

THE FALLAS

Festival declared Intangible Cultural
Heritage of Humanity

Common Roots Make You 2019- 2021

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WHAT ARE THE FALLAS? ORIGIN

The Fallas are celebrated in March and for a week the towns of Valencian Community are full of monuments made of wood, cardboard and other materials, to celebrate the spring arrival. Music, gunpowder and traditional clothing are all essential ingredients to make the Fallas a unique festival.

In the XVIII century, the Fallas were pyres of combustible materials that were burned at nightfall on the eve of San José. Little by little, those Fallas evolved over the time and became loaded of critical and ironical sense, nowadays, they reproduced social circumstances reprehensibles.



THE MONUMENT

A “**Falla**” is an artistic monument, usually large composed of figures called “**ninots**”, placed around a bigger one.

As there are monuments higher than 10 metres, a specific technique has been developed to build them. This technique and the materials used have changed over the years. Techniques and materials:

1. Construction using wood sticks: It’s a complex art that requires experience and good materials. Maybe they are the most expensive.



2. Construction using carton and glue: This is the traditional method.

- The first step is to prepare drafts and perhaps a scale model, in order to clarify the theme of the “Falla”.
- The “ninots” are made with clay and when it is dried a plaster mold is made on it.



- The plaster mold is divided into two parts (the front and the back side) and a mix of carton and glue is put on the molds.

When it is dried it is unmold and set on an wood skeleton. The skeleton is vital for the “Falla”, it supports the hole monument until the burning moment.

Finally it is painted.



3. Construction with expanded polystyrene: It is the modern and the cheaper one. Each “ninot” is made directly on white polystyrene and then joined to the wood skeleton. They are polished to eliminate physical imperfections, then recovered with paper and glue and finally painted.

The problem is that the expanded polystyrene produces a black thick smoke when it burns, which is highly polluting.



Sustainable alternatives.

Valencian Government is encouraging the research on new materials more ecofriendly to construct the Fallas. Rice straw has been used to make some “ninots”, it is a sustainable alternative, but it is still on experimental phase.



OUR ECO-FRIENDLY FALLA

The IES Gabriel Ciscar's "Falla" is related with sustainability issues, so it is made with recycle materials, such as wood sticks, carton boxes, newspapers, etc. The participants, students and teachers, are very much aware of the ecological problem related with the fallas' burning, so that we have decided that ours is different, both on materials construction and on burning.



La nostra falla i els seus ninots.



MAIN FALLES EVENTS.

Most of the events happen from 15th to 19th of march, although some of them are spread all over the year.

The Presentation: Ceremony in which the Fallas Queen and her Court are presented to the society.

The Cridà: This is the Fallas inauguration ceremony including light, sound, music and pyrotechnics. The Fallas' major Queen, from the town Hall, invites people to enjoy the festival.



The Plantà: the finished monuments are exhibited in the streets to be visited.

The Mascletà: a pyrotechnic show that last between 5 and 7 minutes where the gunpowder explosions gradually increase with an amazing finale.



The ecològical Mascletà: the students from all Oliva's school simulate a mascletà using plastic bottles and whistles.

The Flowers Offering: . All of the “fallers”, on a street parade, go to offer their bouquetes to the Virgin of each town.



“Cavalcada del ninot”: it consist on a street parade where the different commissions falleres criticise a political situation, the climate change, etc.



Fireworks Displays: this week there are several exhibitions of fireworks at midnight.



The Cremà: It is the most popular event, it is well known throughout the world. The final of the festival is announced by the flames.



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