his uncle, who was by trade a locksmith, removed the boy from school and placed him in his work-shop, while yet allowing him to attend some drawing-classes, held at a local school for artisans; and here his resolution and his talent swept off all the prizes; so that, on reaching his fifteenth year, he was permitted
to renounce the locksmith’s shop and finally devote himself to studying art.

He now became a student of the Academia de Bellas Artes of San Carlos, which is also at Valencia, and won, almost immediately, the triple prize for coloring, drawing from the model, and perspective. About this time, too, he received assistance from a philanthropic gentleman named Garcia (whose daughter, Doña Clotilde, he subsequently married), and so was able to remain for several years at the academy. During these years he visited Madrid on three occasions, and exhibited, first of all, three paintings which aroused no curiosity, and afterward his earliest important work, namely, a canvas of large dimensions entitled “The Second of May.” The second visit to the Spanish capital was longer than the other two, and young Sorolla utilized it to his best advantage by copying the masterpieces of Velázquez and Ribera in the Prado Gallery.

“The Second of May,” which represents the desperate resistance of the Madrileños to the French invading army, during the Spanish War of Independence, is by no means a flawless work, although the drawing is correct and spirited; nor is it even an unusually precocious effort for a painter who was more than twenty years of age. Yet it contained one striking innovation; for it was painted in the open air, Sorolla choosing for his natural and informal studio the arena of the spacious
bull-ring of Valencia, where he enwreathed his models with dense smoke in scrupulous reconstitution of authentic scenes of war.

This painting is now in the Biblioteca-Museo Balaguer, founded by the eminent Catalan poet, historian, and statesman, Victor Balaguer, at Villanueva y Geltrú, a town in Cataluña.

In the same year (1884), another of his paintings won for him the scholarship offered by his native town for studying art in Italy. Accordingly, he repaired to Rome and stayed there for some months, proceeding thence to Paris, and returning not long afterward to the Italian capital. However, at the exhibitions, held in Paris, of the works of Bastien-Lepage and Menzel, "Sorolla’s eyes were opened to the revolution which was being effected in the history of modern painting," and even after his return to Italy, this novel and regenerative movement in French art continued to engage his preference. Already, therefore, in the opening stage of his career, the youthful and spontaneous realist of Valencia—the com-patriot of Goya and the fellow-citizen of Spagnoletto—was captivated and encouraged by the parallel yet independent realism of a German and a French contemporary.

On his return to Rome, where false and academic methods still pretended to their old supremacy, Sorolla, led by duty rather than by desire, produced a large re-
ligious painting titled "The Burial of the Saviour," marked by his wonted excellence of color and of line, but not appreciably inspired by any sentiment of deep devotion. This work, upon its exhibition at Madrid in 1887, attracted some attention, but was not rewarded with a medal. Two other paintings, also shown about this time, disclose the true direction of Sorolla's sympathy. The one, titled "Un Boulevard de Paris," somewhat impressionistic in the manner of Pissaro, depicts a busy evening scene outside a large café. The other subject is a sketch of a Parisian girl, treated in the simple, realistic style of Bastien-Lepage, and therefore quite emancipated from the harsh eclecticism of the Roman school.

While visiting Italy for the second time, Sorolla made a long sojourn at Assisi, copying the old Italian masters, as well as doing original work subtly yet happily associated with the peasant-author of the "Saison d'Octobre." During the next three years he painted, among a number of other works, "A Procession at Burgos in the Sixteenth Century," "After the Bath" (a life-sized female figure standing nude against a background of white marble), and the well-known "Otra Margarita" ("Another Marguerite"). This latter, now at St. Louis, U. S. A., represents a girl belonging to the humblest class, who has been guilty of infanticide, and whom the Civil Guard convey as a prisoner to re-
ceive or to perform her sentence. The scene is a third-
class railway wagon, bare, uncushioned, comfortless—
such as is still not obsolete in Spain. The head of this
unhappy "Marguerite" is drooping on her breast and,
with her blanched, emaciated face and limp, dejected
form, denotes the utmost depth of human woe. Her
hands are bound, but a fold of her coarse shawl has
partly fallen or been drawn across them. A bundle
lies beside her on the seat, which contains her change of
clothing. Though it is painted with care, this work
has scarcely any scope for detail. Nothing relieves its
melancholy bareness save the spots upon the prisoner's
cheap print dress, and the pattern on the kerchief.

