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Archives of American Art

Anna Walinska's Travel Diary, 1955 April-May

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Friday, May 6- Barcelona.

Jewelry, glass-blowing, woven twine for soles of espadrilles, etc. One shop intrigued me, copies of primitive religious paintings on gold leaf, sold for 5-8-up to 25. Many, exceptionally well done. I got into conversation with the young man who runs the shop named ~~[[strikethrough]]~~ 'Juan José' ~~[[/strikethrough]]~~ Ortega (Retablista - Restorer)
Taller "San Jordi"
Caballeros, 4 - Telef. 23-6954.
Pueblo Espanol Barcelona.

His friend, also a painter, joined us.
Juan José Gómez García.
Pintor - Decorador
Sepúlveda, 97, 3º, 1.a Barcelona.

They invited me to an opening of an exhibition tomorrow evening & then for some flamenco dancing! Also, Sunday, they will come to accompany me to the Museum of Ancient Art & also to the Museum of Modern Art. They say the collection of Primitive & Byzantine art here is superb - "Also that Picasso is very

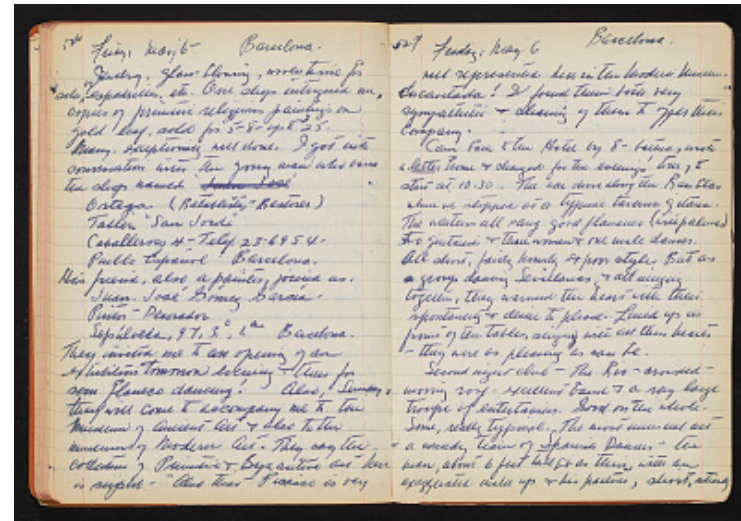
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Friday, May. 6 Barcelona.

well represented here in the Modern Museum. Encantada! I found them both very sympathetic & charming of them to offer their company.

Came back to the Hotel by 8 - bathed, wrote a letter home & changed for the evening's tour, to start at 10.30. The car drove along the Ramblas where we stopped at a typical taverna gitana. The waitress all sang good flamenco (with palmas) two guitarists & three women & one male dancer. All short, fairly homely & poor style. But as a group dancing Sevillanas, & all singing together, they warmed the heart with their spontaneity & desire to please. Lined up in front of the tables, singing with all their hearts - they are as pleasing as can be.

Second night club - The Rio - crowded - moving roof - excellent band & a very large troupe of entertainers. Good on the whole. Some, really typical. The most unusual act - a comedy team of Spanish Dancers - the man, about 6 feet tall, & as thin, with an exaggerated make up & his partner, short, sturdy



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