

# It's Madrid Art Week, one of the biggest cultural events of the year!

It's Madrid Art Week, one of the biggest cultural events of the year. And I've come to break down some of the major art fairs happening this weekend for you.

Here are six incredible art shows in Madrid that you should definitely check out:

## 1. [ARCO Madrid](#)



image from ifema.es

**First up is the big one, ARCO Madrid.** ARCO is open to the public on Friday 1st to Sunday March 3rd at IFEMA from 12–20:00. I have never been to ARCO but it's the biggest art fair hosted by the city with work exhibited from over 200

galleries from 30 countries. You can see a wide range of art, including video art, installations, drawing, photography, giant sculptures of the Spanish King and more.

The invited country this year is Peru. General entry is €40 euros on Friday and Saturday, but €30 on Sunday. However, if you're a student, you can get in for €20 any day.

[More info on ARCO Madrid](#)

## 2. [Art Madrid](#)



image from [Art Madrid on Facebook](#)

Another major art fair is [Art Madrid](#) which is taking place this year at the Crystal Gallery in Cibeles. This fair is open to the public from Wednesday February 27th to Sunday March 3rd. This year the focus of the fair is on video art so if this is something that you've wanted to get into for awhile, now is the perfect time!

General entrance is €15 but there is a reduced price of €12 for students, pensioners and unemployed people.

[More info on Art Madrid](#)

### 3. [JUST MAD](#)



image from [Just Mad on Facebook](#)

My personal favourite art fair is JUST MAD which has moved to the Palacio de Neptuno this year. I've been to JUST MAD two years in a row and I always really enjoy the selection of art on offer. It often has a wonderful group of paintings and photography. While it's not as big as ARCO, it's still fairly sizeable and I would recommend dedicating at least 2 or 3 hours to be able to see everything.

In an attempt to strengthen ties with their closest neighbour, Portugal is being featured at the fair this year. Just Mad is

open to the public from Wednesday 26th to Sunday 3rd. General entry is €15 but it goes down to just €7 for students, pensioners and the unemployed, making it the most affordable one if you're on a student visa.

[More info on Just Madrid](#)

## 4. [Drawing Room](#)



Image from [Drawing Room on Facebook](#)

Another art fair that I usually try to attend is [Drawing Room](#), which, as its name suggests, primarily highlights works of illustration. I'm always impressed by the selection of pieces I have seen there and it's one of the smaller events so if you don't think you could spend a whole day or several hours at an art fair, Drawing Room would probably be more to your liking.

This year Drawing Room takes place at the Palacio de Santa Barbara and it's open to the public from this Thursday to

Sunday. Tickets cost €10 but are half price for anyone under 18 or over 65.

[More info on Drawing Room](#)

## 5. [Urvanity Art Fair](#)



art installation on Calle Fuencarral by German artist 1010

You may have seen some of the urban art installations that are taking the centre by storm right now like the cat in Callao or the colorful forms on Calle Fuencarral. Well, those installations are part of the [Urvanity Art Fair](#). If you want really contemporary, cutting-edge work, this is the fair for you. It's celebrating just its third edition this year and showcases post graffiti, new pop art and surrealist pop. If you have no idea what any of those words mean, no worries. Go to the fair and find out!

Urvanity takes place at [COAM](#) this year and it is open to the public from Friday to Sunday. Tickets cost just €10.

[More info on Urvanity](#)

## 6. [Hybrid Art Fair](#)



Image from [Hybrid Art Fair on Facebook](#)

Finally, I'm going to wrap this up with [HYBRID Art Fair](#) which also takes place from Friday to Sunday. If you like your art provocative and genre-bending, then this is the fair for you. To make it even cooler and more intimate, it actually takes place inside a hotel, the Hotel Petit Palace Santa Barbara. If you're going to Hybrid, I highly suggest buying your tickets online in advance as it's a bit cheaper and if you want to go to more than one of these fairs, every bit counts!

[More info on Hybrid Art Fair](#)

So if you've got a puente this weekend and you're not traveling, don't feel bad! There's so much for you to do in the city thanks to Madrid Art Week! You'll need Monday off to recover. Enjoy!

**By Kristen Wiltshire, admin of the Facebook group [Madrid Art and Culture](#)**

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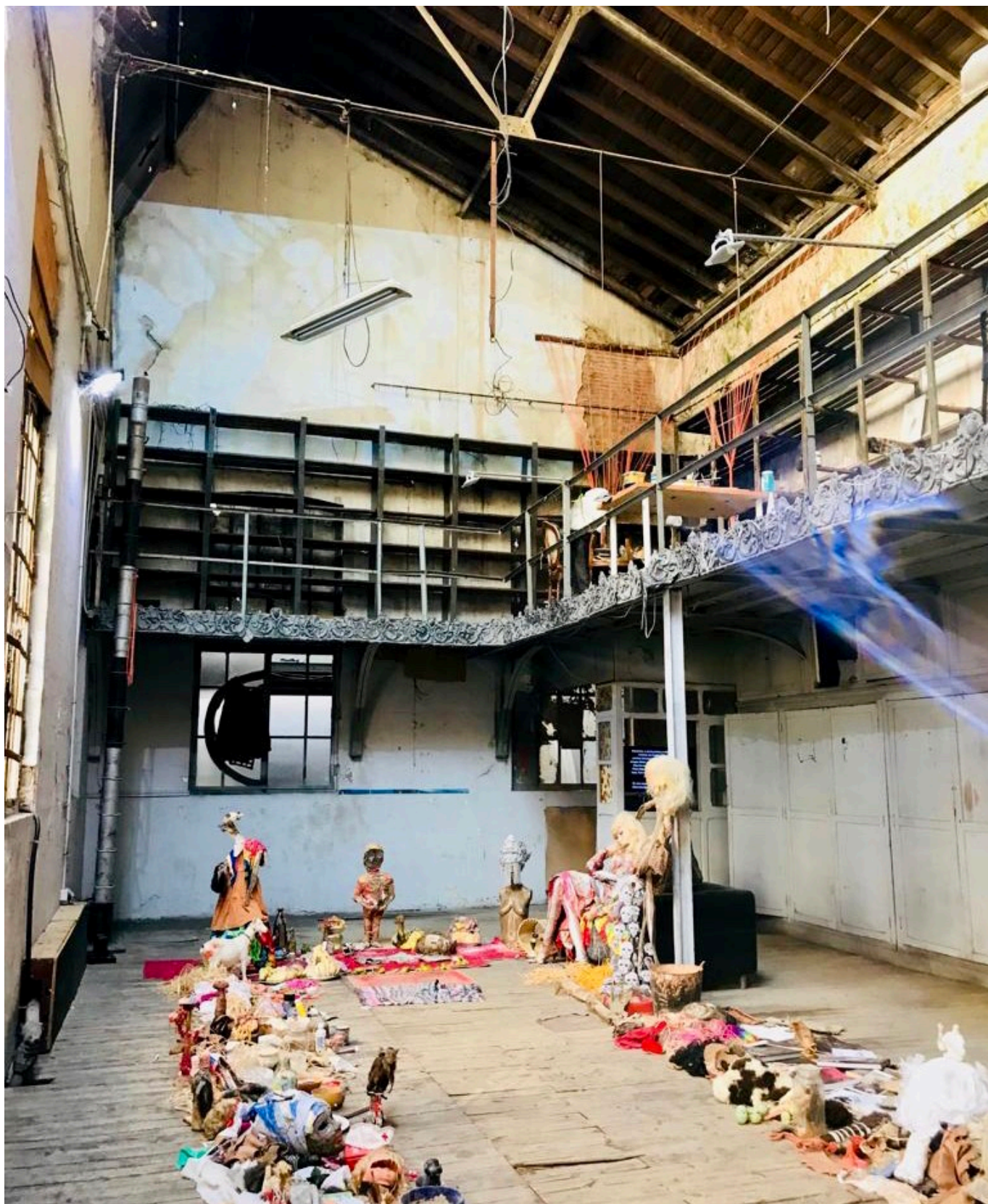
## **La Neomudéjar, a spooky, avant-garde arts center near Atocha**

