SPAIN

THE EXTRAORDINARY ART & CULTURE OF

Bilbao & Valencia

MARCH 9–17, 2018

FEATURING JESSICA NICOLL

Director and Louise Ines Doyle ’34 Chief Curator
of the Smith College Museum of Art

Museo Guggenheim Bilbao / Peter Lorre
From stunning Bilbao to scenic Valencia with stops at smaller countryside locales off the beaten path, join Smith College Museum of Art Director and Chief Curator Jessica Nicoll ’83 on this custom-designed tour created exclusively for Smith College. Discover the dramatic architecture, high fashion, and impressive art and sculpture that complement the region’s natural landscape, historic sites, culinary flavors, and craft traditions. Marvel at two architectural gems that have transformed their respective cities—Bilbao’s Museo Guggenheim designed by Frank Gehry and Valencia’s City of Arts and Sciences designed by Santiago Calatrava and Félix Candela. Enjoy private wine tastings and exclusive access to newly restored Baroque frescoes at Valencia’s San Nicolás Church. And experience the region’s charm through a hands-on demonstration of ceramic production, a paella-making workshop, a river cruise to see the world’s oldest transporter bridge, a rowboat ride through Lake Albufera’s canals, and a visit inside a barraca—a traditional local farmer’s home.

At the Cristóbal Balenciaga Museum, discover the most extensive collection of the Spanish fashion designer whom Christian Dior called “the master of us all.”

Travel with Director Jessica Nicoll ’83

Jessica Nicoll ’83 is Director and Louise Ines Doyle ’34 Chief Curator of the Smith College Museum of Art, a position she has held since 2005. She is also the Director of Smith’s Museums Concentration, established in 2009, advising and instructing students in museum history, theory, and practice. From 1992–2005, Nicoll served as the William and Helen Thon Chief Curator and Curator of American Art at the Portland Museum of Art, Maine. A specialist in American art, she has written and lectured on a wide variety of topics ranging from early American portraits and landscape painting to the work of artists including Will Barnet, Winslow Homer, Robert Henri, and Marguerite and William Zorach. She graduated with a degree in Art History and American Studies from Smith College in 1983 and received a Masters degree from the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture at the University of Delaware in 1986.
Friday, March 9, 2018
Departures
Take independent overnight flights to Bilbao, Spain.

Saturday, March 10, 2018
Welcome to Bilbao
Upon arrival at the Bilbao Airport (BIO), transfer independently to downtown Bilbao’s modern and chic Hotel Miró for check-in, followed by a welcome reception with light hors d’oeuvres and drinks. Later this afternoon, discover Bilbao’s Old Town on a guided walking tour including the Teatro Arriaga, Cathedral of “Seno Santiago,” Plaza Nueva, Ribera Market, and Palacio John. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Hotel Miró, Bilbao (Rec.)

Sunday, March 11, 2018
Guggenheim & Getxo
After a lecture at the hotel led by Smith Museum of Art Director Jessica Nicoll ’83, set out to see the organic forms of Frank Gehry’s design for Bilbao’s Guggenheim Museum. Explore highlights of the museum’s contemporary and modern art collection on a private guided tour led by an art expert, with free time provided for an independent lunch. This afternoon, cruise along the waters of Bilbao’s estuary while learning about the city’s industrial and architectural history. Stop at El Abra to discover Puente Bizkaia, the world’s oldest transporter bridge, a steel structure recognized by UNESCO as a remarkable token of the Industrial Age. Explore the seaside town of Getxo on a walking tour of the quays of Las Arenas and Arriluze focusing on the grand 19th- and 20th-century villas, with a possible private visit to see the interior of one of these beautiful homes (pending availability). Return to Bilbao for time at leisure before gathering for a traditional Basque dinner at one of Bilbao’s top restaurants. Hotel Miró, Bilbao (B, D)

Monday, March 12, 2018
Rioja Valley’s Bold Wines & Architecture
Drive to the medieval town of Laguardia, the gateway to the vine-clad hills of the Rioja Valley known worldwide for their bold red wines. Following a local guide, see Laguardia’s 13th-century walls and the Church of Santa Maria de los Reyes. Just outside town at the Ysios Winery, sample fine wines while enjoying the breathtaking views of the Rioja Alavesa wine region and the undulating architectural forms designed by world-renowned architect Santiago Calatrava. In nearby Samaniego, visit the Baigorri Winery, which local architect Iñaki Aspiazu seamlessly designed into the landscape. After lunch at Baigorri’s restaurant, learn how Aspiazu created a 100% gravity-fed winery. On the way back to Bilbao, marvel at the architecture of the Marqués de Riscal Winery and its hotel designed by Frank Gehry. Hotel Miró, Bilbao (B, L)

Tuesday, March 13, 2018
Basque Icons in Fashion & Sculpture
This morning, travel through the scenic Basque countryside to the charming coastal town of Getaria. At the Cristóbal Balenciaga Museum designed by Cuban architect Julian Archilagos, learn about the influential and legendary fashion designer on a guided tour. After lunch in town, drive to the Chillida-Leku Museum to experience the monumental abstract artwork by Spanish Basque sculptor Eduardo Chillida in a private country garden setting. Next, visit the picture-postcard beach town of San Sebastián for a guided walking tour focusing on the traditions, royal heritage, and gastronomic culture of this beautiful city. Return to Bilbao for an evening at leisure. Hotel Miró, Bilbao (B, L)
Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Old Town Valencia

Depart early this morning for a domestic flight to Valencia, a cultural gem on Spain’s eastern coastline. Upon arrival, a local guide will introduce Valencia’s highlights on a bus tour including Town Hall, the street honoring the local painter and Spain’s most important Impressionist Joaquín Sorolla, the Bridge and Palace of the Exposition, Malvarrosa Beach, the Blasco Ibáñez House Museum, and Valencia al Mar Hospital. After lunch at a restaurant along the water, discover the vibrant history and architectural splendor of Valencia’s Old Town on a guided walking tour including entry into Valencia’s famous Cathedral, a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Lonja de Seda (the Silk Exchange), and stops along the way to see locales important to Sorolla’s life as a painter. After checking into the lovely four-star Hotel Vincci Palace and taking some free time to rest, set out for Valencia’s city park and Museum of Fine Arts for a guided tour with a special focus on galleries dedicated to Sorolla. Return to the hotel for an independent evening.

