Madrid’s Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando was the venue for the International Museography Conference organized by the League of Nations in 1934. Taking its cue from the 1934 Conference, this International Museography Congress aims to offer a debating forum for museology and museum-architecture professionals and present their views on museum trends and future prospects.

The 1934 Conference, considered to be the first ever international meeting of museography professionals, was a watershed moment in museum debate in the first half of the twentieth century. Today’s take on museum trends will help to revive this international reflection and bring out today’s achievements while also highlighting museum-management problems that we are still contending with.

The International Museography Congress aims to render a homage to the professionals that met up on that previous occasion and also offer a framework for reflection and analysis on museum and museum-architecture issues from that earlier date right up to our day. The Congress has been broken down into three theme-based days to analyse, firstly, the historical and cultural context of the encounter brokered by the League of Nations, secondly, the evolution of museography and museum architecture from the early twentieth century and, thirdly, a rereading of the minutes of the International Museography Conference of 1934 from today’s analytical viewpoint. A closing session will also deal with the museum outlook vis-à-vis the new challenges posed by the twenty-first century.

The Congress is geared towards museum professionals, architects, curators, researchers and postgrad students and, in general, other stakeholders in the fields of museography and museum architecture.
1934: Historical and cultural context

9.00 Reception and recording of accreditation.
10.00 Presentation of the Congress. Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport / Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando / ICOM Spain.
10.30 The Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando as venue for the Museum Conference of Madrid: José María Luzón, Academician in charge of the Museum of Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando.
11.00 Coffee break.
11.30 Museology at the beginning of the twentieth century: the concept of museum and the organisation of the institution. A reference to the context of the International Museum Conference of 1934. François Mairese, Sorbonne University.
13.00 Panel discussion. Major figures in the 1934 Conference Taclob Dibbits, Director of Amsterdam’s Rijksmuseum (remembering Schmidte-Degen) / Bill Sherman, Director of Research and Collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum (remembering Sir E. Maclagan) / Miguel Zugaza, Director of the Museo Nacional del Prado (remembering Sánchez Cantón) / Luis Grau, Director of León Museum, President of ICOM-CE (remembering Fournidküdís) / Sofía Rodríguez Bernis, Director of the Museo Nacional de Artes Decorativas (remembering José Ferrandis) / Andrés Carretero, Director of the Museo Arqueológico Nacional (National Archaeological Museum) (remembering Francisco Álvarez Osorio) / María Bolanos, Director of the Museo Nacional de Escultura (National Sculpture Museum) (remembering Ricardo de Orueta). Moderator: Miguel Ángel Recio, Director General of Fine Arts and Cultural Assets and of Archives and Libraries. Questions from the floor and open debate with panel speakers.

Tuesday 22 November 2016

Evolution of twentieth-century museography and museum architecture

9.00 Benchmark museography of the first half of the twentieth century. Dominique Poulot, Sorbonne University, Université de Montréal, Quebec.
10.00 Architectural museum projects under the 2nd Spanish Republic. María Ángeles Layuno, Architecture School, Universidad de Alcalá.
10.30 Museum architecture from the last third of the twentieth century to date. Manuel Blanco Lage, architect, ETSAM-Universidad Politécnica de Madrid.
11.00 Coffee break.
11.30 Museum communiqués c. 1930. Presentation and moderation: Javier Armando, Universidad Complutense de Madrid [in collaboration with the Grupo de Investigación SU+MA (Universidad+Museo), UCM].
13.30 Panel discussion. Museums and the media. From the newspaper archive to today, Santos M. Mateos, Universidad de Vic / Teresa Sesé, La Vanguardia /iker Seliedoses, El País / Federico Ayala, ABC. Moderator: Jesús García Calero, ABC.
16.30 Panel discussion. Evolution of museum architecture and museography: the C20th to C21st panorama. Juan Navarro Baldeweg, architect, Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando / Luis Fernández-Galiano, architect, Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando / Emilio Tuñón, architect / Antonio Cruz, architect, Cruz y Ortiz / Fuentasanta Nieto, architect, Nieto y Sobrino / Jesús Moreno, architect, Moreno & Asociados. Moderator: Fernando de Terán, Director of the Real Academia de Bellas Artes. Questions from the floor and open debate with panel speakers.

Wednesday 23 November 2016

Rereading of the minutes of the International Museography Conference of 1934: analysis of historical inputs and current perspective

9.00 The museum architecture programme. Main principles. Jean Hilgersom, President of ICOM Spain.
10.00 Fitting out of museums. Exhibition rooms and premises open to the public. Services and equipment. Carlos Baztán, architect.
10.30 Natural and artificial lighting. Fitting out and ventilation of museums. Juan Antonio Herráez, Instituto del Patrimonio Cultural de España.
11.00 Adaptation of ancient monuments and other buildings of museum use. Víctor Cagexo, Museo Nacional del Prado.
11.30 Coffee break.
13.30 Bringing out the value of works of art. Main principles. Massimo Osanna, Naples University, Director of Soprintendenza Pompeii.
16.00 Particular problems posed by popular-art and ethnographic collections. Sylvia Wackernagel, Silesian Museum of Görlitz, Secretary of ICOM’s International Committee for Museum Ethnography (ICME).
16.30 Particular problems posed by medal and coin collections. Rafael Feria, Director of the Museo Casa de la Moneda de Madrid.
17.00 Particular problems posed by graphic art collections. Isabel Ortega, Biblioteca Nacional de España (National Library of Spain).
17.30 Closing session. Assessment of the knock-on effects of the International Museum Conference on museum planning and museum architecture. Jean Hilgersom, President of ICMAT, ICOM.
18.00 Conclusions and debate. José María Luzón, Academician in charge of the Museum of Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando / Miguel González Suela, Subdirector General of State Museums / Luis Grau, President of ICOM Spain.
19.00 Visit to the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando.
20.00 Leave-taking.