This pitiful and somber scene is treated with a poig-
nant realism, yet with an equally eloquent restraint.
Emotion here is not obtruded, as in the case of mediocre
genre: it is not ostentatious, but suggestive. Flawless
in technical fidelity, the figure of the girl discloses that
her moral weariness has overcome her physical. Her
attitude of collapse proceeds, not from a muscular fa-
tigue, as much as from an agony of remorse which has
its fountain in her very soul. One of her two custodians
marks her with a meditative and compassionate eye,
puzzled, it may be, at the vagaries of the law devised by
man, and speculating why its undivided wrath must here
be visited upon the frail accomplice.

Other important paintings executed by Sorolla at this
time are named "The Happy Day," "Kissing the Relic," and "Blessing the Fishing-Boat. The subjects of the latter two are indicated by their titles. A beautiful and touching moment is recorded in "The Happy Day." A little fisher-girl, who has received her first Communion on this "happy morn," kisses, on reaching home, the hand of her blind grand-father. The cottage-door is open, and the sunlight, streaming through, lav-ishes its pure caresses on the gossamer clouds of her communion-veil.

In this or the succeeding year, two of Sorolla's paintings were exhibited at the Salon. Their titles are "The White-Slave Traffic" and "The Fishing-Boat's Return." The former is at present in America; the latter (which had been classified "Hors Concours") was purchased for the Luxembourg.

The subjects of these two great paintings offer an extraordinary contrast. The figures in the first are weary women, huddled together, dozing and lethargic, in a narrow, low-toned, somber railway carriage. But in the other work, the busy characters that splash and plunge about the water's edge inspire a very surfeit of vitality; fishermen and cattle bringing in the boat are enlivened and illuminated by the glorious sunshine of Valencia.

Between that period and the present day, we are con-fronted, in Sorolla's art, with marvelous, well-nigh mir-a-culous fecundity and quality, interpreting all aspects
and developments of contemporary Spain—portraits of royal personages, nobles, commoners, the artist's wife and children, statesmen, novelists, poets, scientists, or soldiers; landscape and prospects of the naked sea; the bright and tender joys of infant life, the playful scenes of boyhood and of girlhood, sorrows and problems and anxieties of later age, the sordid schemes of evil-doers, the strenuous toilers of the deep, the simple cultivators of the soil, the village cares and pastimes of the peasantry.

Such paintings are (to quote the titles of a very few), "Sewing the Sail," shown at Madrid, the Salon, Munich (Gold Medal). Vienna (Gold Medal), and the Paris Exhibition, where the artist was awarded the Grand Prix for his "Triste Herencia." This is now the property of the Venice Corporation. "The Beach of Valencia," "A Scientific Experiment," "The Rain-dressers," "The Wounded Fisherman, "A Sad Inheritance," and "The Bath."

This latter represents the seaside at Valencia, "whose manifold charms this artist renders so felicitously. A woman with her back to us unfolds a sheet, in which she is about to wrap a baby whom another woman holds. The little one is naked, and his limbs are stiffened by the cold sensation of his bath. Behind them is the sea, furrowed by fishing-boats with swollen sails, illuminated by the golden glory of a Spanish summer's morning."
This jocund theme presents a striking contrast with "A Sad Inheritance." Here also is the fore-shore of Valencia, though it is specked and vivified no longer by those dancing sails and animated figures. An air of sudden and depressing gloom seems to have overcrept the water and the sunshine. Even so quick are nature's moods to echo back our own. For here are not the vigorous fisher-folk, able to work and strive, able to win their independent bread. Instead of such, we contemplate a score or so of imbecile or crippled boys, the inmates of a house of refuge for the cast-off children of depraved and unknown parents. The stern, robust figure of a priest, towering above this orphaned and pathetic gathering of frail humanity, extends a shielding arm over some two or three. Weighed down by helplessness and shame, these joyless creatures are not scurrying through the sand, or blithely splashing in the breakers. The gaiety of healthy boyhood is denied to them. Their drooping attitudes are inert, morose, and plaintive, while, as it were infected by the agony and pity of it all, the color of the sea is leaden, and the sun throws out no cheerful and invigorating radiance, but is merely sultry.