Hotel Vincci Palace, Valencia (B, L)

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Modern Valencia & Paella in El Palmar

Begin with a guided tour of the City of Arts and Sciences, a scientific and cultural leisure complex designed by renowned Valencian architects Santiago Calatrava and Félix Candela. Free time will be provided for you to stroll through the museum exhibits and have lunch at your leisure. Later this afternoon, visit Albufera Natural Park, an enchanting site to witness Spain’s wetlands and wildlife. In the nearby fishing village of El Palmar, ride on a rowboat through the lake’s canals and take a guided tour inside a barraca, or traditional local farmer’s home. Participate in a hands-on workshop at a local restaurant to learn how to cook the region’s quintessential dish—paella—with dinner and drinks included as part of the experience.

Hotel Vincci Palace, Valencia (B, D)

Friday, March 16, 2018

Valencian Frescoes & Ceramics Tradition

This morning, visit one of the most emblematic churches of Valencia, the 15th-century Gothic Church of San Nicolás, restored in 2016. With exclusive access to the first floor of the church, gain a unique and captivating view of the church’s impressive 17th-century Baroque frescoes. After an independent lunch, drive to the old Obradors neighborhood of Manises and visit the Ceramic Factory and Museum of José Gimeno to learn about traditional ceramic production techniques and its history as the largest ceramic production center in Spain since the 14th century. Continue on to a more avant-garde ceramic studio where artists are using new innovative methods to produce ceramic pieces. Meet the studio owner, craftsman, and ceramic researcher who have worked with top designers and Michelin-starred chefs designing the flatware for their restaurants. Sculpt and shape your own ceramic piece during a hands-on workshop followed by a light reception. Return to the hotel and gather later in the evening for a celebratory farewell dinner.

Hotel Vincci Palace, Valencia (B, Rec., D)

Saturday, March 17, 2018

Departures for the U.S.

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and take independent transfers to the Valencia Airport (VLC) for independent return flights home. (B)
TOUR COST
Land Only ........................................... $4,995
Single Supplement ................................. $795

Tour price is based on double occupancy with a minimum of 18 paying participants. Land prices are based on quotes of January 2017 and are subject to change.

DATES | March 9–17, 2018

ACTIVITY LEVEL | Moderate, good walking ability

DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENT | A deposit of $1,000 per participant is required to guarantee participation in the program. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa or MasterCard. Final payment will be invoiced and is due on January 3, 2018 by check only to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrants will be accepted beyond this date on a space-available basis with payment in full by check only.

FLIGHTS | Airfare into and out of Spain is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their air arrangements into Bilbao (BIO) and out of Valencia (VLC).

TERMS & CONDITIONS | International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services relating to this tour. ISDI, Smith College, and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, which may be caused by any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus, or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of the tour. ISDI and Smith College reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient numbers of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of additional costs or itinerary alterations before departure date.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS | All cancellations must be received in writing by ISDI, and are subject to a non-refundable administrative fee of $500 per person. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before January 3, 2018: full refund minus $500 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or between January 4 and February 27, 2018: 50% of tour cost per person. Cancellations received on or after February 28, 2018: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds can be issued for occasional missed meals or sightseeing tours, or for any unused portion of the tour. If due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors you are required to spend an additional night, you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meal costs. © 2017–2018 International Seminar Design, Inc., CST 2072963-40, WST 603578109

TRAVEL INSURANCE | Tour cancellation-interruption insurance is strongly recommended. Smith Travel will provide a confirmation letter and travel insurance application, which will be mailed upon receipt of your deposit. Smith Travel and ISDI strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Smith Travel will provide travel insurance information upon registration.

TOUR PRICE INCLUSIONS | Double occupancy accommodations as outlined in the itinerary; breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 3 dinners, 2 receptions (2 glasses of wine or beer at lunch and dinners); services of an ISDI Tour Manager; expert, local English-speaking guides; entrance fees for included visits; gratuities for guides and drivers; transportation by private, deluxe motor coach; 1 economy-class ticket from Bilbao to Valencia; porterage of two pieces of luggage per person at hotels; taxes, services, and porterage fees.

TOUR PRICE EXCLUSIONS | Airfare, airline taxes, and fuel surcharges; airport porterage; airport transfers (except to Bilbao Airport and from Valencia Airport on March 14); activities or meals during free time or marked optional on the itinerary; personal items; personal services such as laundry, wines, liquors, and mineral water; travel extensions and transportation not included on the itinerary; personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation; passport fees; visa fees; gratuities for hotel housekeeping; any item not specifically listed as included.
Gain exclusive access to the recently renovated Baroque frescoes at Valencia’s San Nicolás Church.

Enjoy an enchanting rowboat ride through the canals of Lake Albufera.

Step inside a barraca, the traditional home of a local farmer.

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risks therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI), Smith College, and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licensees, or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of and/or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, this tour.

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN
Registration invalid without signature

Signature Date
Signature Date

COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:
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