If you're into experimental art and transformed industrial buildings, then this is the place for you. [La Neomudéjar](#) is a rather eerie [museum](#), located behind Atocha train station. It occupies a massive building that was the former offices of Spanish railway company Adif, and was converted into an international arts center and residency five years ago.

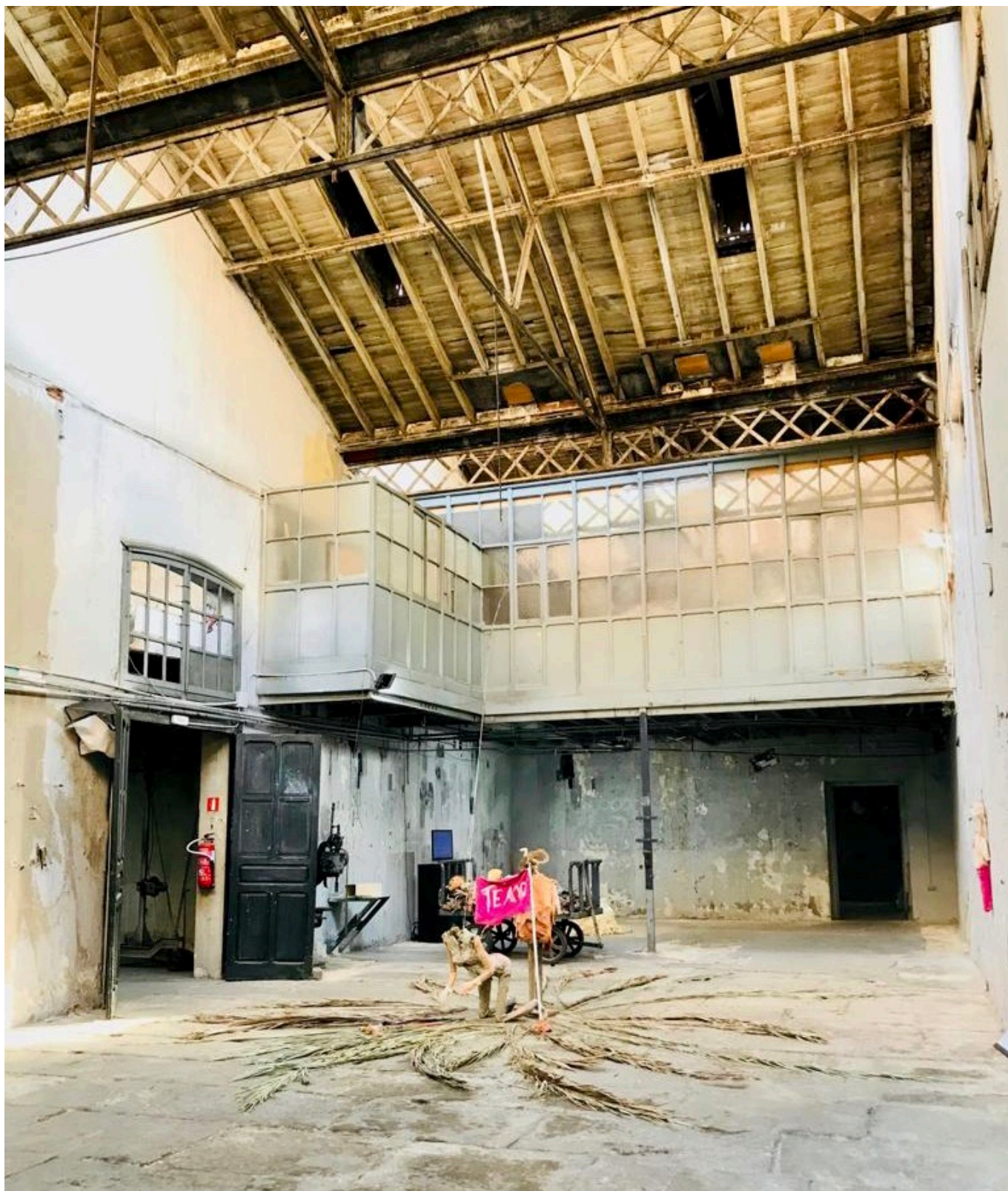


A renovation was clearly not top priority upon its reopening, as it feels like a completely abandoned old factory, taken over by bold artists. You might even think you're in the wrong place as you enter through the unassuming gate located on a side street, just a few blocks away from Atocha.

