

# POSTWAR LANDSCAPES



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Caneja, Zabaleta, Palencia

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16-30  
SEP 2025    NOV 2025

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FUNDACIÓN MARÍA CRISTINA MASAVEU PETERSON



Landscape is a cultural construct that reflects how nature is viewed at a particular time and how its inhabitants relate to it. Landscape painting can therefore provide a glimpse of the social, economic or political conditions of a given society at a specific moment in history. This genre gained a key importance in mid-20th century Spain in close connection with the idealisation of rural life that dominated the policies for reconstructing the country during the years of autarchic rule.

The Castilian countryside, portrayed as an emblem of resilience in Caneja's painting in keeping with Machado's literary model, the villages depicted as havens for the virtues of traditional life in Palencia's pictures, and the vigour of the farmers cast by Zabaleta as heroes who perform the arduous rural tasks so necessary in that context sum up an idea that prevailed in much of the cultural production of the period. These images extol country life as a source of authenticity, goodness and honour, which was contrasted with life in the city, where all kinds of dangers lurked.







**Juan Manuel Díaz-Caneja**

*Village with Figures*  
(detail)

Fernando Masaveu  
Collection



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Cover:

Benjamín Palencia

*Landscape with Village*, 1968 (detail)

Masaveu Collection

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