

## EXHIBITION GUIDE THE IRRIGATED FARMLAND AND THE MARSHLAND: THE IMAGINARIES

Here we reflect on the preconceived images that the majority of the population may have on the Valencian irrigated farmlands and the marshlands.

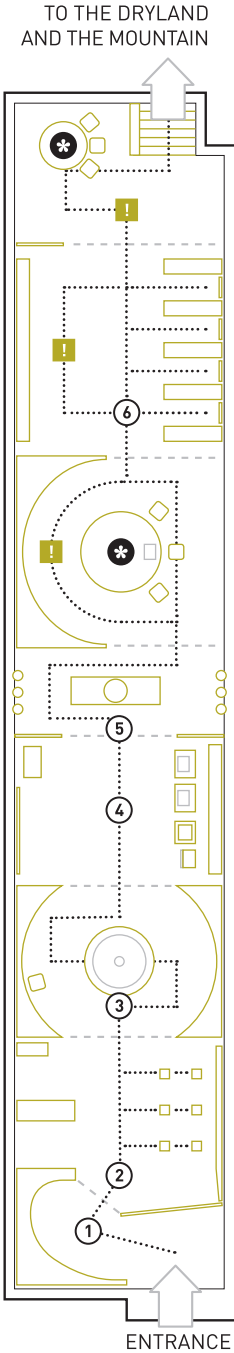
We propose you to look beyond, to observe how the preconceived ideas we have about some things can be hiding a completely different reality. The clichés may have real elements, but they work as blindfolds concealing what is behind.



Museu Valencià d'Etnologia



# EXHIBITION PLAN



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- ① TO BE OR NOT TO BE
  - ② THE IRRIGATED FARMLAND. A PARADISE?
  - ③ LAND OF *BARRACAS*
  - ④ EXPORT OR DIE
  - ⑤ A SOUVENIR FROM VALENCIA
  - ! PANORAMIC IRRIGATED FARMLAND
  - ⑥ TOOLS AND HANDS
  - ! RICE LAND
  - ! MORE THAN A DISH
- 
- \* Resting Point
  - ! Look!



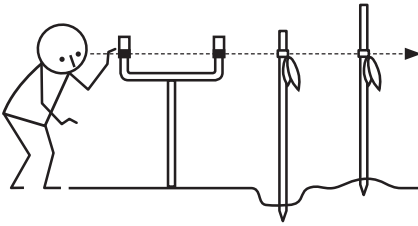
In the digital frames you can see pictures of other irrigated farmlands around the world, and on the wall there are the Valencian villages which have areas of irrigated farmlands.



Just turning around you will find a very modern grove of fruit trees, that shows you images of the Valencian marshlands and irrigated farmlands.

There are more irrigated farmlands than the ones in the city of València, and more marshlands other than the coastal lagoon of la Albufera.

To irrigate the farmlands, it is fundamental to level them. Today this task is done by tractors with laser rays but formerly it was done with hydraulic levellers like this one.



**Did you know that...?**

*Regar a manta*  
(to water like a blanket)  
is the technique of flooding the farmland using only the force of gravity. It requires a large amount of water and a well-levelled terrain.

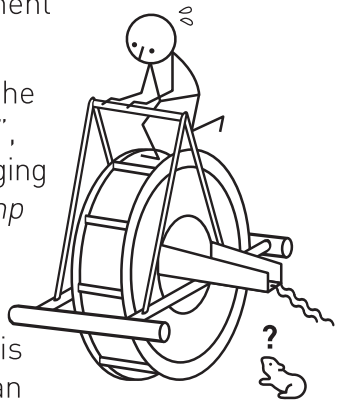


The agriculture in the irrigated farmlands requires the collective management of the most precious resource: water. This is why we have put these two systems of watering time measurement as if they were jewels.

One is a sand clock and the other one a “cooking pot”, used in the villages belonging to *Vall de Segó* in the *Camp de Morvedre* region.

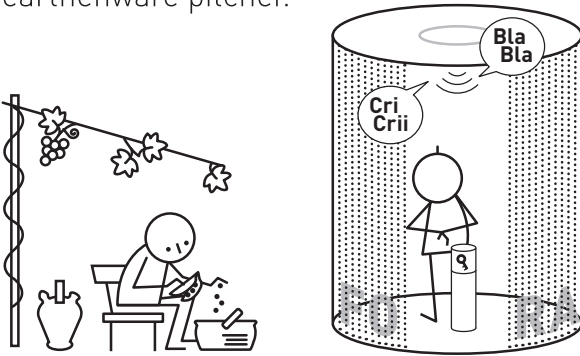
This type of waterwheel is called *bombillo* and it is an example of the ingenuity that allowed the supply of water to the farmlands in the southern regions of the *Comunitat Valenciana*. There remain only a few so this one is a very important piece of the museum’s collection.

You see, there was no need for going to the gym to work out!



In the irrigated farmlands, the interior and exterior of the houses are not separated spaces.

The curtain made of chains represents the blurred transition between inside and outside in a traditional Mediterranean house. Inside, you can find the house keys and typical noises of our domestic life. Outside, there is the neon vine, the chair and the earthenware pitcher.



### Did you know that...?

In the XIX century, 200 *barraques* were burned in el Palmar and 187 in el Cabanyal (both settlements near the city of València). In 1884 the Valencian City Council prohibited the construction of new *barraques*.