But keep walking down the little stairway and through the unadorned outdoor area with plastic tables and ashtrays, and you'll find the main door to a unique addition to [Madrid's thriving arts scene](#), featuring art exhibits, performances, residencies and more.



In the entrance, you'll find a gift shop with art books and other materials. Through there you'll start off in the main room where your gaze will immediately begin to scan the entire space from floor to ceiling... Both the exhibited art and the building itself are worth marvelling at.



Tiptoe around the items scattered across the floor as you look at paintings and displays with rather surprising written phrases, scenes, and messages. Continue entering through dark rooms, stained walls, and creepy corridors that lead you to dynamic art installations, film screenings and exhibits from international artists. The current exhibit is called [Dollhouse](#)

by Dutch artist Fardou Keuning, featuring life-size dolls.



In addition to the contemporary exhibits on display, you'll

also see clear remnants of the building's former life as a railway company.



One last tip: this is a great place to take a photo for your instagram story and scare your friends.



## La Neomudéjar

- [Website](#) & [Facebook](#)
- **Address:** Calle Antonio Nebrija
- **Metro:** Menéndez Pelayo / Atocha Renfe
- **Entrance fee:** €5
- **Hours:** Wednesday-Sunday, 11am-3pm/5pm-9pm

## You may also like:

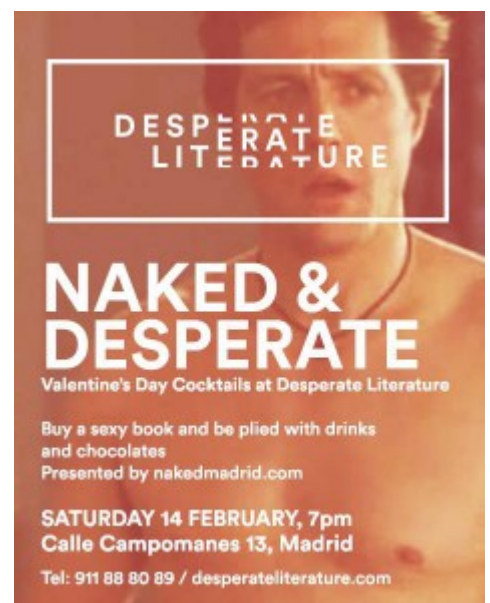
- [Madrid museums: the obvious and not-so-obvious \(and how to get in for free!\)](#)

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# Desperate Literature, so much more than a bookshop

Four years ago I stumbled upon a newly opened gem, [Desperate Literature](#). I immediately went in, spoke to the staff (who were practically still building the place), and wrote an article about it: [Desperate Literature, for book lovers in Brooklyn, Santorini and now Madrid.](#)

Something about it felt so homey to me. Perhaps it was the English-speaking staff, the familiar titles on the shelves, or the fact that they were playing my brother's kind of music. It just felt like I was stepping into an avid reader's living room in New York rather than a bookshop in Madrid.



I haven't stopped going back since. Many of the times I've gone in with friends and family, we've either been offered a cup of green tea or a glass of whiskey. Naked Madrid even co-hosted a Valentine's event there in 2015. I remember there being lots of mulled wine, chocolate, and a discount in the erotica section.

So much has changed since then, yet the same wonderful vibe and essence remains. The staff is still rotating, international and friendly as ever. The book selection of both new and old titles in English, French and Spanish keeps on growing. With so many great additions, it was time for a new article, with updated pics too.

## First some background info

For anyone who hasn't been yet, Desperate Literature sells by far the best selection of English books in the city, from art and philosophy to history and sociology. Plus a nice "boozy books" section where you get a shot of free whiskey with every purchase. You can also find titles in other languages, as well as handpicked rare editions, signed copies, tote bags, postcards, maps, and more. There's even a kids' section!

Desperate Literature was founded by hardcore book fanatics: Craig Walzer (UK), Corey Eastwood (US), Charlotte Delattre (France) and Terry Craven (UK). Between them, they also own [Atlantis Books](#) in Santorini, Greece, and [Book Thug Nation](#) and [Human Relations](#) in Brooklyn, New York.

Charlotte and Terry are currently running the shop (and living upstairs). Before coming to Madrid, they both worked for several years at the world-famous Paris bookshop [Shakespeare and Company](#). Lucky for us, they're bringing the same philosophy to Desperate Literature, making it much more than a bookshop – it's also a community, event space, publishing house, and a home. According to Terry:

*"Desperate Literature's aim is to create a place where people meet for and through literature and to that end we're developing not only our stock, focusing on having the best literature in English, Spanish and French, but a whole array of literary events, a literary magazine and all types of literary collaborations."*



## Great events: readings, concerts, and more

Desperate Literature has truly blossomed into an international haven for literature and art. It collaborates with local and expat writers, poets, musicians, and artists on a regular basis. They constantly put on cozy concerts, trivia nights, chess events, readings, and talks, as well as fun holiday-themed events like Bloomsday and Christmas sing-alongs. All these intimate events are healthily booze-infused, and usually cost just €3 entry including a drink.

## **Children's corner**

In the back you'll find a very sweet children's corner full of class titles that will make you feel nostalgic, from Dr. Seuss to Roald Dahl. There's also a cute little couch where you can curl up with a good read.



## First literary prize

Desperate Literature launched its very own short fiction [prize](#) this year, receiving over 450 entries. They offered a €1000 prize, a stay at the beautiful Civitella Ranieri foundation, and publication in various literary magazines, as well as events at Desperate Literature and Shakespeare and Company.

*We'll be launching again in December 2018 and (hopefully) every year to come, with the aim of putting our small bookshop on the international scene for excellent experimental fiction written today.*

## And first magazine and book!

The shortlist from the fiction prize even led to the publishing of Desperate Literature's first book "[Eleven Stories](#)" in April. And they put out their first magazine last year, [La Errante](#).



While all these additions are undeniably impressive (and there's certainly more in store), what speaks to me most is that the shop continues to feel as warm and cozy as ever, almost as if you were walking into a friend's personal library. Plus the music is great, the signs are quirky, and you're likely to make a friend or get offered a drink if you stick around awhile.