LEONARD WILLIAMS

16
Maria in mantilla
The wounded foot, Valencia
Excelentísimo Señor Don José Echevarry
Don Benito Pérez-Galdós
42 The three sisters at the beach, Valencia
90  Basin of the cypress of the Sultana, Generalife, Granada
Cathedral of Burgos
149  A walk upon the beach, Valencia
I  His Majesty Alfonso XIII, King of Spain

II  Her Majesty Victoria Eugenia Cristina, Queen of Spain

NOTE:—These portraits were commanded by the King and Queen of Spain and are to be presented by their Majesties to the Hispanic Society of America.
1 Señora de Sorolla y sus hijas  
Señora de Sorolla and her daughters

2 Pescadores vascos  
Basque fishermen

3 Después del baño, Valencia  
After the bath, Valencia

4 Hora del baño, Valencia  
Hour of the bath, Valencia

5 Pepilla y su hija. Gitanas  
Pepilla and her daughter. Gipsies

6 Joaquín
7 Las dos hermanas, Valencia
   The two sisters, Valencia

8 Antes del baño, Valencia
   Before the bath, Valencia

9 Una gitana
   A gipsy

10 Niños sobre la arena, Valencia
    Children upon the sand, Valencia

11 Señora de Sorolla

12 El gato y el perro
   The cat and the dog
19 Tirando de la barca, Valencia  
Hauling in the boat, Valencia

20 Luz plateada en la playa, Valencia  
Silvery light on the beach, Valencia

21 Sol matutino, Valencia  
Early morning sun, Valencia

22 Sol de la tarde, Valencia  
Afternoon sun, Valencia

23 Día gris, Valencia  
A grey day, Valencia

24 El balandrito, Valencia  
The toy boat, Valencia
25 Elena
   Helen

26 En la sidrería, Zarauz
   In the cider mill, Zarauz

27 La herida del pie, Valencia
   The wounded foot, Valencia

28 El baño en La Granja
   The bath at La Granja

29 Nadador, Jávea
   Swimmer, Jávea

30 Juan Angel, Zarauz
37 Excelentísimo Señor Don José Ramón Melida

38 Pescadoras Valencianas
Valencian fisherwomen

39 Cosiendo la vela, Valencia
Sewing the sail, Valencia

40 Regreso de la pesca, Valencia
Return from fishing, Valencia

41 Jardín del Alcázar, Sevilla
Garden of the Alcazar, Seville

42 Las tres hermanas en la playa, Valencia
The three sisters at the beach, Valencia
43 Patio del Rey Don Pedro, Alcázar, Sevilla
Court of the King Don Pedro, Alcazar, Seville

44 Subida al jardín alto, Alcázar, Sevilla
Stairway to the upper garden, Alcazar, Seville

45 Antiguo jardín del Alcázar, Sevilla
Old garden of the Alcazar, Seville

46 Patio de las danzas, Alcázar, Sevilla
Court of the dances, Alcazar, Seville

47 Palacio de Carlos V, Alcázar, Sevilla
Palace of Charles V, Alcazar, Seville

48 Castillo de Málaga
The castle of Malaga
49 Jardines del Alcázar, Sevilla
Gardens of the Alcazar, Seville

50 Higueras del Generalife, Granada
Fig trees of the Generalife, Granada

51 Rincón de la Victoria, Málaga
Corner, the Victory, Malaga

52 Patio de Doña Juana, Alhambra, Granada
Court of Doña Juana, Alhambra, Granada

53 La caleta, Malaga
The cove, Malaga

54 Patio de la Alhambra, Granada
Court of the Alhambra, Granada
55 Sierra Nevada en invierno, Granada
Sierra Nevada in winter, Granada

