

Have you ever heard of a *ninot*?

Ninots are each of the satirical figures that make up the *fallas* (sculptures) displayed during the annual Fallas Festival held in March in Valencia.

The culmination of the celebration is the burning of the artistic constructions that crowd the streets in preceding days, structures built over the course of the year.

However, since 1934, two *ninots* chosen by popular vote have been saved from being burnt, and form the basis of the Fallas Museum in Valencia.

In addition to presenting these representatives of Las Fallas, the museum shows how they have been made since the early days with papier mache and wax, although now they can be made of polystyrene.

The techniques used to set up the *fallas*, and posters and photographs from the history of this festival are also on display, which has been on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list since 2016.

While the best option is of course to experience Las Fallas during the week of the event itself, if you can't visit in March, the Fallas Museum is a great way to discover this unique tradition, which is sometimes difficult to grasp if you don't see it in person.



Photos show both the life size ninots and some preliminary models, also posters from the event and some the 'mayors' - teenage girls who act as mascot for the week and who have their portraits painted.

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