If you're interested in getting to know more about Desperate Literature, definitely stop in and say hello. For more info, here's an insightful article written by Katie Dycus: [Portrait of a Bookstore: Desperate Literature \(Madrid\)](#).

## Desperate Literature

- [Facebook](#), [Website](#) & [Instagram](#)

**Address:** Calle Campomanes, 13

**Metro:** Santo Domingo, Opera, and Callao

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## Living Room Concerts – Weekend “Planazo” in Madrid

In Madrid there are hundreds, if not thousands of things to do on any given weekend. Doing a quick Google search for live music, for example, will show you multiple Top Ten lists of the most well-known spots. However, you won't find a live music venue more intimate than that of [Living Room Concerts](#). It's just like it sounds: concerts held in people's living rooms and you're invited.



Born in, yes, a living room, it was Nichole Hastings' idea to bring emerging and little known artists and their original music into the spotlight. In nomadic spirit, [LRC](#) moves around Madrid to different pre-approved flats in all barrios spreading new independent music around the city to as many guests as the particular living room (and guest list) can hold.



LRC has even put down roots in one fixed location in Malasaña, a cultural community center called [el Salón del Artista](#). On arrival, be prepared to be ushered in with a warm welcome from the owner of the flat and then find a seat so you can comfortably listen to the original music and stories behind the songs from, often bilingual, artists.



Once inside, it's easy to see that the diverse crowd has arrived expecting to meet new people and listen to original music that they couldn't hear anywhere else.



During any given concert you could hear independent Spanish artists singing in English or a multicultural group singing in some combination of languages. Because of this, the concerts feel inclusive and not limited to any particular group or musical taste.



If you're in Madrid alone or with friends, LRC will sit you within feet of an independent artist and among members of the Living Room Concerts' community in Madrid.

## Info

- Follow LRC on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)
- **To attend**, the reservations work on the honor system but you do have to sign up through their [Facebook](#) page or their [MeetUp.com](#) page.
- **Price:** The event has a very reasonable cover which can

be turned into a “cover + open bar” for 3 euros more. Towards the end of the concert you can make a donation which goes right to the artists you’ve just met.

• **Links to artists** who’ve recently performed: [Taiacore](#), [BeMyFiasco](#), [David Roma](#)

**By Caitlin Mackenzie**

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## **Get interactive at “Mad Improv” theater workshops and shows!**

Madrid’s theater scene is brimming with activity. You’ll find live micro-theater being performed in bathrooms and lingerie stores, as well as acting classes and alternative shows scheduled daily throughout the city.

But there isn’t much available in English, which is why I want to introduce you to **Mad Improv**, an English-speaking improv group that’s been shaking things up in Madrid’s interactive theater scene since 2014.



Mad Improv hosts shows and workshops on a regular basis, all run by its cast members in English. **Free improv workshops – called “gyms” – are held on Sundays from 5pm-7pm.** Gyms are purely donation-based and absolutely everyone is welcome so you never know who might show up. People have even come in on flight layovers!



They also hold **monthly open shows** – called **“jams”** – where anyone can get up on stage and play improv games. Jams cost €3 with a drink (which probably comes in handy).



Locations for gyms and jams vary from [Fundación First Team](#) in Sol to Retiro when the weather allows. And right now they have a new set of [upcoming shows](#) at La Escalera de Jacob!

So check out their [Meetup](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages to stay up to date. Once you attend an event you can also ask one of the organizers to add you to the whatsapp group.

## **My experience – great way to step out of your comfort zone**

I had secretly always wanted to drop in on an acting class, but never got around to it until this summer when two friends, Riju (India) and Laura (Spain), enthusiastically agreed to join me at one of the Sunday gyms. This was in August so the workshop was held in Retiro behind the Palacio de Cristal.



An international group of about 15 people showed up – the different backgrounds and languages definitely added an element of fun and spontaneity to the mix. And our organizer, Summer Banks (in the photo below), did a great job at including everyone and making sure the exercises were easy to follow.



What started out with simple warm-up games quickly gave way to more challenging improv activities that admittedly made me feel ridiculous. But it's a wonderful way to get out of your comfort zone, connect with people and laugh a lot. My friends and I left with the feeling that we wanted to try our hands at improv again (and hopefully do it better next time), which meant **the fun far outweighed the awkwardness!**

**Chat with the founder, Ben**



Just before going to the workshop, I had met up with Mad Improv's founder Ben Nathan-Serio at the newly opened [Plántate Café](#). After studying drama in NYC and working in the field, Ben moved to Barcelona where he first started working in children's theater. Four years in he launched his own interactive theater production, *The Barcelona Time Detectives*, and was also a founding member of [BIG, The Barcelona Improv Group](#).

When Ben came to Madrid, he quickly became involved in Madrid's English-speaking theater scene and founded Mad Improv in 2014. Ben says, "The reason I started Mad Improv was because there was no improv community here; I wanted to reach out to the community in a bigger way, to get people involved."

What makes improv and interactive theater so special is that it's empowering, says Ben, as it allows for genuine human interaction and connection. Not to mention, getting out of your comfort zone is both invigorating and fun.

# LOMBARDI CASE

## ASESINATO EN LA MOVIDA



**LIVE  
IN  
THEATER**

INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCES  
NYC

**24 y 29 de Junio - 19:00h**

La industrial - C/ San Vicente Ferrer 33

Tickets: Oficinas de La Industrial c/ San Andrés 8 Local

Tickets Online: [www.liveintheater.com/madrid](http://www.liveintheater.com/madrid)

**CAN YOU SOLVE THE CASE?**  
**AN INTERACTIVE MURDER MYSTERY**

SPANISH & ENGLISH

In addition to Mad Improv, Ben also recently co-founded [Live in Theater Madrid](#), a NYC-based group whose hit interactive show, *The Lombardi Case*, debuted here in summer. It's a truly unique and entertaining two-hour event where the audience tries to solve a murder mystery – [read our previous article about \*The Lombardi Case\* on Naked Madrid!](#)

## More to come

While Mad Improv and Live in Theater are alive and kicking in Madrid, Ben just relocated to Austin, Texas, where he's taking part in a 9-month research lab called [The Interactive Deep Dive](#). And he can't wait to "come back with some very fresh, invigorating ideas for Live In Theater, Mad Improv and just the city in general."

