



MÁLAGA LOVES CORAL GABLES

BY LALONE

I am pleased to present a culturally significant project aimed at strengthening the ties between Málaga, Spain, and Coral Gables, United States, through art. This project involves the creation of two monumental murals that pay tribute to the unique identities of both cities, highlighting their histories, iconic figures, and artistic connection.

The Málaga mural celebrates the city's essence as the birthplace of Pablo Picasso, incorporating his cubist style with a warm palette of yellows, reds, and blues, undulating shapes that evoke the sea, and elements blending Roman, Arab ruins, and contemporary museums. The Coral Gables mural honors its founder, George Merrick, reflecting his vision through a similar cubist approach, featuring vibrant colors, palm trees, and stylized architecture. Special attention has been given to ensuring that both figures, Picasso and Merrick, share the same proportion and size, symbolizing their equality in this artistic narrative and enhancing the visual dialogue between them. Both designs share a common inspiration, creating a powerful visual impact that highlights the mutual admiration between Picasso, focused on his palette, and Merrick, who gazes at him with a smile.

The monumental scale of these murals amplifies their influence, transforming the urban landscape into a dynamic space that encourages reflection and cultural exchange. Their grand dimensions not only enrich the scenery of both cities but also project their cultural heritage onto the global stage, captivating the attention of residents and visitors alike. This project offers a unique opportunity to foster international collaboration and leave a lasting artistic legacy.

I am deeply eager and excited about the prospect of bringing this initiative to fruition. I have full confidence in the transformative potential of these images to create a significant impact and hope you share my enthusiasm and vision for its realization.

Sincerely,

Lalone

Coral Gables Wall



Málaga Wall



Coral Gables Wall



1. **Biltmore Hotel** – Major hotel icon of the city, an example of Mediterranean Revival architecture.
2. **Portrait and sculpture of George Merrick** – Founder and promoter of the city.
3. **The Colonnade and its chromatic reinterpretation** – The semicircular building with a classical portico, reimagined in vibrant colors. It unites the historical solemnity of coral stone with the vitality of the present.
4. **Green and orange trolley** – Retro transportation of Coral Gables, with its vintage aesthetic and Picassian touch (integrated eye), transformed into a visual icon.
5. **Nature and landscape.**
 - .Royal palms – Distinctive plant element of the garden city and the subtropical landscape.
 - .Banyan tree – A colorful figure that evokes the flamboyant tree and the lush vegetation in the urban design of Coral Gables.
 - .Luminous sky with graphic sun – Emblem of the radiant climate and outdoor life in South Florida.
6. **“CORAL GABLES” graffiti** – Statement of local pride, merging historical tradition and contemporary mural culture.
7. **Childhood scene with classic cars** – Black-and-white image of girls and vintage cars that recalls everyday life in the mid-20th century.
8. **Venetian Pool** – A unique public pool, created in a coral rock quarry, with ornamental arcades and turquoise water.

The mural fuses the identity of Miami with the language of Picasso. The turquoise, coral, yellow, and magenta tones evoke beaches, neon, and sunsets, while the Art Deco architecture and urban customs (strolling, street art, cultural diversity) represent the city's vibrant life.

This world is reinterpreted in a Picassian key through eyes on objects and buildings, which turn the environment into a living organism; fragmentation and collage, blending black-and-white photos with color; and bold black outlines and flat planes, with strong graphic impact. Added to this are the geometries and biomorphic curves, the totemic motifs, and the temporal play that overlays archival black-and-white with the vibrant present..

Málaga Wall



1. “Málaga loves Coral Gables” sign. A message that emotionally links Málaga with Coral Gables; it serves as the axis of the mural and the city’s calling card.

2. Central figure of the Málaga-born painter Picasso

Depicted in the act of painting, as the driving force of the mural.

3. Sun, warm sky, and palm trees. Icons of the Mediterranean climate of the Costa del Sol.

4. La Farola (harbor lighthouse). Maritime symbol of Málaga, located at Muelle Uno; here shown beside the sea and palm trees.

5. El Cubo – Centre Pompidou Málaga. Represented “in Picassian style” with eyes and patches.

6. Roman Theatre and Alcazaba. Ruins and fortress walls on the right: historical layers of the city.

7. Marqués de Larios Street. The most emblematic pedestrian artery of the city.

8. Málaga Cathedral. Simplified Renaissance/Baroque volumes allude to “La Manquita.”

9. Wavy pergola of the Port (Palmeral de las Sorpresas)

The white canopy embodies the contemporary waterfront promenade and Málaga’s openness to the sea.

10. Jábega boats with “Phoenician eye” Traditional fishing boats painted with protective eyes; a Málaga icon blending Mediterranean, Phoenician, and fishing heritage.

11. Málaga biznaga .A spherical bouquet of jasmine threaded onto a cane: the fragrance of summer and a popular symbol of the fair.

12. Málaga wine. A nod to gastronomy and the culture of tapeo.

Espeto de sardinas. Fish skewered on a stick by the sea: a tribute to beach bars and local gastronomy.

13. Flamenco figure . Part of Málaga’s Andalusian cultural imagery.

The mural combines a warm palette of yellows, reds, and blues with undulating shapes that evoke the sea and the festive energy of Málaga. Against this backdrop, the Picassian universe unfolds: eyes that animate objects and architectures, cubist fragmentation, black outlines with intense color planes, swift linear figures, and a constant dialogue between photography and painting in a collage style. All of this transforms the city into a living organism, narrated in Picasso’s language. The result is a biographical metaphor, where Málaga is presented as the painter’s original workshop and, at the same time, as a space that blends tradition (Roman and Arab ruins) and modernity (contemporary museums), projecting itself to the world through its most universal son.

Dialogue between the two works



The two murals engage in a vibrant dialogue that reflects both their individual cultural identities and a shared artistic vision. The Málaga mural, rich with Picasso's cubist influence, showcases the city's festive energy and historical depth through undulating forms, warm colors, and fragmented architectural elements like Roman and Arab ruins, alongside Picasso's iconic motifs—eyes, bold outlines, and collage-like integrations of photography and painting. This creates a living narrative of Málaga as Picasso's birthplace, blending tradition and modernity. Opposing it, the Coral Gables mural mirrors this cubist inspiration, weaving George Merrick's legacy into a tapestry of the city's history. The smiling Merrick, depicted gazing toward Picasso, suggests a mutual admiration, while the latter's focused demeanor as he presents his palette symbolizes a cultural exchange. Shared elements—vivid colors, geometric shapes, and stylized figures—unite the murals, with palm trees, buildings, and abstract forms echoing each other across the divide. The cubist style serves as a bridge, merging Málaga's artistic heritage with Coral Gables' foundational story, turning the murals into a dynamic conversation between two cities linked by creativity and vision.

