exhibitions.
2018
In collaboration with the Museo Sorolla, the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza is organising an exhibition on the influence of fashion in the work of Joaquín Sorolla that will run simultaneously at both museums.

Curated by Eloy Martínez de la Pera, it will include around 70 paintings loaned from museums and private collections in Spain and abroad, some never previously seen in public, together with a selection of clothing and accessories of the period. Extremely interested in fashion, Sorolla was the perfect chronicler of the changes that took place in trends and styles in clothing in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His works offer an evocative catalogue of dresses, jewels and accessories, all emphasised by his loose, dynamic brushstroke.

The exhibition places particular emphasis on the magnificent female portraits that the artist executed between 1890 and 1920.

Location: Temporary exhibition halls, level 0.
Purple by John Akomfrah
19/02/18—25/03/18

TBA21-Academy will present for the first time at the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza a new co-commission from Francesca von Habsburg’s contemporary art collection by award-winning British artist and filmmaker John Akomfrah entitled PURPLE. It explores climate change, rising sea levels and extreme weather events in his most ambitious project to date. Presented in honor of the museum’s 25th anniversary, Purple marks the premier of a formal collaboration with Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary (TBA21) and the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza. The exhibition is curated by TBA21-Academy.

Set to a hypnotic soundscape, the immersive six-channel video installation intersperses archival footage with newly shot film, drawn largely from Akomfrah’s travels on TBA21-Academy’s expeditions in the French Polynesia in 2016. The Academy is the exploratory soul of the TBA21 Foundation.

The project opens concurrently with ARCO Madrid.

Location: Temporary exhibition halls, level -1

08/06/18—09/09/18

In June 2018 the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza will be presenting a monographic exhibition devoted to Victor Vasarely (Pécs, 1906 – Paris, 1997), one of the principal exponents of Op Art.

Comprising works from the Museum of Fine Arts-Victory Vasarely Museum in Budapest and from the Victor Vasarely Museum in Pécs, the exhibition will aim to offer an overall vision of the life and work of this Hungarian painter whose best output was created in France.

The exhibition includes works from all the principal phases of Vasarely’s career in order to present a chronological survey of his artistic evolution. Visitors will thus be able to appreciate the key role played by the artist in the development of geometrical post-war abstraction and to learn about the experiments based on his artistic principles and theoretical reflections which he undertook with the aim of bringing art and society closer together.

Curator: Maron Orosz

Location: Temporary exhibition halls, level -1.
The monographic exhibition Monet/Boudin offers visitors the first opportunity to discover the relations between the great Impressionist painter Claude Monet (Paris, 1840 – Giverny, 1926) and his master Eugène Boudin (Honfleur, 1824 – Deauville, 1898), a leading representative of French plein air painting of the mid-19th century. This joint presentation of their work will cast light on Monet’s formative years while also offering a joint vision of the two artists’ careers and the origins of the Impressionist movement.

Curated by Thyssen curator Ángel López Manzanares, the exhibition brings together around 100 works by the two artists which reveal how Boudin’s early teaching was transformed by the end of his career into a profound admiration for his pupil’s artistic audacity, which he adopted himself on occasions. Among the two painters’ shared artistic interests, the exhibition emphasises themes of modern life, depicted in summer beach scenes at Trouville; changing effects of light, which is the subject of most of their pastels and oil paintings; and the semi-wild nature of the cliffs along the Brittany and Normandy coastlines.

Location: Temporary exhibition halls, level 0.
Max Beckmann. Figures in Exile

23/10/18—27/01/19

In the autumn of 2018 the museum devotes a monographic exhibition to Max Beckmann (Leipzig, 1884 – New York, 1950), one of Germany’s leading 20th-century artists. Initially close to Expressionism and New Objectivity, Beckmann developed a unique and independent pictorial style of a realistic type but one filled with symbolic resonances, offering a powerful account of society of his day.

Curated by Tomàs Llorens, the exhibition brings together more than 50 works, including paintings, lithographs and sculptures, organised thematically into two principal sections. The first, smaller section covers Beckmann’s years in Germany from the period prior to World War I, when he first achieved public recognition, to the rise of National Socialism in the 1930s when he was expelled from the Frankfurt art school where he taught and was banned from exhibiting in public. The second, larger part, focuses on the artist’s years in Amsterdam and the United States where he lived after he was obliged to leave Germany. This part is based on four metaphors relating to exile, understood both literally and as the existential condition of modern man: Masks, which looks at the loss of identity associated with the condition of exile; Electric Babylon, which focuses on the modern city as the capital of exile; The long goodbye, which constructs a parallel between exile and death; and The Sea, a metaphor of the infinite, its powers of seduction and alienation.

Location: Temporary exhibition halls, level 0.