



CRAFTWORK and Its Contemporary



CRAFTWORK

and Its Contemporary Manifestations during Holy Week Celebrations

SLOVENIA CROATIA FORTUGAL SPAIN

Holy Week traditions are closely linked to the artisanal and artistic creations of their territories. Over the course of centuries, these **workshops** have provided a tangible heritage that is part of history, give shape and determine the idiosyncrasy of Holy Week and Easter.

They are, therefore, a living heritage that represents a sign of identity for the diverse traditions and its distinctive features, which in some cases have evolved over the years giving way to **contemporary artistic manifestations.**

Nowadays, craftmanship is a know-how that results from the history and the art that preserve handmade works in a world almost completely industrialized.

Embroideries, chandlery, sculpture, religious images, gildings, precious metal works, clothing, ritual offerings, or musical instruments are just some of the many different existing examples that vary, from place to place, depending on local characteristics and traditions.

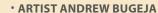
The purpose of this guide is to present and give more visibility to the **workshops** that have inherited these traditions that remain and represent a vital key piece for the continuity and preservation of this heritage. It is worth mentioning that in many cases, the workshops can be visited to get to know firsthand this living treasure of our history.

MALTA



Birgu's Holy Week most representative celebration is the procession of carved statues and floral and textile ornaments that symbolize the Passion. During this period of the year, there are also processions that allow us to see a characteristic representation of the crafts and religious art linked to the town's Easter and Passion traditions.





Restauration and manufacturing of statues, custom made designs and clothing, street-art decoration

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- ♀ 42 Hilda Tabone Street Birgu or Bottega at Buttuniera Street Marsascala. Birgu







SLOVENIA



Škofja Loka Passion Play is represented during a procession through the streets and squares of the medieval city with the participation of more than 900 local amateur artist. The representation is so complex that it is performed exclusively every six years. Medieval guilds played a very relevant role in Škofja Loka during the Middle Ages, they were the center of social and economic life in the community. They were conformed by a diverse assembly of numerous traders and craftsmen and therefore were very active in Škofja Loka Passion Play. In fact, their presence can still be seen today through their remaining artisanal pieces.

The traditional sweet enjoyed in Skofja Loka during this celebration is a honey roll that is included in the list of Slovenian Intangible Cultural Heritage and has inspired its own artisanal works.

Artisanal traditions, closely linked to Skofja Loka Passion Play, are currently preserved through the DUO Škofja Loka Arts and Crafts Center, where information about artisans and workshops that continue working today can be obtained.



· ARTS & CRAFTS CENTRE DUO ŠKOFJA LOKA

Educational programs specialized in arts and crafts

- www.centerduo.eu/en
- ♀ rokodelskicenter@visitskofjaloka.si
- **4** +386 (0) 45 112 460 /+386 (0) 40 769 521

PETRA PLESTENJAK PODLOGAR

Wood carvings and small honey rolls

- **★** petraplestenjakrocnorezbarjenje
- petra.plestenjak@gmail.com
- **L** +386 (0) 41 503 749

· CIRILA ŠMID

Manufacture of Drazgose rolls (handmade bigger honey rolls, made without molds)

- www.duo-kunsthandwerk.eu/skofja_loka_sl/detail/109
- □ drazgoski.kruhki@gmail.com
- Na Kresu 8 4228, Železniki
- ****+386 (0) 4 5 101 410 / +386 (0) 41 952 688

JOŽE KRMELJ

Metal Work

- www.kovastvo-krmelj.si
- info@kovastvo-krmelj.si
 info@kovastvo-krmelj.si
- ∇ Krmelj Jože s.p. Log nas Škofja Loko 13
- **4** +386 (0) 45 109 500

BORIS LUKAN

Wood carving of Passion Crosses

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ANDREJ OZEBEK

Wood carvings of the Holy Spirit

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• ALCALÁ LA REAL (JAÉN)

The different types of floats, with mimed or dramatized representations or proclamations, are the main sign of identity of Holy Week at Alcalá la Real. These floats are dramatized representations escorted by figures wearing masks (the rostrillos) and colorful clothing and heralds that cry out pitiful songs characterized by peculiar melodies halfway between poetry and prose. These songs have been transmitted from generation to generation and are accompanied by the sound of hoarse trumpets. Alcalá la Real was the birthplace of religious sculptors Pablo de Rojas and Martínez Montañés, great masters of the Andalusian school of sculpture during the Baroque period. However, the main artisanal tradition still existing in the town is closely linked to textile handicraft.