So stayed tuned, because we'll make sure to fill you in on what's in store.

### Mad Improv Info:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Meetup](#)

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# Live In Theater's "The Lombardi Case" comes to Madrid from NYC!

It's not everyday that you get to help solve a murder case, interview a drag queen, or be transported to another era. But

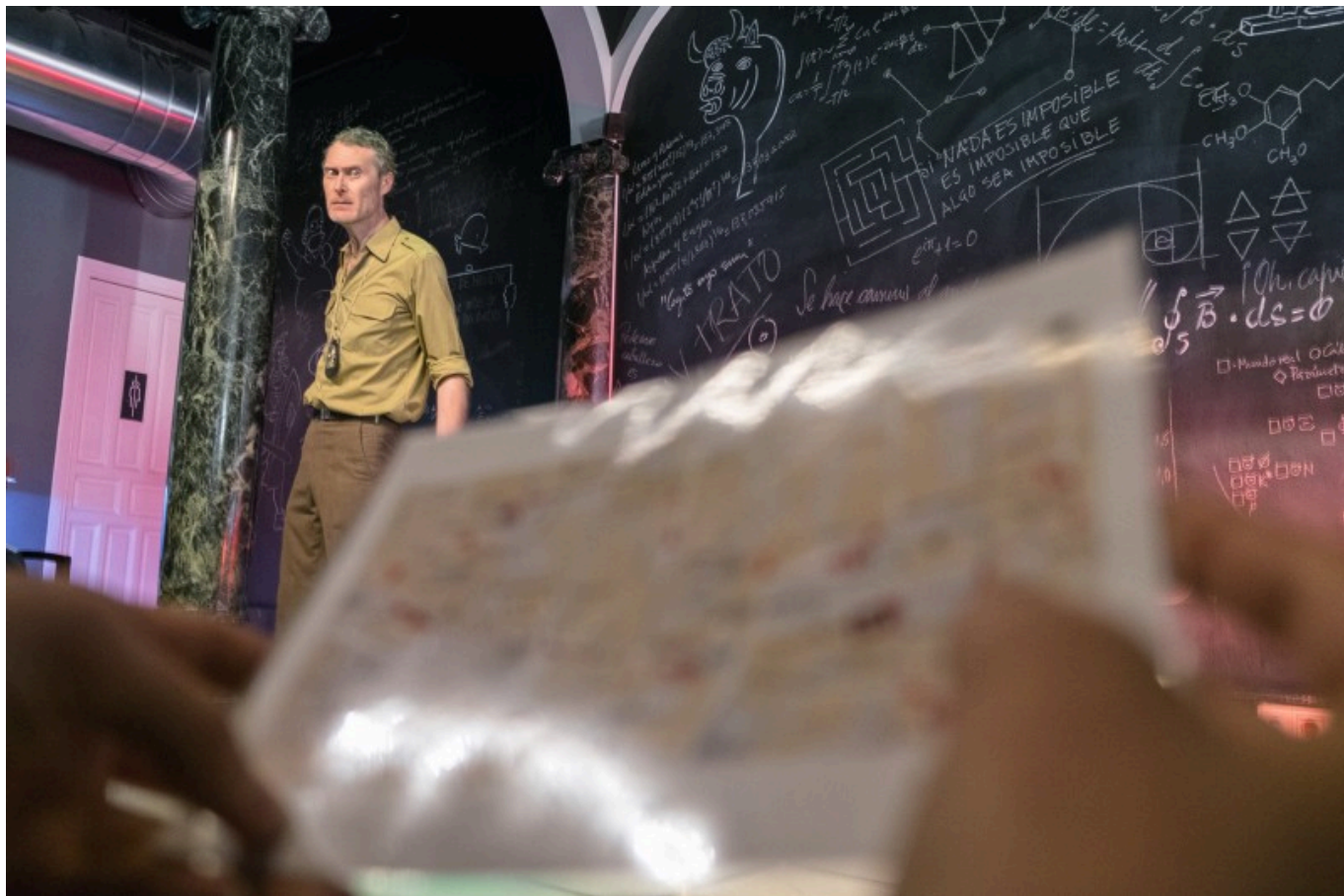
that's what you're in for with the interactive show *The Lombardi Case*, brought to us by the NY-based **Live in Theater** group. I had the chance to go the premiere in May and here's what it was like.



When I stepped into the theater, I was first greeted by a cop with a Brooklyn accent, played by a Scotsman; and then grabbed a seat among the 60-person international audience. We got split into small teams and an officer presented us with the case details in effortless Spanglish.



It's suddenly the early 1980's and we're in the midst of Madrid's sex- and drug-ridden *La Movida* movement. The daughter of the US ambassador has just been murdered. And it's on us to find out who did it.



Readily equipped with clues, a map and a list of suspects – from a doorman to a junky – we headed out onto the streets to conduct our interviews at nearby locations like a jazz bar, public plaza and street corner; and then came back and tried to solve the case with our findings.



The 7-member bilingual cast relied heavily on improv to communicate with us as we interrogated them, and they impressively stayed in character the whole time.



Although none of us ended up solving the tricky case, it was a really fun and unique experience, with lots of laughter and participation between the actors and audience. I loved being able to play an active role in the show, get out there on the street, interact with new team members and in Spanglish, no less. All in all, it's a guaranteed great time and as a benefit you'll get to learn about the history of Madrid.



Since the debut, **Live in Theater** has put on two more productions of the *The Lombardi Case* in the heart of Malasaña at [La Industrial](#). While the format is identical to the NYC show, the storyline has been adapted to Madrid's history. For example, the original takes place in 1975 which works in a time of drugs, disco and gentrification in NYC, while the Madrid show takes place in the early '80s during the time of *La Movida*, the experimental movement that broke out after the fall of the Franco regime. This is especially pertinent as audience members get to actually interview suspects in the neighborhood that was the epicenter of the movement, Malasaña. Another key difference is that here, the show is put on in Spanish and English.

