

Workshop: Artist's Diary in the Atocha Neighborhood

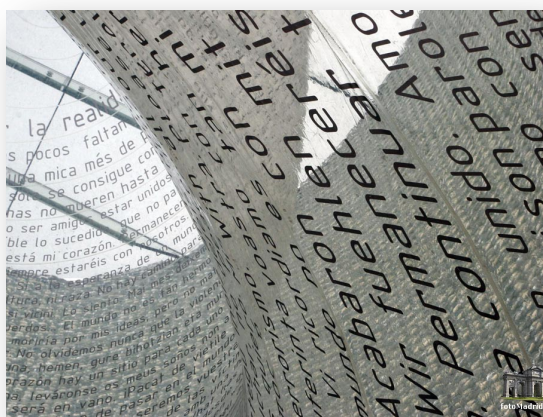
In this three hour workshop, participants will be given a notebook to create an “artist’s diary” as we travel through the Atocha Neighborhood. After discovering and drawing some of the secrets of the neighborhood, the children will convene in the workshop of Carmen La Griega where they will perfect their diaries to take home as a memento from the day’s activities.

Stop 1- Tropical Jungle

Our first stop will be the Atocha train station, home to an enormous greenhouse where our young artists will convert the first pages of their journals into botanical field notes. In the format of a scavenger hunt, our artists will encounter and hear stories about such treasures as the “traveler’s tree,” the “ribcage plant,” the medicinal banana, the “fossil palm,” and even turtles!



Stop 2- March 11th Monument



Located close to the jungle, our next stop takes a solemn turn as we visit the monument to the victims of the March 11th terrorist attack that took place in this very station in 2004. We will visit the enormous glass sculpture decorated with messages written in numerous languages by anonymous madrileños. We will translate some of the messages and ask the children to write down the word or phrase which calls their attention the most.

Stop 3- Big-Headed Babies by Antonio López

Our last stop in Atocha Station will be to visit the two giant baby head sculptures named Day and Night. Created by Spanish artist Antonio López, the pieces are modeled after his nephew and are meant to commemorate the victims of 11-M as well as transmit hope. We will ask the children to use their imaginations and, in their journals, invent a body to complete the baby heads.



Stop 4- Augustín Luengo the Giant

We will next head to the Anthropological Museum, founded by the Spanish scientific pioneer and slightly crazy Dr. Velasco. Besides its diverse cultural artifacts, the museum also hosts the 7 feet and 8.4 inch (2.35 meter) cadaver of Augustín Luengo. Dr. Velasco saw Augustín at a circus and knew that, eventually, he must become part of the museum.. The children will draw the giant, but transform him by imagining a new set of clothes for him.



Stop 5- The Cuesta de Moyano Book Market

Named after the politician who reformed Spain's education system 115 years ago, the Cuesta de Moyano Book Market has been home to thousands of antique and secondhand books for almost 90 years. First, we will play a game of "I Spy" with the statue of Moyano, asking the children to find the figure of the children reading (thanks to Moyano's reform) and queen Isabel II signing Moyano's papers which created the Royal Academy of Political Science. Next, we will browse the vendors' book selections, asking the children to brainstorm ideas for creating their own book cover once we make our last stop at Carmen's workshop.





Stop 6- Carmen La Griega's Workshop

Finally, the children will finish their journals at La Griega's Workshop by decorating the cover so that they can bring home their personalized works of art. If time permits, the children will share one or two of their favorite drawings with the group to show off their budding artistic skills.