

LondonTown.com: New exhibition celebrates great Spanish poets and writers



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The work of Civil War exiles examined in eight-week programme in London.

LONDON, April 29, 2015 -- /[EPR NETWORK](#)/ -- A new exhibition in London will celebrate the remarkable contribution to British cultural life made by Spanish writers and poets exiled in the UK during the Spanish Civil War, exploring the crucial role they played in the Allied cause. *The Waiting Room*, which runs from 28th April to 30th June, is an eight-week programme of art, literature, music and film held at the Cervantes Institute in Eaton Square. For more information on this and other exhibitions opening in London in 2015, see [LondonTown.com](#), where you can also find the latest news on [London hotels](#), restaurants, bars and shops.

The Waiting Room will examine the lives and work of some of Spain's most significant literary figures - Arturo Barea, Luis Cernuda, Manuel Chaves Nogales, Salvador de Madariaga and Rafael Martinez Nadal among others - presenting contemporary perspectives on the contributions they made to identity, culture, politics and society. Barea and Nogales are central to the exhibition. Barea worked in the Foreign Ministry's Press Office where he got to know Ernest Hemingway and other foreign journalists, and during the Siege of Madrid, became known as An Unknown Voice of Madrid, for his nightly broadcasts about daily life in the besieged city. Arriving in London in 1939, he began working for the Spanish section of the BBC World Service and became a prolific writer, producing biographies, short stories, a novel and journalism. A new commission by Jordi Ruiz Cirea, Catalan

photographer and 2012 winner of the Taylor Wessing Portrait Photography Prize, explores the rarely seen archive of his work before it enters the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

Nogales, an anti-fascist and anti-revolutionary editor, journalist and writer left Spain, as did many intellectuals, when the government abandoned Madrid for Valencia. His prodigious literary output includes one of the best-known books on bullfighting, *Juan Belmonte, killer of bulls*; and *Heroes, Beasts and Martyrs of Spain*, considered to be a classic reflection on the suffering of both sides during the Civil War. On the Gestapo hit list for denouncing Nazism, he fled Paris for England as the German army approached the city. In London he became director of The Atlantic Press Agency, wrote a column for the *Evening Standard* and collaborated with the BBC on their overseas broadcasts. He died in 1944 and lies buried in an unmarked grave in west London. Other events will recall other exiles, among them composer Roberto Gerhard and poet Luis Cernud, in a series of talks, concerts and recitals.

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