# LOMBARDI CASE

## ASESINATO EN LA MOVIDA



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SPANISH & ENGLISH

The *Lombardi Case* has been brought to Madrid by three partners: [Carlo D'Amore](#), the founder (and guru) of the NYC-based theater group, **Live in Theater**; [Leslie Freschet](#), who's been living in Madrid for 25 years; and [Benjamin Nathan-Serio](#), who's been an active member of Barcelona and Madrid's English-speaking theater circuit for nearly a decade. He's also one of the Madrid organizers and co-founders of [Mad Improv](#).

A few weeks ago I had the chance to sit down with Ben and talk about the *Lombardi Case* and what makes interactive theater so special. He said:

*The show offers a truly unique experience for the audience because interactive is empowering. It's a real niche for actual human, genuine interaction. There's something magical about this show. It's not just conversation in a bar or speed dating, or meet-ups; it's super empowering because you become a cop. You have a mission. You become a detective. There's a murder, and you need to solve it! And there's a time limit... urgency.*

## See a show!

Stay tuned for upcoming productions by following their [Facebook page](#) or put in a request by emailing them at [liveintheaterproduction@gmail.com](mailto:liveintheaterproduction@gmail.com).

You can also book them for private events such as company team-building exercises. The show has a very versatile format – you can hire them to go into your apartment as long as it has 2 rooms, with 3 actors playing 6 characters; and it can also be presented to up to 200 people.

And if you feel like getting more involved in Madrid's interactive theater scene, definitely check out [Mad Improv](#) which holds free improv workshops on Sundays and monthly performances.

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# Museo Cerralbo, an art lover's dream house

If you're looking to explore [Madrid's museum scene](#) beyond the famous Prado and Reina Sofia, I recommend starting with [Los Cinco Museos](#), five former mansions that are all perfectly restored and house outstanding art collections: Cerralbo, Lázaro Galdiano, Artes Decorativas, Sorolla and Romanticismo.

These five museums take you on a journey to a different era, allowing you to see and feel what life might have been like when they were occupied. While each one is worth visiting, [Museo Cerralbo](#) is my personal favorite. I've been here twice – first on my own and then on a [guided tour](#) – and both times I was blown away by the museum's special charm.



Tucked away on a side street near Plaza de España and Templo de Debod, this museum is one of the former residences of the

Marquis of Cerralbo, who lived here with his family in the 19th century. Today, everything remains exactly in tact, from the furniture and art pieces to the wall colors and lighting.



As you walk through its many rooms and corridors, let your imagination run wild, picturing what life was like when this

house was actually a home.



The Marquis was a well known archeologist and passionate art lover. He amassed a collection of art, furniture and objects from Spain and around the world that you can see in every nook and cranny. You'll see beautiful paintings, mirrors, chandeliers and clocks dispersed throughout, and so much more.



The house has two floors. The first floor was where the family actually lived their normal lives, while the second floor is

where you'll find the extravagant ballroom and dining room, for example, that were meant to be shown off to guests.



Each particular room had a different purpose and decor, acting as a unique exhibition space. Here are a few examples.

## The armor collection

After going up the gorgeous stairway (the house was actually designed to accommodate for a unique wooden banister), guests would step into the hallway displaying the Marquis's armor collection. This is my favorite exhibit.