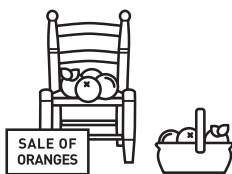
On the left you can see the image of some women working in a fruit storehouse. The selection of the products and the preparation of the boxes was, and still is, a work almost always done by women.

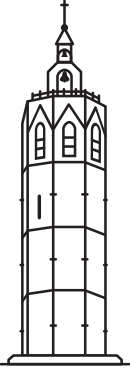
On the image we have put some of the labels that have been used in the exportation of Valencian products. They are fantastic, aren't they?



On the right you can see a chair; that represents the furniture that it is usually located at the door of the house.

On it there are some potatoes, onions, beans or oranges. This is the way farmers have to tell the neighbours that they have farm products available to sell.

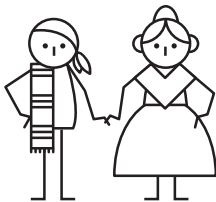




Sometimes, Valencian people, like many other people in other cultural realities, questions the topics attached to them. However, we should ask ourselves if we participate and empower the creation and survival of these cultural topics. As an example, the figures you can see are souvenirs we got at a shop in the city centre of València.

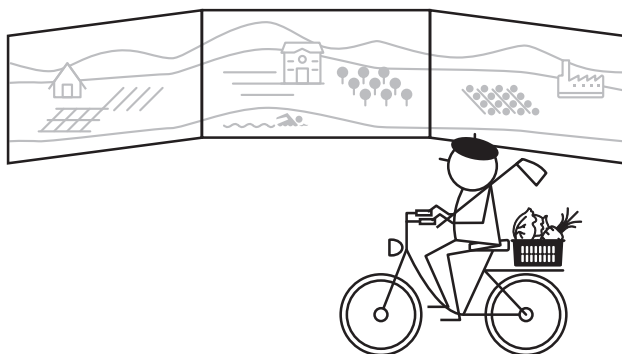
**Did you know that...?**

In 2019, 9'5 million tourists from foreign countries visited the Comunitat Valenciana.



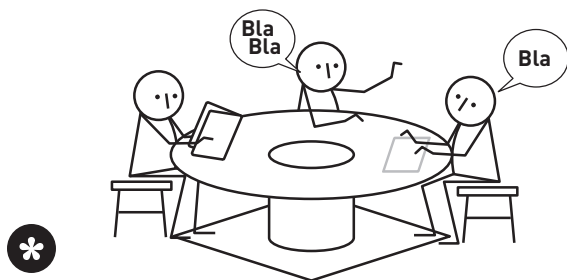


## PANORAMIC IRRIGATED FARMLAND



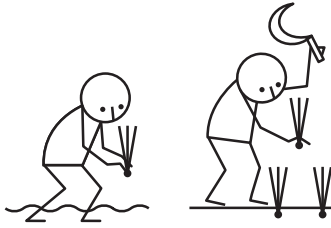
### Did you know that...?

In the last 50 years, we have lost more than 65% of the Valencian irrigated farmlands.



Take a break. In the meantime you can enjoy this panoramic recreation of the irrigated farmland or check the pictures and oral memory accounts related to the life in the Valencian irrigated farmlands and the marshlands.

This space is also used for meetings and to carry out didactic activities.

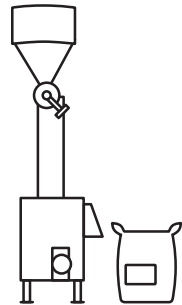


The rice is part of the Valencian identity, and hence, we have devoted the biggest showcase to it.

Above you can enjoy at the beautiful and changing landscapes created by the rice farmlands.

In the central space you have the work of each stage of the agricultural cycle of rice, as they were before and as they are now.

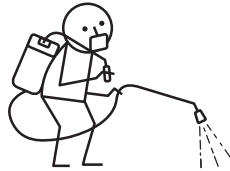
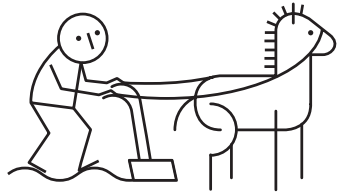
Below there are the tools used for cultivating the rice.



So far, you have gone across an exhibition based on a conceptual museography with a particular scenography. Hence, you may have the impression that there are not many objects exhibited.



In the room you are about to enter we tried to compensate for this possible lack. In the five perpendicular showcases we show you a large group of tools used in the farmlands. They are organised according to the work that had to be done in every stage of the agricultural cycle.



**Did you know that...?**

Some of the Valencian farmland tools related to very specific activities have been created by local blacksmiths.

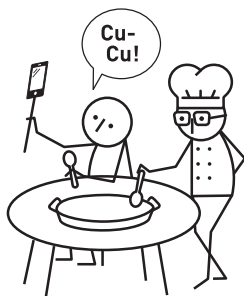


## MORE THAN A DISH



You can take a seat at the table and take a selfie as if you were eating *paella* with Claude Lévi-Strauss. No, he is not the inventor of the jeans!

He was a notable French anthropologist, founder of structural anthropology, who wrote studies such as *The raw and the cooked* or *The origin of the table manners*.



TO THE DRYLAND  
AND THE MOUNTAIN



Take the backpack. We are going for an excursion to the Valencian inland territory.

Using the staircase, we have simulated the contour lines which indicate how we are moving upwards. We climb up, surrounded by place names of mountain chains, plots of land, rivers, ravines, etc.