



## The Museum

The Falles Museum of València has been located since 1971 at the building that was formerly the Convent of St. Vincent de Paul's Mission House. It is home to the whole collection of pardoned *ninots*, both from the main category (from 1934) and the children's one (from 1963). The Museum also contains the Falles festivity posters that won or were finalists (from the 1930s), the portraits of every *fallera major* of València (from 1995) and a collection of historical badges from the Falles committees in València.

## Falles

Falles is a popular festivity that has been celebrating the feast of Saint Joseph in València since the mid-18th century. Thanks to citizens and falles artists, ephemeral monuments depicting satirical images are erected on the streets of València. These monuments are made of *ninots*, figures that are set alight to welcome the spring on 19th March, feast of Saint Joseph. On 30th November 2016, Falles was inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

## The pardon from fire

Ever since Falles began, citizens were sometimes helped at building Falles monuments by professional carpenters, painters or decorators. As time went on and the Falles festivity became more popular, a new role emerged: the *fallas* artists, craftsmen specialized in designing and building *fallas*, with their own workshops, techniques and style.

In 1934, *fallas* artist Regino Mas put forward an initiative called *Indult del foc* ("pardon from fire"), which became official thanks to the gradual improvement of the artistic quality of Falles monuments, the creation of awards to the best monuments and the aforementioned emerging role of the *fallas* artist. Every year, each *comissió fallera* (committee of citizens involved in the festivity) would bring in their best *ninot* so that the visitors could vote for the *ninot* that would be pardoned (and, hence, not burnt) that year.



### MUSEU FALLER DE VALÈNCIA

Plaça de Montolivet, 4. 46006, València.

Information:  
962084625 - 962084645  
museufaller@valencia.es  
reservesmuseufaller@valencia.es

Opening hours:  
From Monday to Saturday from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm  
Sundays and holidays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Lines: 13, 14, 18, 15, 25, 95

English



MUSEU  
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DE  
VALÈNCIA





## The 30s and the 40s

In the 30s and the 40s of the 20th century, *ninots* were built from wax, wood and cloth. They depicted traditional Valencian scenes. Portraits of craftsmen, popular citizens and some cinema stars were introduced later on. Empathizing with the audience was key in this stage.

## The 50s

The narrative sense in the depicted scenes was developed from 1955 on, when communication among *ninots* became increasingly apparent. Social issues were the most prominent topics in this post-war period of lack of basic goods. In 1956, a *ninot* made of cardboard was pardoned for the first time.



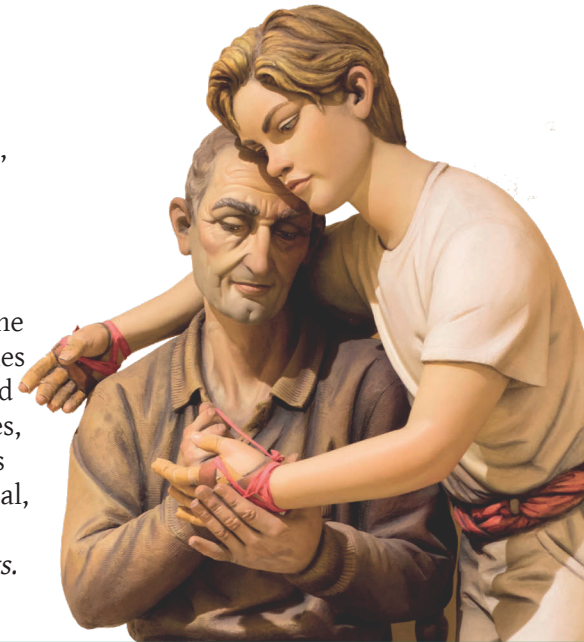
## The 60s and the 70s

Satirical figures depicting comical scenes were prevailing in the sixties. Topics became progressively related to the social changes of the time – the evolution of a rapidly changing Valencian society. The seventies were defined by caricature-like figures, a lowbrow humor and hardly any political content. In 1977, a *ninot* made solely from polyester was pardoned for the first time.



## The 80s and the 90s

The eighties saw the beginning of a new trend: depicting traditional crafts in a regretful, nostalgic way, but not yet free from mockery and caricature features. From the nineties on, deliberately moving *ninots* were prevailing among the pardoned figures. Artists caught the audience's eye with touching scenes of elderly people with children and by recalling ancestral family values, traditions and kind feelings. It was in the nineties when a new material, expanded polystyrene (EPS), was introduced to the making of *ninots*.



## CHILDREN'S NINOTS

Children's *ninots* were first pardoned in 1963. They consist on monuments made for the children in the Falles committees, featuring local tradition topics and characters from popular stories as well as TV shows and movies. References to the Valencian culture and figures of rather moody *falleres* are also popular in this category. Children's *ninots* tend to depict fantastic worlds along with historical and mythical motifs, and they usually show a wide range of tenderness displays.

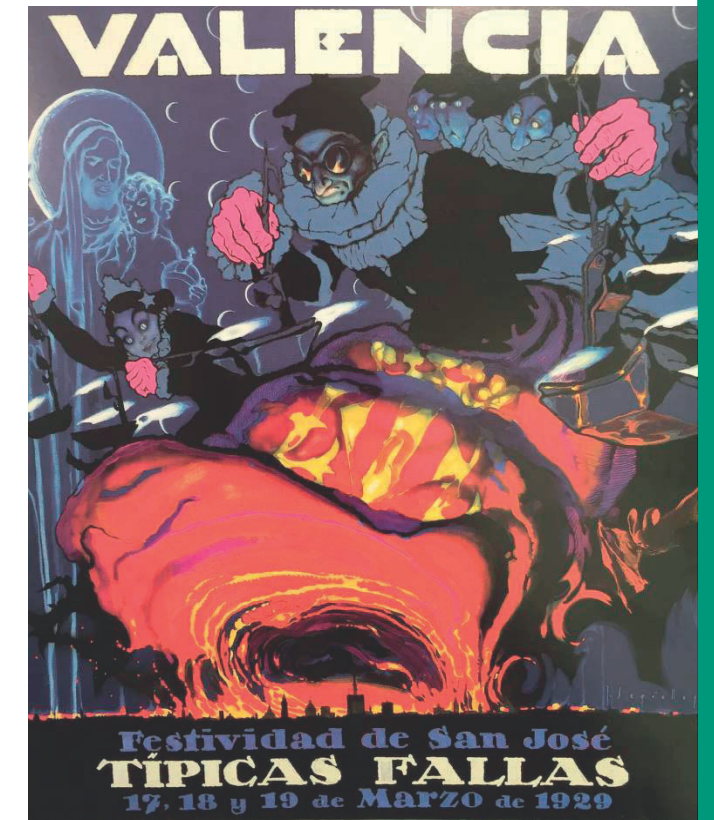


## OTHER COLLECTIONS

Posters announcing Falles are edited each year in order to promote the festivity and its most appealing and most significant aspects. Our first poster, designed by Josep Segrelles, dates from 1929. Since then, a large collection of the works of great Valencian designers has been created, showing varied styles and trends.



The badges are the iconographic and heraldic expression of the way Falles associations present themselves. These *comissions falleres* (Falles committees) generate a huge associative network that allows for the continuity of this festivity.



The *fallera major* is a symbolic figure in the Falles festivity. The role was created in 1931 and became established later on thanks to a series of festive rituals aimed at acclaiming her. The *fallera major's* reign lasts for a year and turns her into the main feminine emblem of the Falles community, which worships her as can be appreciated in the collection of portraits of València's *falleres majors* exhibited at the Falles Museum of València.