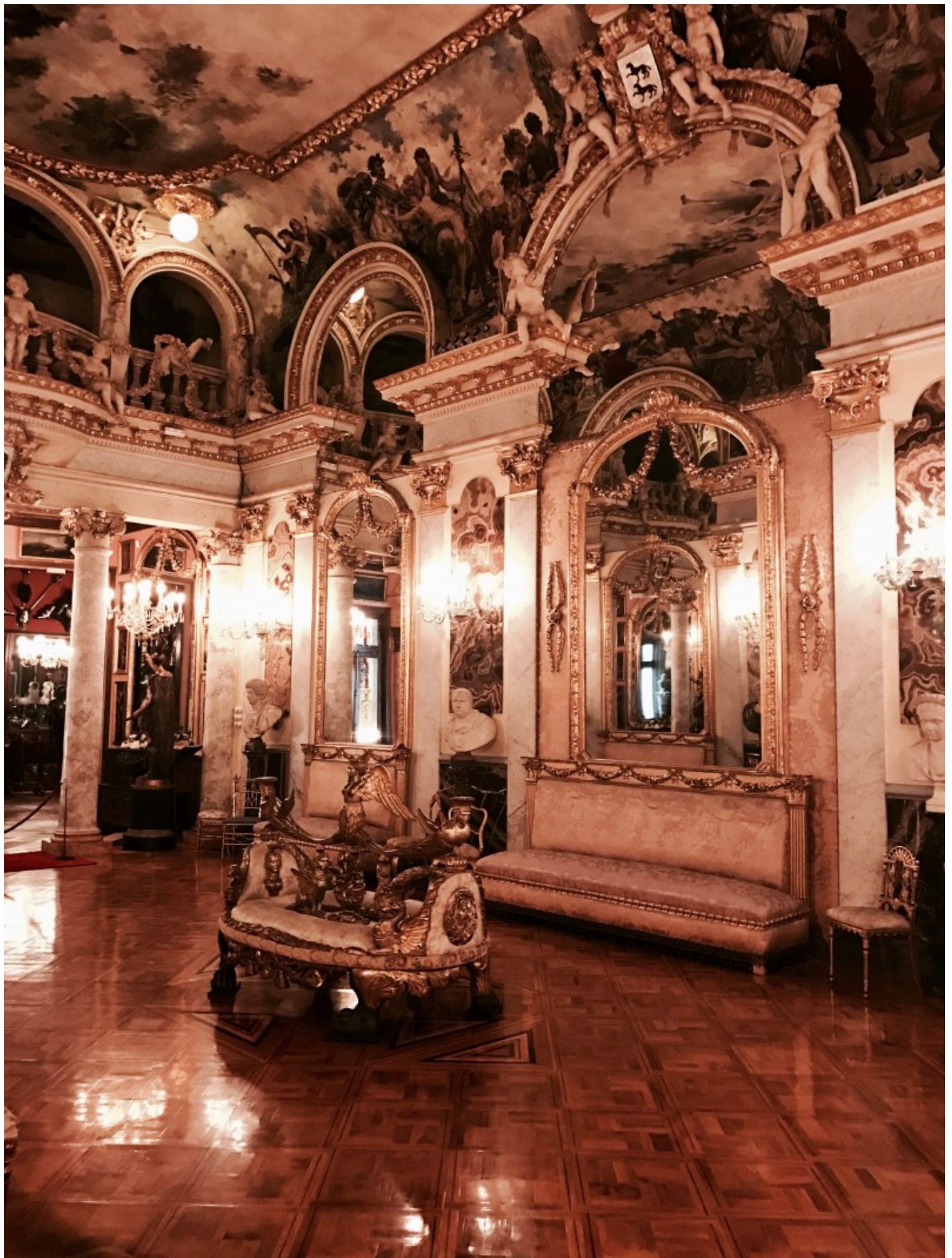






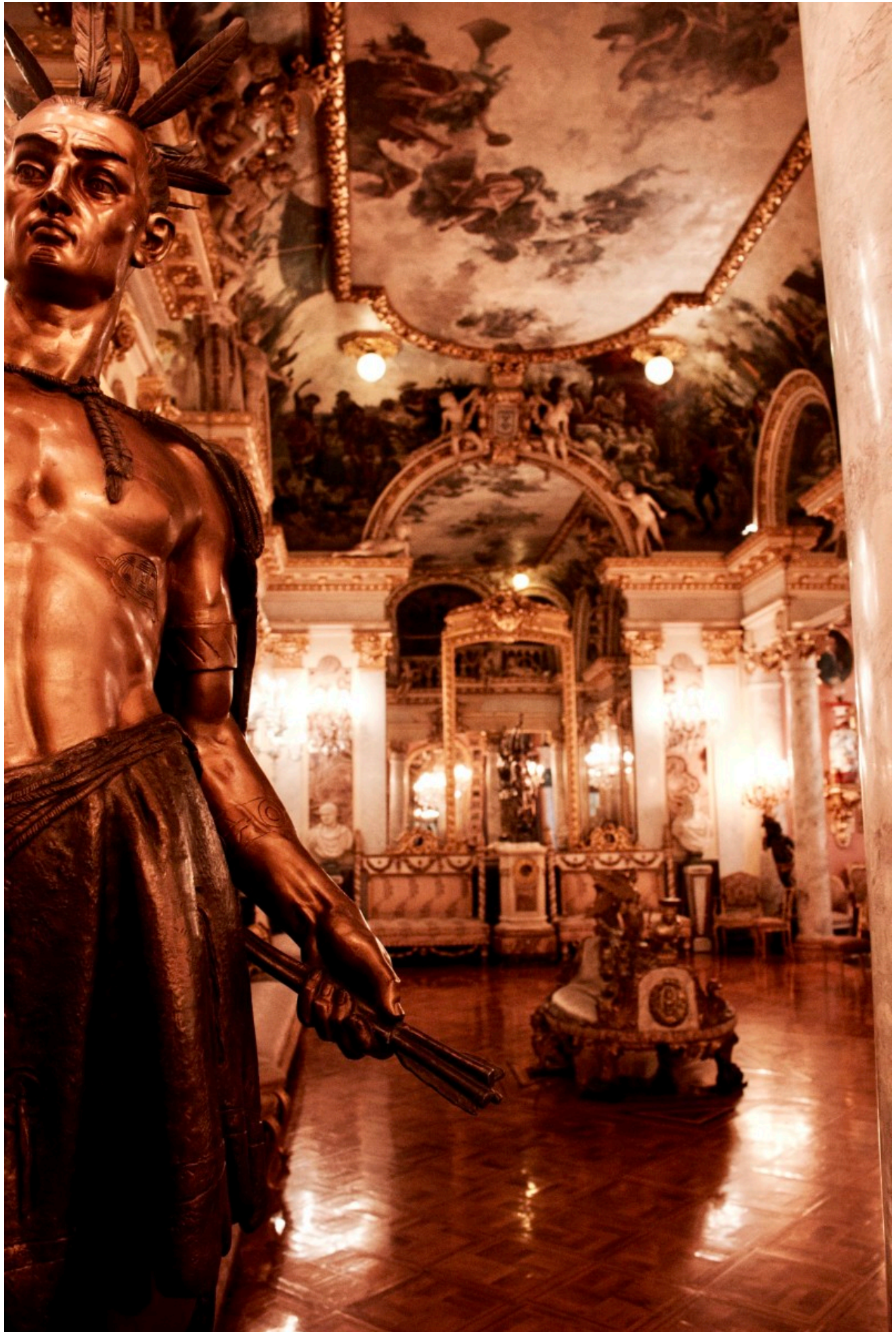
## The ballroom

To the right of the armor collection you'll find the stunning ballroom. I would certainly like to dance here one day...



As you can see, the Marquis was particularly fond of playing with lighting and mirrors to add as much depth to each room as

possible. And not an inch of the house was left unadorned.



## The library

The library features British-style decor and houses an impressive collection of books in several different languages, some dating back as far as the 15th century. Here you'll also find one of the largest coin collections in Spain.













## **The billiard room**

Right off the dining room you'll find the billiard room. In that time, women weren't expected to join in on the game, so there was a seating area designed just for them to watch as the men played.







## Snapshots of more rooms and objects

There are so many little rooms and corridors to check out, each one providing a window into another era and giving your eyes plenty to marvel at. I don't want to give away too much, so here are just a few more images to give you a glimpse of the Cerralbo Museum's collection. But please don't pass up the chance to see it in person!

















Photography by Jose Luis Magaña from @asecond.art

# Info

- [Website](#), [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)
- I highly recommend [booking a guided tour](#) in English, Spanish or French
- **Address:** Calle Ventura Rodríguez, 17
- **Hours:** Tues–Sat 9:30am-3pm; Thursday also from 5-8pm; Sundays and holidays from 10am-3pm
- **Metro:** Plaza de España
- **Los Cinco Museos** pass: if you want to visit all five of these former mansions turned museums, you can purchase a €12 pass called [Los Cinco Museos](#) at any of their ticket offices. The pass gives you unlimited access to all five museums for 10 days, and after that you can enter on Saturdays with a plus one for the rest of the year.

