

focus ABENGOA

UIMP Universidad Internacional
Menéndez Pelayo

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation and Menéndez Pelayo International University open the 8th edition of the Baroque School, entitled “The moral landscape of the Baroque”

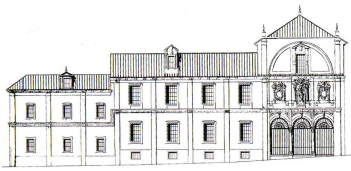
- From today until Wednesday the Focus-Abengoa Foundation is hosting a new edition of the Baroque School, which aims to “learn to look and observe” through the multidisciplinary study of the cultural and artistic movement from the 17th to 19th centuries.
- Amelia Valcárcel, Professor of Moral and Political Philosophy at the National University of Distance Learning (UNED), is directing this edition in collaboration with Bethany Aram, a lecturer in modern history at the Universidad Pablo de Olavide.

Seville, 28 November 2010. The Focus-Abengoa Foundation, in collaboration with Menéndez Pelayo International University (UIMP), today opened the eighth edition of the Baroque School, entitled “The moral landscape of the Baroque”, which will run until Wednesday 30 November. The School will bring together important historians, philosophers, theologians, philologists and specialists in art and music, at the Hospital de los Venerables in Seville.

Anabel Morillo León, Director General of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, opened this new edition of the school accompanied by Antonio Miguel Bernal Rodríguez, Chairman of the Academic Board of the UIMP-Seville and professor of the School of History and Economic Institutions of the University of Seville; Patrocinio Rodríguez, Director of the UIMP-Seville; and Amelia Valcárcel, the prestigious philosopher and professor of moral and political philosophy at the National University of Distance Learning (UNED) and director of this new edition.

The purpose of this course is to study the numerous backgrounds to Baroque culture. Students will therefore take an in-depth look, from a multi-disciplinary approach, at each artistic genre during this specific period in history, covering music, literature, science, fine arts, and religious and philosophical ideas. Participants will study the moral landscape of the Baroque as a way of understanding the invisible legacy that this movement has left on today’s culture.

As well as the students registered for the course (more than 45 from various universities), this year the School has once again opened its doors to anyone interested in the subject. Entry to all of the scheduled conferences will therefore be free, while places remain. The School has also awarded 20 scholarships to registered students as well as reserving a number of places for people over 60 years of age.



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Tuesday 29 will begin with an address by the theologian and philosopher Manuel Fraijó, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy at the National University of Distance learning, who will speak on “The Protestant Reformation. An attempt at rapprochement”. He will be followed by Teófanés Egido, lecturer at the University of Valladolid, who will elaborate on the theme of “The Baroque mentality. Anti-reformist mentality?” This will be followed by a visit to the Santa Clara convent, guided by Benito Navarrete, Director of Cultural Infrastructures and Heritage at Seville City Council.

There will be a further three activities on the Tuesday. At 5.00 pm José Luis Sánchez Lora, senior lecturer at the University of Huelva, will give a conference entitled, “The convents; where everything smells holy and seethes with devotion”. This will be followed by a round table session in which the topic will be “Religiousness and Baroque”, before ending the day with a conference given by Gabriele Finaldi, Assistant Director of Conservation and Research at the Prado Museum, entitled, “Style or ideology”.

The Baroque School is the product of a collaboration agreement between the Focus-Abengoa Foundation and Menéndez Pelayo International University, which has resulted in the organisation of two schools with a three-year schedule, given by international lecturers and researchers. Their programs and activities take place during the autumn and the spring in the Hospital de los Venerables, turning the headquarters of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation into a forum for learning and reflection.

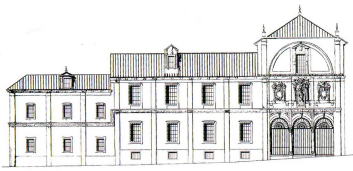
The two schools, which form part of the academic program of the UIMP in Seville, combine educational, scientific and cultural issues in an interrelated way, and reflect the aim of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation to contribute to satisfying general interest needs based on a multi-disciplinary perspective.

Supplementary information

Wednesday 30 November

The third and final day of the Baroque School will start with the address, “The literary Baroque: Weddings of Art and Ingenuity”, given by Aurora Egido, philologist from the University of Zaragoza. The morning session will also include a talk by Antonio-Miguel Bernal, professor of history at the University of Seville, entitled, “Poverty of the economy and the economics of poverty in the Spanish Baroque”. It will be followed by a round table session about “Baroque crisis and creativity”.

During the afternoon, the sociologist, philosopher and writer, José María González García, a research lecturer for the Spanish Higher Council for Scientific Research (CSIC), will speak on the “Figures and landscapes of Baroque politics”. He will be followed by the musicographer José Luis Téllez, who will give a talk on, “*Ex pluribus unum* (From the vocal polyphony to the accompanied monody)”.



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The eighth edition of the Baroque School will be brought to an end by José Enrique Ayarra, resident organist of Seville Cathedral and the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, who will give an organ concert to all those attending the School, in the church of the Hospital de los Venerables (the same location as the conferences).

Menéndez Pelayo University

The UIMP has an interdisciplinary academic and cultural program, which combines tradition and innovation with quality and prestige. It is currently the only presence-based university associated with the Ministry of Education, although it does not have its own academic staff. It operates by continually inviting the academic, intellectual, scientific and artistic elite in Spain and internationally, to lecture in its auditoriums.

Focus-Abengoa Foundation

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation was created in 1982 as a result of the cultural work begun in 1972 by Abengoa with the publication of the works *Temas Sevillanos* (Themes of Seville) and *Iconografía de Sevilla* (Iconography of Seville). A collection of documents, books and engravings on the Kingdom of Seville and by Sevillian authors was created during the same period. This initial cultural work showed Abengoa's directors the importance of the company's involvement in activities that directly benefit society, beyond its core technology work, which led to the creation of the Seville Cultural Fund Foundation. The Hospital de los Venerables, a 17th century monument and the headquarters of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation in Seville, has housed the Diego Velázquez Research Centre, a leading institution for studying and disseminating the Baroque era and the Sevillian period of this universally renowned artist, following the acquisition of Velázquez's Santa Rufina by the Foundation in 2007.

Communications Department contact

Patricia Malo de Molina Meléndez
Loreto González Goizueta
E-mail: communication@abengoa.com
Tel: +34 954 93 71 11