

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-80057-0 - Velázquez's *Las Meninas*  
Edited by Suzanne L. Stratton-Pruitt  
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## VELÁZQUEZ'S *LAS MENINAS*

Velázquez's *Las Meninas* was sequestered in the Spanish royal collections from 1656, when it was painted, until the opening of the Museo del Prado in 1819. From that moment, it has been one of the most famous masterpieces of Western painting, inspiring many published studies of its remarkable perspectival construction and of its iconography, as well as challenging later generations of artists, from the nineteenth century, to Pablo Picasso, to the present. The essays in this volume do not propose new interpretations of *Las Meninas*; rather, they provide an introduction to the reception history and the critical fortunes of a painting that has received an avalanche of attention from art critics and art historians, geometricians, philosophers, photographers, and semioticians. Together, the six essays trace the discussion of *Las Meninas* through two centuries, providing the reader with a sense of the history of taste and the ever-fluctuating parameters of art appreciation, history, criticism, and theory.

Suzanne Stratton-Pruitt is a scholar of Spanish painting. She has curated many exhibitions of Spanish art, most recently *Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, 1617–1682: Paintings in American Collections*. Editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Velázquez*, Dr. Stratton-Pruitt is also the author of *The Immaculate Conception in Spanish Art*, which received an award for the best book on Spanish art from the American Society for Hispanic Art Historical Studies in 1994.

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(Madrid: Cátedra, 1987), *El andrógino sexuado. Eternos ideales, nuevas estrategias de género* (Madrid: Visor, 1992), *Arte contemporáneo* (Madrid: Historia 16, 1996), and *Tristísimo Warhol* (Madrid: Editorial Siruela, 1999). Dr. de Diego is currently working on a book about uncertainty as a representational strategy in Western visual culture.

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SUZANNE L. STRATTON-PRUITT wrote *The Immaculate Conception in Spanish Art* (Cambridge University Press, 1994), which received an award for the best book on Spanish art published that year in English from the American Society for Hispanic Art Historical Studies. She has curated many exhibitions of Spanish art, including, most recently, *Bartolomé Esteban Murillo 1617–1682: Paintings in American Collections* organized by the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth and also seen at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 2002 (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Publishers). Dr. Stratton-Pruitt recently served as guest editor for the *Cambridge Companion to Velázquez* (2002). For her contribution to the wider understanding of Spanish culture, she was awarded the “Lazo de Dama de la Orden de Isabel la Católica” by the government of Spain.

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