ARTESANÍA FLORENCIA

Mantillas (shawls) and tulle embroideries

- artesaniaflorencia.com
- O C/ Doña Garoza, 1
- ****+34 953 583 044
- EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP, COFRADÍA DE LA ESPERANZA (CONFRATERNITY OF HOPE)
- □ filopezrosales@gmail.com
- ♀ C/ La Tejuela, 8, (sótanos)
- **L** +34 618 490 104







BAENA (CÓRDOBA)

Baena's Holy Week has been declared a Festivity of National Touristic Interest. Its ritual celebrations are very varied, and include processional floats as well as dramatized representations of the Scriptures. Its main sign of identity is the figure of the Jew wearing a helmet with white (Judío Coliblanco) or black (Judío Colinegro) horse's manes and a drum. This last is so relevant in fact, that it was declared an intangible cultural heritage in 2018. The Jew accompanies all the processions and the liturgical celebrations that take place during Holy Week at Baena. This figure has developed diverse local artisanal crafts that keep old traditions alive, namely all those regarding the manufacturing of the costume of the Jew, his metal helmet and, most of all, his drum.



BAENA SONIDO

Manufacturing of artisanal drums

- baenasonido.es
- baenasonido@baenasonido.es
- Av. Castro del Río, 53
- **4**+34 957 691 343

• ENRIQUE LUQUE LUQUE

Manufacturing of artisanal drums

- ♀ C/ Poeta Vicente Alexandre, 30
- ****+34 957 670 309

TIENDA COFRADE NUCETE

Holy Week pieces and embroideries

- ♀ C/ Cardenal Herranz Casado, 9
- **4** +34 636 658 697





• CABRA (CÓRDOBA)

Cabra's Holy Week has been declared a Festivity of National Touristic Interest and continues with an ancient tradition. It counts with 29 brotherhoods and brotherhoods of penitents. Among the peculiarities that enrich the celebration, there is the tradition of the Jews and the Romans, the sound of the buisine or bumblebees (long trumpets that burst with a deep sound each time the float rises), the sound of the drum known as rompevelos (veil breaker) and the saetas (sacred song in flamenco style).

Cabra counts with two renown artisanal chandleries that manufacture altar candles, wax flowers, and votive candles for many churches and celebrations locally and in the whole country.



HERMANOS LAMA CHANDLERY

- ♥ C/ Vado del Moro, 14
- **L**+34 957 520 437

RIDAURA CANDLES

Pol. Industrial Atalaya. Parcela 23-24

4+34 957 520 210







• CARMONA (SEVILLE)

During Carmona's Holy Week, the monumentality of the town itself constitutes an exceptional setting for the procession of its eight confraternities. Its magnificent religious heritage, composed by silverwork and sculptures of religious images, stands out. Among these pieces we find the oldest one that processions during Holy Week in Andalucia: Our Lord of Sorrows, created in 1521 by Jorge Fernández Alemán.

Among all the craftwork linked to Holy Week, it is worth mentioning the artisanal work dedicated to the preservation of the important heritage kept by confraternities, which require different trades such as embroidery, woodwork, and wood gilding.

• ESTUDIO DE ARTE Y RESTAURACIÓN

Preservation and restauration of works of art

♀ C/ Prim, 10

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· MIGUEL ÁNGEL VALVERDE JIMÉNEZ

Sculptor of religious images

OC/ Octavio, 15

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MIGUEL ÁNGEL VILLA PÉREZ

Sculptor

www.villaescultura.wordpress.com

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ÉCIJA (SEVILLE)

At Écija, Holy Week stands out because of its baroque style and the beauty of its floats and images. The wood carved sculptures created by prominent religious sculptors such as Juan de Mesa, Montes de Oca, or Gaspar de Águila, are hundreds of years old. Fourteen brotherhoods take part in the processions.