56 Sierra Nevada en otoño, Granada
Sierra Nevada in autumn, Granada

57 Torre de la Cautiva, Alhambra, Granada
The Cautiva tower, Alhambra, Granada

58 Torre de Siete-Picos, Alhambra, Granada
The Tower of the Seven-Peaks, Alhambra, Granada

59 Alhambra

60 Una puerta de la Catedral de Sevilla
A door of the Cathedral of Seville
61 Albaicín, Granada

62 Patio de los Arrayanes, Alhambra, Granada
   Court of the Myrtles, Alhambra, Granada

63 Puerta de San Vicente, Ávila
   Door of Saint Vincent, Ávila

64 Fuente de la Mezquita, Córdoba
   Fountain of the Mosque, Cordova

65 Fuente de Carlos V, Granada
   Fountain of Charles V, Granada

66 Catedral de Burgos
   Cathedral of Burgos
67 Pinares de La Granja
Pines of La Granja

68 Barcas Valencianas
Valencian boats

69 Generalife, Granada

70 Estanque grande, Alcázar, Sevilla
Large basin, Alcazar, Seville

71 Jardín del Alcázar, Sevilla
Garden of the Alcazar, Seville

72 Granada
73 Calle de Granada
Street of Granada

74 Generalife, Granada

75 Sierra Nevada desde el cementario, Granada
Sierra Nevada from the cemetery, Granada

76 Catedral de Avila
Cathedral of Avila

77 Patio de Doña Juana, Alhambra, Granada
Court of Doña Juana, Alhambra, Granada

78 Puente viejo de Avila
Old bridge of Avila
79 Jardín de los Adarves, Alhambra, Granada
Garden of the Adarves, Alhambra, Granada

80 Jardín de Lindaraja, Alhambra, Granada
Lindaraja garden, Alhambra, Granada

81 Capilla del Condestable, Catedral de Burgos
Chapel of the Constable, Cathedral of Burgos

82 El viejo nogal de la Alhambra
The old walnut tree of the Alhambra

83 Catedral de Burgos
Cathedral of Burgos

84 Puerta antigua del Claustro, Catedral de Burgos
Ancient door of the Cloister, Cathedral of Burgos
85  Doña Isabel de Portugal, Cartuja, Burgos

86  Arco y puerta de Santa María, Burgos
    Arched gate of Santa Maria, Burgos

87  El ciprés de la Sultana, Generalife, Granada
    The cypress of the Sultana, Generalife, Granada

88  Habitaciones de los Reyes Católicos, Alhambra, Granada
    Apartments of the Catholic kings, Alhambra, Granada

89  Casa de los gitanos, Sacro Monte, Granada
    The house of the gipsies, Sacro Monte, Granada

90  Estanque del ciprés de la Sultana, Generalife, Granada
    Basin of the cypress of the Sultana, Generalife, Granada
91 Generalife, Granada

92 Mirador de Lindaraja, Alhambra, Granada
Lockout of Lindaraja, Alhambra, Granada

93 Catedral de Burgos
Cathedral of Burgos

94 Patio de la Justicia, Alhambra, Granada
Court of Justice, Alhambra, Granada

95 Casa señorial, Avila
A mansion, Avila

96 Puerta de Valencia
Port of Valencia
103 Teresita sentada en la arena, Valencia
   Teresita seated on the sand, Valencia

104 Después del baño, Valencia
   After the bath, Valencia

105 Sol de la tarde, Valencia
   Afternoon sun, Valencia

106 Niña en la playa
   Girl on the beach

107 Playa de Zarauz
   Beach of Zarauz

108 Al agua, Valencia
   In the water, Valencia
109 Cordeleros, Valencia  
Rope-makers, Valencia

110 Excelentísimos Señores de Granzow

111 Maria

112 Fuente Arabe, Alcázar, Sevilla  
Arab fountain, Alcazar, Seville

113 El Grutesco, Alcázar, Sevilla

114 Azoteas, Alcázar, Sevilla  
Flat house-tops, Alcazar, Seville
97  Alberca, Alcázar, Sevilla
     Pool, Alcazar, Seville

