

## *Track 5. CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM.*

We are now at the door of the Contemporary Arts Museum of Vilafamés. This is an elegant palatial building, civil gothic, built in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was the residence of the royal representative in the town, Batlle, and is hence known as the Palace of Batlle. Its organization is typical of the Valencian gothic house-palaces, with a half-basement, mezzanine, main floor and attic, besides an interior patio with a rectangular tower. On the façade, which is smooth, there are structural elements that are typical of the tradition of Aragón.

The building was acquired in 1971 by the Provincial Council of Castellón, and restoration began in order to lodge the Museum of Popular Contemporary Art, a pioneering initiative in Spain, implemented by the art critic Vicente Aguilera Cerní. This initiative was conceived of as a collective enterprise, with the town of Vilafamés as the recipient. The town became a nucleus of cultural irradiation, with culture understood as communal and interdisciplinary patrimony. Its function was the cultural and touristic promotion of Vilafamés and of the province of Castellón, as well as contributing to the elevation, preservation and diffusion of its artistic culture. On the other hand, one of its fundamental objectives was to contribute directly and efficiently to the prosperity of Vilafamés and to increase the standard and quality of life of its inhabitants.

The creation of the Contemporary Art Museum brought with it the fact that many of the artists linked to it established residences in the town, which implied the recuperation of many of the existing houses in the old part of town. So at that time many artists with works In the museum acquired and rehabilitated homes which had been practically in ruins.

The museum presents a very relevant collection of works, plastic in most part, that are representative of our art of the late 70's and 80's of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including works of some international artists. It is a very singular collection where we see names of great prestige internationally, nationally and locally.

We invite you to visit the museum, which we think you will enjoy.

*This ends the Contemporary Arts Museum. You may proceed to point 6 QR, the Parish Church of the Assumption.*