The embroidery workshop of Jesús Rosado Borja is a jewel not only because of the old palace where it is located, but also because it preserves the know-how required to manufacture the traditional embroidery used in religious art, as well as the trousseau of floats and sculptures. It has also become a relevant representative of innovation and contemporary art, since its designs are used by haute couture houses such as Dior.



JESÚS RICHARTE SCULPTURE AND RELIGIOUS SCULPTURE WORKSHOP

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- ♀ C/ Cánovas del castillo 15-A (local)
- **** +34 661 714 728
- JESÚS ROSADO BORJA EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP Contemporary artist
 - C/ Zamorano, 36
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OLORCA (MURCIA)

Lorca's Holy Week was declared a Festivity of International Touristic Interest in 2007 and owns the first twelve embroideries that were declared Bien de Interés Cultural (good of cultural interest) in Spain. The origin of this refined embroidery dates back to the 16th century and is linked to the construction of the collegiate church, which tradition has been kept through the years until today.

The handmade embroidery technique using silk and gold is used to represent the different characters of the Old and the New Testament that march during the procession representing the Passion (Roman emperors, groups of Jews, Egyptians, Acadians, and Babylonians) and to dress the religious images with a variated trousseau, namely the capes of the Virgins and the tunics of the Christs.

The Spanish confiscation during the 19th century gave way to the refounding of traditional confraternities and the creation of the Six Floats (Seis Pasos), which are known using their religious names as well as their characteristic color. In Lorca, confraternities are called Pasos. They are in charge of dramatizing the procession of the Passion representing – on the spot – different scenes that recreate the story of the Salvation and the triumph of Christianism.

Embroidery workshops are proper artistic creation spaces where, through their managers or their creative boards, beautiful and valuable embroidered handmade pieces of silk and gold are manufactured. Some of the confraternities also have their own museums (muBBla, Embroideries Museum of the White Float and MASS, Holy Week Museum of the Blue Float), where they showcase their rich heritage composed by shawls, capes, tunics, and banners.

VIRGEN DE LA AMARGURA EMBROIDERY WORKS-HOP. PASO BLANCO (WHITE FLOAT)

♥ C/ Carril de Caldereros, 3♣+34 968 461 813

PASO AZUL EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP

♥ C/ Cuesta de San Francisco, s/n \$\ +34 968 472 077

PASO MORADO EMBROIDERIES FROM LORCA

○ C/ Nogalte, 43►+34 607 379 508

PASO ENCARNADO EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP

♥ C/ Eulogio Periago, 2 L+34 968 472 456

SILVIA TERUEL EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP

♥ Travesía Ramón y Cajal, 14
 ♣+34 650 940 249





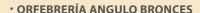


The town's most representative hallmark is La Santería: the special way the floats – or thrones as they are called locally – are carried, as well as the varied and extraordinary religious imagery. The santeros (bearers) carry the religious images on their shoulders. The santeros are dressed with tunics and do not cover their faces. They follow very strict norms of respect and solemnity and walk following a drum roll and the sound of the Torralbo (a short bugle call) that announces the arrival of some processions.

Lucena's goldsmithing and bronze workshops are very well known. The most characteristic piece is the velón de Lucena (Lucena's candlestick), in fact it is the symbol of the city. The religious art pieces adorn the thrones of many of the Holy Week floats belonging to Spanish brotherhoods and from abroad. We can also find examples of Lucena's candlesticks and ornaments in many countries around the world.

The sculptures of Francisco Javier López del Espino should also be noticed, not only his production of religious art, also his contemporary work. In fact, his creations have received diverse national and international awards.





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BRONCES DURÁN

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TALLER DE IMAGINERÍA FRANCISCO JAVIER LÓPEZ DEL ESPINO Artista contemporáneo

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ORIHUELA (ALICANTE)

Among all the crafts linked to Orihuela's Holy Week celebrations it is worth highlighting precious metal work, namely the family saga that originated with Mariano Martínez García and that continues today with the work of his great grandson, Benedicto Martínez Melgarejo. This workshop has created several of the thrones used in the floats of Orihuela's Holy Week, such as La Convocatoria, as well as other thrones, insignias, altar candle and candlesticks.

Wood carving is currently represented by the brothers Vicente and Fernando Gimeno Ferrer. José Francisco Peñalver López is the main representative of the gilding decorative technic.

