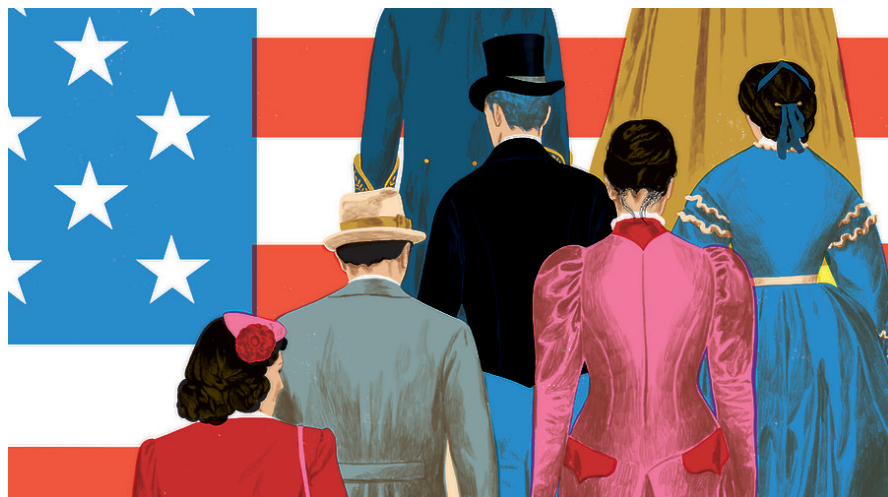




Illustrating Spain in the US: the exhibition in San Diego



The comic strips from “Illustrating Spain in the US” come back in their exhibit form to San Diego.

Illustrating Spain in the US is a project that highlights the presence and legacy of Spain in the U.S. territory, from its help during the independence war to the heritage still existent. The project started as a series of comics created by Spanish artists in collaboration with history experts, now reshaping into a physical exhibition available at Sparks Gallery, San Diego.

Comic artists and scholars help bring the United States closer to us to reflect on the legacy of Spain’s heritage over the centuries. Spain has been an essential seedbed in the substratum of American history and culture. This project aims at taking a better look at seven potential sides of the inspiring Spanish presence resulting in comic books of very diverse inspiration.

The versatility of the comic allows many of the nuances of this living diaspora of Spanish men and women who were and still are twinned with the American experience to be represented. Michael Francis, Eduardo Garrigues, James Fernández, Luis Argeo, Lucía Cotarelo Esteban, Juan Pimentel, Estrella de Diego and Dolores Jiménez Blanco act as the interlocutors advising and guiding comic book creators and giving them clues to help them compose their illustrated cartoon plots.

Illustrating Spain in the US is a creative dialogue that combines the graphic expressiveness of comics and their authors, with the inquisitive perspective of scholars who have written a series of

VISUAL ARTS
SAN DIEGO

Fri, July 28–
Sun, August 06, 2023

Venue

Sparks Gallery, 530 Sixth Ave, San Diego, CA 92101

[View map](#)

Admission

Free. [Check schedules](#). Opening reception on Friday, July 28, from 7pm to 9 pm.

More information

[Sparks Gallery](#)

Credits

Presented by the Cultural Office of Spain in Washington, D.C. in collaboration with the Instituto Cervantes in LA. Illustration by Sonia Pulido.



complementary articles. Comic authors have built comic strips that feed on academic knowledge and demonstrate that Spain has been part of the American reality since long before the very foundation of the American country. This Spanish energy continues to be present in the imagination, talent and creativity that emanates from everything Spanish and so fascinates Americans. This energy is also found in the scientific thinking of the Spaniards who made the United States their second home while they made —and still continue to make— surprising advances.

—Ana Merino, curator of *Illustrating Spain in the US*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sergio García achieves this with the lines of his expansive drawings, while looking at San Agustín, Las Misiones and the Camino Real, creating a map colored by Lola Moral.

Rayco Pulido has imagined drawing Bernardo de Gálvez and has brought him back to everyone's memory, focusing on the key role he played in the American War of Independence.

Ana Penyas and **Seisdedos** share their passion and the plasticity of their lines shapes those unknown faces of the Spanish immigration that grew up as Spaniards with the nostalgia of an ocean that separated them from their origins.

Anapurna reminds us of the strength of Hispanism with a comic book that evokes the poetics of the diaspora.

Mireia Pérez immerses herself in the imagination of the brains of Spanish scientists who made great achievements on American soil and celebrates them.

Carla Berrocal applauds the passionate soul of Spaniards in Hollywood.

Max leads us through the surprising labyrinth of Spanish art in the United States, guided by a magpie and three cats that escaped from a Goya painting.

In addition, **Sonia Pulido** will be in charge of opening the door to these perspectives with a front cover that contains all the experiences lived through the years and the future essence of the entrepreneurial illusion of the Spanish diaspora.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Ana Merino is an award winning-writer and a Professor at the University of Iowa. She has written extensive criticism on comics and graphic novels. She has two academic books, a monograph on Chris Ware and has curated five comic book exhibitions.

Between 2001-2011 she was a Member of the ICAF (International Comic Arts Forum) Executive Committee; and between 2004 and 2014, Directors Board



Founder Member at The Center for Cartoon Studies.