Sorolla and America - Meadows Museum, Dallas
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Source: Meadows Museum, Dallas
The exhibition features nearly 160 works by Sorolla,including several of his most iconic paintings, as well as works that were purchased during the artist's lifetime and have never been exhibited publicly.
Sorolla was internationally acknowledged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as one of the foremostSpanish painters, and rose to acclaim in America following major exhibitions of his work in the UnitedStates in the early 20th century. Those exhibitions were organized with the help of Archer MiltonHuntington, founder of The Hispanic Society of America, who became acquainted with Sorolla inLondon in 1908. The public response to these exhibitions was unprecedented; the first exhibitionHuntington arranged in New York in 1909 drew more than 150,000 visitors in one month. Later that year,that same exhibition traveled to Buffalo to the museum now known as the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, andto the Copley Society of Art in Boston. It also inspired a second exhibition, which traveled in 1911 to theArt Institute of Chicago and St. Louis Art Museum.
The enthusiastic reception of Sorolla's work led to a series of portrait commissions for the artist fromnotable Americans including President William Howard Taft and Louis Comfort Tiffany. Because thosecommissions and a large portion of the work Sorolla produced for the American exhibitions quicklyentered private collections, much of it has gone undocumented.
The exhibition is arranged thematically and features works representing the full range of subjectsand styles for which Sorolla was renowned, including: social realism, portraits, beach scenes, gardens andlandscapes, history paintings, oil sketches, drawings, and studies for decorative murals. Each work in theexhibition was either created in America, exhibited in America, or sold in America during Sorolla's lifetime. "Sorolla and America" features works from many notable U.S. collections, including TheHispanic Society of America, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the ArtInstitute of Chicago, the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, the J. Paul Getty Museum, and the privatecollection of the U.S. Department of State, as well as five Sorolla works from the Meadows collection.In addition to American loans, works from Mexico, Spain and other European countries complete theexhibition.
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