

Diego Rodríguez de Silva y Velázquez

What did he create?

- Diego Velázquez painted **portraits, scenes from everyday life, and historical and religious moments**
- He was famous for painting the **royal family of Spain**, including King Philip IV
- His paintings often looked **very real** with clever use of **light, shadow, and perspective**
- One of his most famous paintings is “**Las Meninas**”, showing a princess, her maids, and even himself painting in the background!



Childhood

- Born in **Seville, Spain, in 1599**
- Came from a **middle-class family**
- Loved to draw and paint from a very young age
- Grew up in a city full of **art, culture, and trade**

Education

- Started learning art around the age of **11**
- Apprenticed with artist **Francisco Pacheco**, who later became his father-in-law
- Learned how to **mix colours, draw accurately, and use oil paints**
- Studied **classical techniques** and the **use of perspective**
- Inspired by **Italian and Flemish painters**

Career

- Became a **professional painter** in Seville before the age of 20
- Moved to **Madrid** and was soon appointed **court painter** to King Philip IV

- Painted many **portraits of royals, nobles, and court life**
- Visited **Italy** to study famous artworks and improve his skills
- Became **one of the most respected painters** in Europe
- His work influenced later artists like **Manet and Picasso**

Quotes by Velázquez

“I would rather be the first painter of common things than second in higher art.”

“I strive to paint things not as they are, but as they appear to the eye.”

Art



Equestrian Portrait of Prince Balthasar Charles



Las Meninas



Old woman cooking eggs



The spinners