98  Clotilde en el estudio
     Clotilde in the studio

99  Fuente de Felipe II, Alcázar, Sevilla
     Fountain of Philip II, Alcazar, Seville

100 Puente de Alcántara, Toledo
     Alcantara bridge, Toledo

101 Costas de Asturias
     Asturian coast

102 Antes del baño, Valencia
     Before the bath, Valencia
115 Catedral de León
   Cathedral of León

116 Puente de San Martin, Toledo
   Saint Martin’s Bridge, Toledo

117 Patio de las Danzas, Alcázar, Sevilla
   Court of the Dances, Alcázar, Seville

118 Día gris en la playa, Valencia
   A grey day at the beach, Valencia

119 Jardines de Carlos V, Alcázar, Sevilla
   Gardens of Charles V, Alcazar, Seville

120 Estanque de Carlos V, Alcázar, Sevilla
   Basin of Charles V, Alcazar, Seville
115  Catedral de León  
      Cathedral of León

116  Puente de San Martín, Toledo  
      Saint Martin's Bridge, Toledo

117  Patio de las Danzas, Alcázar, Sevilla  
      Court of the Dances, Alcázar, Seville

118  Día gris en la playa, Valencia  
      A grey day at the beach, Valencia

119  Jardines de Carlos V, Alcázar, Sevilla  
      Gardens of Charles V, Alcazar, Seville

120  Estanque de Carlos V, Alcázar, Sevilla  
      Basin of Charles V, Alcazar, Seville
121 Buscando mariscos en el playa, Valencia
Searching for mussels at the beach, Valencia

122 Bajo el toldo, Zarauz
Under the awning, Zarauz

123 Sobre la arena
Upon the sand

124 Playa de Zarauz
Beach of Zarauz

125 Excelentísimo Señor Don Enrique Repulles

126 Los dos amigos
The two friends
127 Puerto de Guetaria
   Port of Guetaria

128 Puerto de Zarauz
   Port of Zarauz

129 Playa de Zarauz
   Beach of Zarauz

130 El tio Pancha
   Uncle Pancha

131 Juan Angel

132 Playa de Zarauz
   Beach of Zarauz
133  Auto-retrato de Sorolla
      Auto-portrait of Sorolla

134  Miedo al agua, Valencia
      Afraid of the water, Valencia

135  Alhambra

136  Patio de Alberca, Alcázar, Sevilla
      Court of the Pool, Alcázar, Seville

137  El alga, Valencia
      Sea-weed, Valencia

138  Rosa
139  Playa de Valencia
    Beach of Valencia

140  Playa de Valencia
    Beach of Valencia

141  Señor Don José Gestoso y Perez

142  Después de puesto el sol, Valencia
    After sunset, Valencia

143  Dibujando en la arena, Valencia
    Drawing in the sand, Valencia

144  Vela á secar, Valencia
    Sail drying, Valencia
145 Playa de Valencia
Beach of Valencia

146 Playa de Valencia
Beach of Valencia

147 España pintoresca, Segovia
Picturesque Spain, Segovia

148 El caballo blanco, Valencia
The white horse, Valencia

149 Paseo por la playa, Valencia
A walk upon the beach, Valencia

150 Treinta pequeños apuntes
Thirty small sketches
151 Cordeleros
Rope-makers

152 Toros á enganchar la barca
Hitching the oxen to the boat

153 Sevilla desde Triana
Seville from Triana

154 Cristóbal Colón saliendo del puerto de Palos,
el día 3 de Agosto de 1492
Christopher Columbus departing from the port of
Palos August third, 1492

155 Excelentísimo Señor Don Cristóbal Colón
Aguilas de la Cerda, Duque de Veragua
The Duke of Veragua
156 Sala de Embajadores, Alhambra, Granada
Court of the Ambassadors, Alhambra, Granada

157 Casa donde vivió Cristóbal Colón en Córdoba
House where Christopher Columbus lived in Cordoba

158 Monasterio de la Rábida
Monastery of la Rabida

159 Pueblo de Palos
Town of Palos
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