

Historical and technical research of properties of the *Nuestra Señora del Prado* monastery in Barrios Altos

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In 1991, UNESCO declared the Historic Centre of Lima a World Heritage Site, for its concentration of 608 monuments of universal category as of originality and monument importance.

This project consists of a historical and technical research. One of these valuable monuments is the *Nuestra Señora del Prado* monastery located in Barrios Altos, one of the sectors of the historic center with the largest number of monumental buildings and with greater social and spatial segregation. This monastery is one of the few religious constructions that still preserve the primitive aspect of monastic buildings of Lima made up by streets. Moreover, its impressive collection has an undoubted historical and artistic importance, which makes this place a potential important figure in the perspective of an urban, economic and social regeneration in this area of Lima.

This project seeks to create files of historical and technical research for the most relevant and most damaged monastery collection parts: paintings, altarpieces, sculptures, textiles and silverware, nearly all of them from the colonial era. Each file will be comprised of a historical research report-created by the PUCP researchers' team-and of a diagnosis on the condition of the piece by a restorer.

This is an important first step that is incorporated into a wider project enhancing the *Nuestra Señora del Prado* monastery and increasing the Barrios Altos area in value. After this research is concluded, we will be ready to request funds to restore the pieces that have been the scope of study. The restoration of the most important pieces of the Monastery collection is a fundamental step in the larger project considered for the future, which includes the *musealisation* of the building and the release of a catalogue of the collection.