



2. Monument to Sorolla

Joaquin Sorolla (1863-1923), contemporary of Blasco Ibáñez (1867- 1928) and Mariano Benlliure (1862-1927), painter, author and sculptor, favourite sons of València who were connected by their artistic activity and strong bonds of friendship, also united by their ideological commitment to the society of the time. The three were related to the Poblets Marítims.

Many of Sorolla's paintings represented seaside scenes from València. Professor Josep Vicent Boira recently discovered his studio on Eugènia Viñes Street, close to the Pòsit Progrés de Pescadors building.

The monument that pays tribute to the artist was promoted by València City council and the Circle of Fine Arts; it stands on the sand of El Cabanyal beach, near La Casa dels Bous del Pòsit Progrés de Pescadors building. Work began on 7 March 1932, designed and completed by architects Francisco Mora and Javier Goerlich. It was inaugurated in December 1933.

The sculpture was built on a stone pedestal with a bronze bust of Sorolla, based on an original marble bust by Mariano Benlliure; it was surrounded by a semicircle of 10 Tuscan columns with classic entablature bearing the text "València a Sorolla" (València to Sorolla). Flooding in 1957 and poor conservation destroyed the monument, which remained in ruins for several years.

In 1963, it was moved to La Armada Española Square, now La Setmana Santa Marinera Square, but only the bust remains. It was relocated within the same square in 1974 to a pond with two illuminated fountains and the neo-renaissance façade of the old Bilbao Vizcaya bank by Francisco de Mora in the background.