

INTERNATIONAL PRIZE CARAVAGGIO

Great Master of Art

Madrid is a vibrant city, the political and cultural heart of Spain. It is the only Spanish city with a dramatic skyline, offering a grand view of the Plaza Mayor and the Goya monument to the city. The Plaza Mayor stands as a majestic symbol of the capital's history. The "Golden Triangle of Art" houses world-renowned museums, offering visitors a chance to witness the work of masters like El Greco, Velázquez, and Goya. The city's architecture is a mix of styles, from the Gothic and Renaissance to the modernist and contemporary. Madrid is a city of contrasts, offering a unique blend of history and modernity.



Curated by Francesco Savarino Russo and Salvatore Russo



Madrid Santa Palace (Palacio Santaola) May 5, 2026 EFETTO ARTE Foundation

Calle de las Huertas, echoing Ribera's original design on Calle del Príncipe, and a monumental marble staircase, conceived by Carlo Nicoli, was installed. The grand salons on the principal floor stand out for their sumptuous decorative schemes and murals created by contemporary artists such as Sains Cabot, Pila, Franco, and Domínguez. Executed in a Neo-Baroque style, these interiors harmoniously blend elements of the Italian Renaissance, French Rococo, and Oriental influences.

The palace later became the residence of José Canalejas. In 1933, it was acquired by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which commissioned a comprehensive restoration led by Chueca Götia. The façades were restored in 1953, followed by further expansions and renovations that enhanced and preserved the building's architectural heritage.



Being awarded in Madrid represents a great honor, as it is a city that embodies history, passion, and culture — an atmosphere of artistic traditions and contemporary vibrancy. Becoming recognized in such a prestigious setting means entering into dialogue with a long cultural heritage, one that values memory and innovation as a testament of extraordinary identity.

CELEBRATING TRUE TALENT: INTERNATIONAL CARAVAGGIO PRIZE — GREAT MASTER OF ART IN MADRID

The International Caravaggio Prize Great Master of Art is dedicated to those Artists who recognize in light — as well as in shadow — the deepest matrix of their expressive research.

Madrid preserves some of the most significant testimonies of Caravaggio's art. Among them stands the recent and extraordinary rediscovery of the Ecce Homo, officially attributed to Caravaggio in 2024. The principal venues in the Spanish capital where the Master's works can be admired are the Museo del Prado, the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, and the Royal Palace, now home to the Galería de las Colecciones Reales.

Below are the main works currently in Madrid: *Ecce Homo* (Prado Museum) - Officially attributed to Caravaggio in 2024, the painting had appeared at auction in 2021 as a work from his circle. Since 2024, it has been on display at the Prado thanks to its new owner. The work depicts the moment when Pontius Pilate presents Christ to the crowd, rendered with intense drama and emotional tension. *David with the Head of Goliath* (Prado Museum) - A masterpiece of strong psychological impact, portraying the young David holding the severed head of Goliath. The painting is emblematic of Caravaggio's powerful use of chiaroscuro and the profound introspective depth of the faces. *Saint Catherine of Alexandria* (Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum) - An early work of extraordinary refinement, depicting the saint with her traditional iconographic attributes. The composition stands out for its soft lighting, controlled sensuality of pose, and chromatic elegance. *Salome with the Head of Saint John the Baptist* (Galería de las Colecciones Reales - Royal Palace) - Displayed at the Royal Collections Gallery, the painting interprets with intense dramaticity the moment following the Baptist's beheading, emphasizing the contrast between the brutality of the scene and the formal composure of the figures.



CELEBRATING TRUE TALENT: THE INTERNATIONAL AWARD 'ARTIST IN THE HISTORY OF ART' IN FLORENCE

Santaola Palace (Palacio de Santaola)

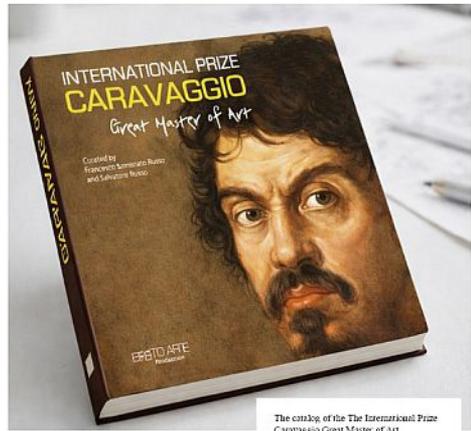
Built in 1730, this quintessential Madrid mansion is distinguished by its magnificent Baroque main entrance, carved in granite and designed by Pietro de Ribera. The palace is also renowned for housing one of the finest examples of eclectic interior design in Madrid. Today, it serves as one of the headquarters of the Madrid Chamber of Commerce. When the Dukes of Santaola acquired the palace in 1874, they transformed it according to the refined tastes of the period, a stylistic vision that has been carefully preserved. A new façade was added on



The magnificence of the Sala Terrena (Palacio de Santaola) set to host the award ceremony on May 5.



The trophy will feature the image of Caravaggio's masterpiece Ecce Homo and will be personalized. The base will be created in marble.



The catalog of the International Prize Caravaggio Great Master of Art will be realized on the basis of the finest typographic rules and highest quality.

A TRIBUTE THAT ADDS TO THOSE THAT CAME BEFORE.

Sketches and note notebooks created as a keepsake of the event.

52 pages of fine-quality paper, ideal for notes, sketches, reflections, and applications.

An exclusive gift reserved for Prize participants: each artist will receive two copies.



THE ARTISTIC PROJECT INVOLVES:

- Full-page publication in the official catalogue of the "International Prize CARAVAGGIO" (catalogue size: 21 x 24 cm).
- Presentation of the "International Prize CARAVAGGIO", including a personalized trophy bearing the recipient's name.
- One complimentary copy of the "International Prize CARAVAGGIO" catalogue.
- Video presentation of one selected artwork during the official award ceremony on May 5 at Palacio de Santaola (Santaola Palace), Madrid
- Two commemorative "Art Notebooks" created for the event.
- Digital invitation to the award ceremony.
- Welcome cocktail and professional photographic coverage, including a dedicated photoshoot during the award ceremony



The Effetto Arte Foundation's projects are conceived to give visibility to talented artists, fostering freedom of expression and the right to creativity. Through the collective contribution of participating artists, the Foundation makes it possible for everyone to take part in significant exhibition events, within a prestigious and collaborative setting.

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