For embroideries, before Orihuela relied on the work of nuns of cloistered convents. Today, banners, flags and insignias come from the workshops of Ascensión Pérez Córdoba, Dori González Chumillas or Carmen Perales Hernández.

Tailor shops originated from the old alfayates (tailors). Several of them specialize in satin and velvet clothes for Holy Week such as María del Carmen Martínez Grau and Escudero Fiestas tailor shops.



BENEDICTO MARTÍNEZ MELGAREJO

Metal work and precious metal work

© Carretera del Pedregal, 23

GLORIA VALERO JOYAS

Badges, miniatures, medals

- □ centralvalero@hotmail.es
- Q C/ Ramón y Cajal, 25
- **4**+34 680 93 72 11

SASTRERÍA ESCUDERO

Nazarene costumes, banners, embroideries

- www.escuderofiestas.com
- QC/San Agustín, 23

VICENTE GIMENO

Carver

♥ C/ Hospital, 7





OSUNA (SEVILLE)

One of the most outstanding features of Osuna's Holy Week is its excellent wood carving sculptures, created by artisans such as Juan de Mesa, Vicente de Tena, or José de Mora. Added to this artistic work, there is also the devotion and effort of the town's people, that make a solemn manifestation of this religious celebration.

Osuna maintains an artisanal tradition linked to these celebrations, such as wood carving and restoration.



TALLISTA JOSÉ CARLOS LIGERO

Wood carving and gilding

- josecarlosligero.es
- i.cligero@gmail.com

 i.cligero@gmail.com
- ♀ C/ Jaén, 4
- ****+34 676 897 309









PRIEGO DE CÓRDOBA (CÓRDOBA)

Priego de Córdoba's Holy Week includes magnificent floats and extraordinary wood carvings. The solemnity of its processions opposes the popular celebration that takes place during Holy Friday, when thousands of people long to carry the Nazarene to the Calvary, where He will bless the thousands of hornazos (breads) taken before Him by His devotees.

There are excellent artisans at Priego, where namely a group of wood carvers and sculptors stands out. They are mainly dedicated to religious sculptures and all the crafts the require, such as gilding and restoration.

HERMANOS CUBERO

Sculpture and religious sculpture

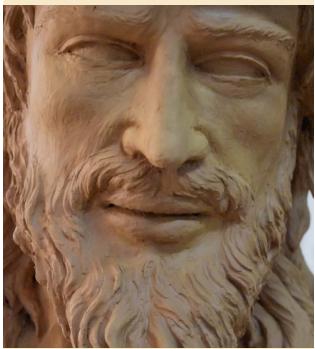
- www.tallacofrade.com
- ▶ hermanoscuberorivera@gmail.com
- ♀ C/ Perú, 14
- ****+34 957 701 474 / +34 626 061 988

ANTONIO MANUEL SERRANO ÁVILA

Wood carving, gilding, sculpture, and restauration

- □ anseav@hotmail.com
- ♀ Callejón de Gálvez, 26, bajo
- **L** +34 666 620 793 / +34 625 447 190







PUENTE GENIL (CÓRDOBA)

Puente Genil's Holy Week, which is locally known as La Mananta, is one of the most peculiar representations of popular religiosity. The most original and representative element are the more than 400 biblical figures that parade alongside the 24 confraternities. They represent different roles taken from the Old and the New Testamens, as well as religious symbols and allegories.

Local handcrafts are mainly dedicated to Holy Week, including the creation of rostrillos (masks) for biblical figures or all the accessories needed for their characterization, such as badges, shields, diadems, helmets, swords, or scepters.

The town is also the residence of the last artisan dedicated to the creation of feather headpieces and ornaments in Spain.





