



Day 3- Madrid

On Thursday, we went to Madrid. In the middle of the afternoon, the bus dropped us in the center of the city. We went to visit the Prado museum but we had only one hour for the visit. The group broke up but for the lucky ones, we were able to admire some famous paintings like the eccentric "Garden of Earthly Delights" by Jerome Bosch, the really historical "Tres de Mayo" by Francisco de Goya, or the famous "Las Meninas" (The Maids of Honour) by Diego Vélasquez. We could also see some paintings that are not as famous such as some unknown paintings of Picasso or "La Maja Desnuda" (Nude Maja) by Francisco de Goya. Unfortunately, we did not have enough time to see all of the museum but we managed to see beautiful paintings.

Romane and Lila



Crossing the River Styx, Joachim Patinir

I really enjoyed this painting by Patinir because it explains a part of Greek mythology in one picture. Before going to Prado Museum, I didn't know this artist but I found this painting really great. On the left part (Heaven) there was a world with beautiful colors and light but on the right we can catch a glimpse of hell with grey colors and fire. In the middle we can see the men of a boat who seem to be hesitating between Hell and Heaven because the two shades of colors try to melt in the Styx River .

Mathieu B.



The Colossus, Francisco de Goya

It was painted by an anonymous painter from 1808 to 1812. It's an oil on canvas. This work was attributed to Goya for a long time.

In the foreground, we can see a crowd who is running away from a giant man in the background. When I see this picture It feels like humans against nature. In fact, we are powerless in front of nature or a cataclysm in the universe. I think that the painter wanted to personify the forces of Nature with a Colossus.

Nathan F.



Tres de Mayo, Francisco de Goya

This museum was very interesting, I think. I felt moved by the painting Tres de Mayo by Francisco de Goya. I already knew this painting and so I was very impressed to see it in real life. It is about the war at the time of Napoleon, and we can see people, members of the Spanish Resistance, during their execution.

I also liked the works of J. Patinir, Raimundo de Madrazo and Vincente Palmaroli.

Romane M.



The Garden of Earthly Delights, Jerome Bosch

At the Prado museum in Madrid, the painting that I've most loved is « Le Jardin des Délices » by Jérôme Bosch, painted in 1503-1504.

I was very much impressed because, on the one hand, this triptych is very well preserved after six centuries, and, on the other hand, it's very enigmatic and complex.

Although it is a biblical scene, with Adam, Eve and God on the left panel, the garden of delights in the middle and Hell on the right panel, it is represented differently from other works.

It's more colorful, with pink, green, blue, orange, red... And I can feel the happiness of the painting, despite the presence of Hell. It's a mix of life, with animal, vegetal and mineral elements.

To me, this painting tells a story which leaves room to imagination, and transports us into dream and nightmare, beauty and horror with a strong contrast between Heaven and Hell.

Finally, I enjoy the peaceful and happy atmosphere of this painting (except the part with Hell).

Solène D-G

Other works worth mentioning because they appealed to our students are :

- *The Christ de San Placido* by Velasquez (1829)
- *The equestrian portrait of King Charles V* by Titian (1548)
- *The Miraculous Lactation of St Bernard* by Alonso Cano (c. 1650)
- *El Descendimiento* by Roger van der Weyden (1435)