

## PRESS STATEMENT

23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020

### ACRE's statement on the intervention of Murillo's 'Escorial's Immaculate' suspected copy in Valencia.

Concerning the last news appeared on the media about the performed intervention on a suspected copy of Murillo, we from ACRE want to make clear that we have no real information about the person who performed it, we don't know whether the erased and retouched piece of art is actually a Murillo's 'Escorial's Immaculate' copy, or neither the collector's identity to whom the news refer. We can only assure that the original piece of art from which this painting was presumably copied is currently at the National [Museum of Prado](#).

Should the facts be confirmed, we would have to regret, once again, the loss of a Cultural Asset and, under these circumstances, we request not to take this instance as a social and media source of fun, as happened already formerly. Moreover, we all must be alarmed to think that our Heritage is disappearing because these disastrous actions.

Since official training, qualifying technicians for this profession under [E.C.C.O.'s](#) standards, is offered in Spain, the conservation-restoration interventions' quality, performed by Spanish professionals, are highly considered at a labor and institutional level in Europe. We want to emphasize that **no professional technician with an [Official Academic Training](#) would perform such an attempt against Cultural Heritage**. Therefore, this kind of actions must not be mistaken as a Conservation-Restoration intervention, since this would be a false assertion, offensive to our profession and harmful for our Heritage, for this causes confusion on who are the skilled professionals coherently exercising this activity. Thus, we ask the media not to use the term *restoration*, when informing about this kind of actions, which are no other act but of vandalism.

It is regrettable hence that, being in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, limits and lawful order are absent for people without qualifications carrying out these interventions, moreover, considering that there is a large number of certified specialists in Spain, specifically in Valencia. Ironically, Conservation-Restoration Professionals in recent years have been forced to migrate or to give up their profession due to a lack of employment opportunities, leading to the actual business fabric deficiency in this area, worsened additionally by the current crisis we are living through, that from which we have made aware the government entities. **The Conservation-Restoration Profession is fragile, and it is at serious risk of disappearing throughout the whole Spanish territory.**

Within the **state and autonomic legislation regarding Cultural Heritage protection, it is not regulated who are the qualified professionals for performing interventions** on these assets. This lack of regulation results thus in a **protection's**

**absence of our Heritage, since it allows unskilled people intervening on it, facing, at best, mere administrative penalties.**

Ultimately, the lack of knowledge and acknowledgment of our profession, **the lack of regulation** of this activity, key for conservation and restoration of our Cultural Heritage, and the nonexistent or negligible sanctions imposed to these events, are an endemic problem in our country, which must be ended by the competent administrations.

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