## You may also like:

- [Madrid's obvious and not-so-obvious museums \(and how to get in for free!\)](#)

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# Café Barbieri: A 114-year-old Art Nouveau café in Lavapiés

[Café Barbieri](#) first brought modernist charm to Madrid's working class district, Lavapiés, in 1902, and although the *barrio* has evolved dramatically over the last 114 years, the interior of this elegant bar hasn't changed one bit.

Some things have changed though – Café Barbieri is owned by a charismatic chap from New Delhi and staffed with bilingual youngthings. It also now has a small terrace, but this is not

why you'd come here – its appeal is truly the interior.

The whole place is lined with mirrors which back then were a symbol of wealth. These mirrors are now aging well, stained a smoky bronze colour with dots of grey rust creeping in from the edges. The ceiling is framed with grids of ornate girders that are connected to decorative cast-iron beams, typical of older buildings in Lavapiés. Although never on, there are ceiling fans too – something increasingly rare in Madrid.

At the back of the bar is a grand piano on a small raised stage. Almost every evening there's a live music session often featuring the piano, and this place does food too – typical Spanish stuff but with an edge.

The worn white marble table tops and red velvet seating lining the dining area mark this place out as opulent, but that's really not the vibe – it's chilled and cosy and attracts a spectrum of people, from the intrepid tourist who's braved it down the hill, to the unassuming local who fancies a read of one of the papers on offer.



Café Barbieri by day



Café Barbieri's beautiful ornate ceiling



The grand piano taking centre stage, and look at all those beautiful mirrors



Look at that original tiled floor!



The bar has a great selection of spirits & vermouth on tap



Café Barbieri by night

Café Barbieri is also on the same street as the Greek foodie place, [Egeo](#), so there you have it, your night is planned!

## Info

- C/Ave María 45
  - Metro: Lavapiés
  - [Website](#) [Facebook](#)
-

# Manzana Mahou: Gourmet Art Experience

[Manzana Mahou](#) is the concept sponsored by Madrid's most iconic beer, Mahou. It's located in Malasaña (between metro stops Tribunal and Alonso Martinez) at Palacio de Santa Bárbara, a beautiful palace built in 1866. For the third consecutive year, the outdoor space has been turned into a popular terrace designed to provide an oasis during Madrid's warmest months.



The idea behind Manzana Mahou is to bring together art, gourmet food and beer, to create a unique experience. It is open until October 8th, after which it will be temporarily closed until next summer. This year, the stars of the show will be chefs María Marte from [Allard Experience](#), Javier Goya, Javier Mayor and David Alfonso, from [Triciclo](#) and Roberto Ruiz

from [Cascabel](#) by Punto MX.



These top chefs will be in charge of creating [exclusive dinners](#) inspired by the four resident artists at Manzana Mahou. In addition to this, two restaurants, La Cabra and Tandem will offer a more casual dining experience. [La Cabra](#) is a Michelin Star restaurant that will also offer brunch on Sundays from 12pm to 4pm for only 25€, led by renowned chef Javier Aranda, who at just 29 is one of the most acclaimed chefs in Spain. Tandem, on the other hand, is Triciclo's little brother which has also become a leader in Madrid's restaurant scene.



This year, the outdoor space has expanded, enhancing the experience. Four artists will be exhibiting, Julia Llerena, María Platero, Françoise Vanneraud and PLAYdramaturgia. The latter are a group of artists that create a mix between visual and performing arts, while the first three are focused mainly on visual arts.



Entrance on Calle Hortaleza

Open Monday to Sunday, from 11am to 1am, Manzana Mahou is a great opportunity to try some of Madrid's greatest restaurants at a more affordable price while enjoying art and a few beers.

## Info

[Facebook](#) & [Website](#)

**Address:** Calle Hortaleza, 47

**Metro:** Alonso Martínez & Tribunal

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# Forasteros, a Madrid-based swing, gypsy-jazz and folk band

As a hub for artists and creative are types from all over the world, Madrid's local live-music scene is energetic and diverse. As always, your friends at Naked Madrid are here to provide you with the best options as how to maximize the potential of your nights out. **The first local musicians to be featured in this series are the swing, gypsy-jazz, folk group Forasteros.**



They have an interesting backstory because their members had all met by chance. The band was formed when its founder, lyricist and guitarist, **Tom Buzz Cox** from London, crossed

paths with **Tara** during a Vaughan System teacher training course. Swing instructor **Julia Hampson**, also from London, was brought onboard as the violinist after an encounter busking the streets in Lavapies.

Tom recruited **Hinata Myojin**, a bassist from Japan, through another band in the community. Clarinettist **Ricardo Vasquez** from Texas/Mexico was discovered upon his response to an advertisement. They are unclear on how drummer **Fernando Iglesias** from Madrid entered the fold, strongly implying that he materialized out of thin air.



They write in Spanish, English, French and even Japanese. Ricardo and Julia have a classical background and are well-versed in swing and Jazz. Overall the group combines aspects of **gypsy-jazz, folk and swing** while also being open to anything that takes their fancy: twisted Latin rhythms, funk, DnB hints.

Their ambition is to make people laugh, dance and feel while also “talking about difficult shit.” says **Tara Lowe**, their singer and lyricist, who I have known for the greater part of the year as two of my close friends were her flatmates. Lowe, a long-term expat from Cardiff enjoys writing songs about everyday life that are “**cheeky, honest and indulgent.**”



Forasteros’ songs have addressed some of the more **relatable aspects of living in Madrid** with their songs “Landlord from Hell, title self-explanatory, as well as “Banks of June” which focuses on lust and broken hearts. Their track “Springtime Shuffle” centers on opportune new beginnings while “Cuando” is just about dancing.

Forasteros performs a lot in Lavapiés in the venues of Gato Verde, Taberna Alabanda, La Tortuga, La Tabacalera and Centro de Creación y Investigación. Their First EP, “Hello you!” was

recorded at The Treehouse Madrid Studios on the label of Vestizo Azul Records. [It is available free on Bandcamp.](#) Check out their video of "[Devil in the Trees](#)" from their new EP.



# Info

Follow them on [Facebook](#) & **their** [Bandcamp page](#) and be sure to see them perform live! Their EP *Hello You* launches [on the 12th November at Intruso Bar](#) – with supporting artist [Taiacore](#). Tickets can be purchased at [Giglon](#). The first 50 people to arrive will get a free EP and poster.