

**focus ABENGOA**

## **“Nur: Light in Art and Science from the Islamic World” exhibition at the Hospital de los Venerables celebrates its first month since it opened to the public**

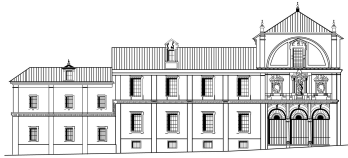
- The exhibition, which has been organised by the Focus-Abengoa Foundation in collaboration with the Dallas Museum of Art, brings together 150 unique objects in order to explore the importance of light in the Islamic aesthetic and consciousness between the 9th and 20th centuries.

5 December 2013. The “Nur: Light in Art and Science from the Islamic World” exhibition, organised by the Focus-Abengoa Foundation in collaboration with the Dallas Museum of Art, is celebrating its first month since it opened in October. The exhibition, which can be visited at the Hospital de los Venerables in Seville and includes secular objects from all over the Islamic world spanning more than ten centuries, will be on show to the public until 9 February 2014. It will subsequently travel to the Dallas Museum of Art, where it can be visited from 30 March to 29 June 2014.

The exhibition, directed and curated by Dr. Sabiha Al Khemir, an expert in Islamic art and culture, includes a significant number of unprecedented pieces, from objects fashioned from metal with silver and gold inlay through to anatomical illustrations that have never been on public display, which explains the huge amount of interest the exhibition has attracted in its first few weeks.

Featuring 150 objects from public and private collections in Europe, the Middle East and the United States, “Nur: Light in Art and Science from the Islamic World” explores the use and meaning of light in Islamic art and science and demonstrates how it is a unifying motif in Islamic civilizations worldwide.

Visitors can see works dating from the 9th through to the early 20th century originating from a wide geographical area, from Spain to Central Asia. The exhibition contains manuscripts illuminated with golden pigments and colours, lustre ceramics, objects fashioned from metal with silver and gold inlays, as well as pieces made from precious and semi-precious stones. Scientific objects featured in the exhibition include equatorial sundials, astrolabes and anatomical instruments, all illustrating the influence of the Islamic world on the Renaissance and scientific reasoning.



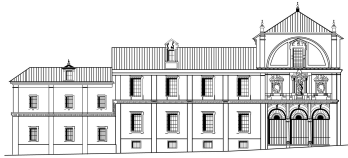
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Nur demonstrates how Spain bridges the Islamic world and Europe and is a gateway for Islamic discoveries in fields such as medicine, geometry and astronomy, as well as other inventions such as the lustre technique. “The *Nur* exhibition is a milestone in Spain’s cultural history, the ancient Al-Andalus”, explains Anabel Morillo, director general of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation.

The exhibition includes secular artworks and objects from institutional and private collections, many of which come from collections in Spain, which will travel to the United States for the first time thanks to the collaboration of the Dallas Museum of Art. These objects of outstanding beauty include:

- Astrolabe plate with universal projection. Attributable to Rahīm Bajš. Lahore (Pakistan), 19th century. Brass, 100 x 93 cm. Geneva, private collection.
- Three footed censer. Probably Syria, 1250-1300. Die-cast brass, silver inlay, 19.3 cm high. Vaduz, Fursiyya Art Foundation [R-2021]
- Dual-spout oil lamp. Spain, 10th-11th centuries, Omeya. Copper alloy, 15.2 cm high. Arabic inscriptions on the spouts: “O perfect Blessing and Happiness for its owner” and “O perfect Blessing and All Grace [of God] and Health and All Grace [of God] for its owner”; and between the spouts it repeats: “And Glory”. Vaduz, Fursiyya Art Foundation [R-2048]
- Bottle decorated with Christian scenes. Syria, mid-13th century, Ayyubid. Blown glass, glazed, gilt and engraved, 28 cm high, 18 cm diameter. Vaduz, Fursiyya Art Foundation [R-3012]
- Amulet. Persia, 15th century. Nephrite jade, 8 cm high. Vaduz, Fursiyya Art Foundation [R-4032]
- Bound Quran. Calligraphy: Jwaja Saifuddin Asha’i Persia, 19th century. Paper, ink, gilding and leather, 38 cm high. Vaduz, Fursiyya Art Foundation [R-8033]
- Candlestick. Manises (Valencia, Spain) 1651-1725. Moulded gilded pottery, 25.2 x 23.5 x 12 cm. Madrid, Museo Nacional de Artes Decorativas. [CE 19289]
- Quran manuscript. Kashmir, 19th century. Paper, gold, pigments and gold, 28 x 15 cm. Phoenix, The James and Ana Melikian Collection.
- Vase. Syria or Egypt, 14th century. Glazed glass, 30.6 x 17.6 x 16 cm. Kuwait, Dar al Athar al- Islamiyyah, al-Sabah Collection [LNS 6 G]
- Celestial globe. Persia, dated from AH834/ 1430-1431 AD, Timurid. Signed by Muhammad ibn Ya’far ibn ‘Uma al-Asturlābī, known as Hilāl. Engraved brass with silver inlays, diameter 10.5 cm. London, The British Museum [1896,0323.1]

“The concept of Nur is evident from the moment you enter the exhibition, in these pieces that have been decorated with rays, which convey the concept of light” explains Dr. Sabiha Al Khemir.



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Abengoa, a global leader in developing renewable energies, and the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, have developed their first itinerant exhibition around the subject of light in order to raise awareness about its importance in science, art and culture.

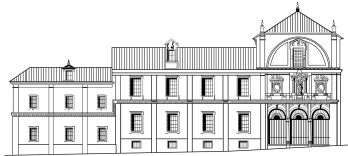
As a result of the Foundation's commitment to disseminating scientific and cultural knowledge and research, a diverse program of activities has been designed to help school children and the general public discover the hidden aspects of Nur in a friendly and educational way. The Foundation is offering the opportunity to experience the exhibition in an educational, entertaining and fun way through guided visits, participating in the educational workshop or using the exhibition's interactive resources.

### **The 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 the firm's 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, since the acquisition of Velázquez's Santa Rufina by the Foundation in 2007.

### **The Dallas Museum of Art**

Established in 1903, the Dallas Museum of Art (DMA) ranks among the leading art institutions in the country and is distinguished by its innovative exhibitions and groundbreaking educational programs. At the heart of the Museum and its programs is its global collection, which encompasses more than 22,000 works and spans 5,000 years of history, representing a full range of world cultures. Located in the vibrant arts district of downtown Dallas, the Museum welcomes more than half a million visitors annually and acts as a catalyst for community creativity, engaging people of all ages and backgrounds with a diverse spectrum of programming, from exhibitions and lectures to concerts, literary events, and dramatic and dance presentations. The Dallas Museum of Art is supported, in part, by



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the generosity of DMA Partners and donors, the citizens of Dallas through the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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### **Location of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation**

Hospital de los Venerables

Plaza de los Venerables, 8

41004 Seville, Spain

### **Opening hours**

Nur can be visited until 9 February 2014

Open from Monday to Sunday, from 10 am to 2 pm and from 4pm to 8pm

\* (The Foundation will be closed on 25 December and 1 January)

### **Prices**

General entry: €5.50

Concessions: €2.75

**Free:** Sundays from 4pm to 8pm

Accompanied children under 12.

Abengoa employees