

El Greco in Toledo: National Monuments of Spain

Fernando Marias



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El Greco, whose real name was Domenikos Theotocopoulus, was born in Crete, trained in High Renaissance Venice and Rome, and moved to Toledo in 1577. He saw himself as the epitome of the artist as courtier and philosopher, a contrast to the craftsman who emphasised the medieval aspects the city, including 'El Espolio' in the cathedral and 'Burial of the Count of Orgaz' in Santo Tome. His landscape paintings of the city are unparalled - and even his monumental rendering of Laocoon refers to his adopted city which, in legend, was founded by the Trojans. This stunningly illustrated title is a highly informative study of El Greco's paintings of the city of Toledo.

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