

# Diego Velázquez

**Diego Velázquez** (1599 –1660) was a Baroque painter, one of the most famous in Spain. Born in Seville, he started to learn to paint with Pedro Pacheco, Velázquez was so good that the teacher was very proud of the student and the student was very grateful to the teacher. At the age of 19 he got married with Pacheco's daughter.

In 1616 - 1620 he painted "Inmaculada Concepción" (National Gallery) "Cena en Emaus" New York Metropolitan Museum; "El aguador de Sevilla" and "Vieja friendo huevos" this made Velázquez an expert in portraits.

When he was 24 years old he became the painter of the King, made a lot of portraits. He travelled to Italy and study there, he also studied royal collections: Tiziano, Veronés, Tintoreto ... The painter changed his style of painting he moved from the dark and earthy colours to the bright blue and silver. Between the portraits of the Royal family we find The prine Don Carlos and equestrian portrait of King.

The influence of the first try to Italy is seen in pictures like "La fragua de Vulcano" and "La túnica de José".

In 1631 after he met Ribera in Milan he came back to Madrid and participate in different projects, he decorated " El palacio del Retiro" and a king's hunting lodge "Torre de la Parada"

The most famous paintings are "La rendición de Breda ó cuadro de las Lanzas" y "Felipe V a caballo"

From 1649-51 he made his 2nd try to Italy, he visited again paintings from famous Italian painters in Rome he made the portrait of Inocencio X

The last ten years are the most productive he paints "Las meninas" and las Hilanderas"

Velázquez was considered a famous painter at the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> centry and it was through the paintings at the Museo del Prado.