

Soil and art: the Spanish Society of Soil Science calendar for 2016

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The Spanish Society of Soil Science (SECS: www.secs.com.es) is preparing since 2009 a calendar dealing with a topic chosen by its members, with the main aim to disseminate the importance of the soil to the society. In this contribution, we want to show the calendar 2016, developed during 2015, (International Year of Soils) dedicated to soil and art. We chose, for the twelve months of the year, a selection of paintings where soil is present, and where we, as soil scientists, can interpret what the artist observed about the soil or its management.

An introduction written by professor F. Díaz-Fierros describes the evolution of different styles in different regions of Western Europe and US, and how soil was reflected in artworks. The selected paintings date from XV century to current times, by authors of different schools of art and very varying styles. The main features shown in these paintings are soil colour, soil structure, horizonation, and even soil profiles that can be classified. Other paintings show ploughing as main land management practice, and also soil conservation practices and the effects of fire as soil degradation.

Artworks included in the calendar (in order of appearance):

The ploughed field. 1888. Vincent Van Gogh. Zundert, The Netherlands (1853-1869)

Los Cigarrales (alrededores de Toledo). Aureliano de Beruete y Moret. ca. 1905. Casa del Museo Goya – Museo de Arte Hispánico. Castres (France)

Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry. Miniature. Musée Condé, Bibliothèque, Chantilly (France)(1413-1416). Paul, Jean and Herman de Limbourg

The Dunes near Haarlem. 1667. Jan Wijnants. (1632-1684). National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin.

Archaeology: Rooted in the Past. 2010. GC Myers, New York, USA (1959)

La forêt au sol rouge. 1891. Georges Lacombe, Versailles (1868-1916)

Sitges des de la Creu de Ribes. 1892. Santiago Rusiñol. Barcelona (1861-1931). Courtesy of the Colección Carmen Thyssen-Bornemisza (Madrid)

De Kruisdraging. 1606. Pieter Brueghel the Young (1564-1636). Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten Antwerpen Rostolls cremats (Rastrojos quemados), Wool tapestry. 1988. Carles Delclaux after a work by (Sant Cugat, 1951)

Robles y Rocas (Picos De Europa). 1874. Carlos de Haes (1826-1898). Museo de El Prado

De val van Icarus. 1558. Pieter Brueghel the Elder (1525-1569). Koninklijke Musea von Schone Kunsten, Brussel

O Paraño, c.a. 1922-29. Alfonso D. Rodriguez Castela (1886-1950). Museo de Pontevedra

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