ANTONIO DELGADO RUÍZ

Manufacturing of feather headpieces

C/ Antonio Baena, 12

4 +34 957 607 676 / +34 653 824 946

JESÚS GÁLVEZ SILVA

Manufacturing of rostrillos (masks)

♀ C/ Nueva, 39

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SIGLO BARROCO

Workshop of religious images and precious metal work

- www.siglobarroco.com
- info@siglobarroco.com
- ♥ C/ Manuel de Falla, 6
- ****+34 957 601 852

JAVIER AGUILAR CEJAS

Painting and Holy Week posters design

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- □ javieraguilarpintor@gmail.com
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VICENTE ESTRADA RIVAS

Wood carving

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· CLEMENTE RIVAS JIMÉNEZ

Painting, sculpture, and precious metal work

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- □ clementerivas@hotmail.com
- C/ Madre de Dios, 9
- +34 666 688 338





OUTRERA (SEVILLE)

During Utrera's Holy Week we have the chance of enjoying the processions of 13 confraternities and seeing the religious and artistic legacy of the brotherhoods, certain of which were founded between the 16th and the 18th centuries.

Artisanal tradition in Utrera is largely connected to its religious celebrations. There are workshops dedicated to sculpture and gilding, as well as embroidery workshops. Painting also has a prominent position in contemporary religious art, since there are artists specialized in posters for the Holy Week, such as Antonio Rodríguez Ledesma, who implements an innovative point of view combining more modern techniques.



• TALLER DE BORDADOS INMACULADA GARCÍA-RAYO

Embroidery and restoration of fabrics

- bordadosgarciarayo@hotmail.com
- Plaza de los Ángeles, 21
- ****+34 661 130 227

• TALLER DE ESCULTURA ENCARNACIÓN HURTADO

Sculpture and gilding

- www.encarnacionhurtado.com
- ♀ C/ Álvarez Quintero, 20
- **** +34 677 227 892

ANTONIO RODRÍGUEZ LEDESMA PAINTING WORKSHOP

Contemporary artist

Holy Week posters design

- www.youtube.com/@antonioRLedesma
- ≥ info@antoniorquezledesma.com
- ♥ C/ Álvarez Quintero, 23
- ****+34 661 111 719





VIVEIRO (LUGO)

Holy Week celebrations are one of the most relevant dates in the calendar of the town of Viveiro. They are in fact the most important Easter festivities in Galicia. Many floats, several of them articulated and of great artistic interest, have a leading role in the solemn processions, during which confraternities and brotherhoods fill with religiosity and an intimate atmosphere the streets of this Galician town.

The local artisanal workshops linked to this tradition are in part responsible of the preservation of the heritage of the confraternities.





ÓSCAR RODRÍGUEZ

Precious metal work and jewelry. Restauration and design of religious art pieces

There is a permanent exhibition in the first floor of the workshop. Guided visits under request

L +34 982 550 057







PORTUGAL



During Holy Week, the city is decorated with motives inspired by the Passion and the floats and the altars of the streets fill with flowers and lights that complement the lavishness of the churches. Braga's Holy Week celebration craftwork is tightly linked to embroideries, wood miniatures, the farricocos or the famous votive candles manufactured implementing the know-how of several generations.

The farricocos are barefoot men dressed with purple tunics tight at the waist and their head covered, they carry torches or rattles and announce that the procession is coming.

MANUELA CAMELLO CRAFT WORKSHOP

Manufacture of items for farricocos

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PORTUGAL

OIDANHA-A-NOVA

At Idanha-a-Nova, the Adufe is an integral part of local celebrations. The Adufe is a squared drum conformed by two membranes (skins) that is linked with magical religious rituals and ancient festive dances. It originates from rural shepherding cultures and was introduced in the Iberian Peninsula during the 13th and 14th centuries.

During Holy Week, its presence is more noticeable mainly during Holy Saturday (Hallelujah Saturday in Portugal) – when the devoted sing the Alvíssaras to the Resurrection of Our Lord –, all through Saint John's Eve. It has a prominent presence during one of the most colorful religious celebrations of the region: the religious pilgrimage of Our Lady of Almurtão.

This musical instrument, that is usually played by women, was played in rural shepherding areas from Trásos-Montes to the Baixo Alentejo. Still today, it is very usual to hear it during the romerías (religious pilgrimages) of Beira Baixa. It is currently manufactured mainly at the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova.





MARIA JOSÉ MARTINS FARROPAS CAROÇO Adufe bags, adufes

- ♀ Zona Nova de Expansão, lote 95, 2º dto
- ****+351 962 647 438

MARIA TERESA FERRER CORDEIRO CARIA

Adufe bags, adufes

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