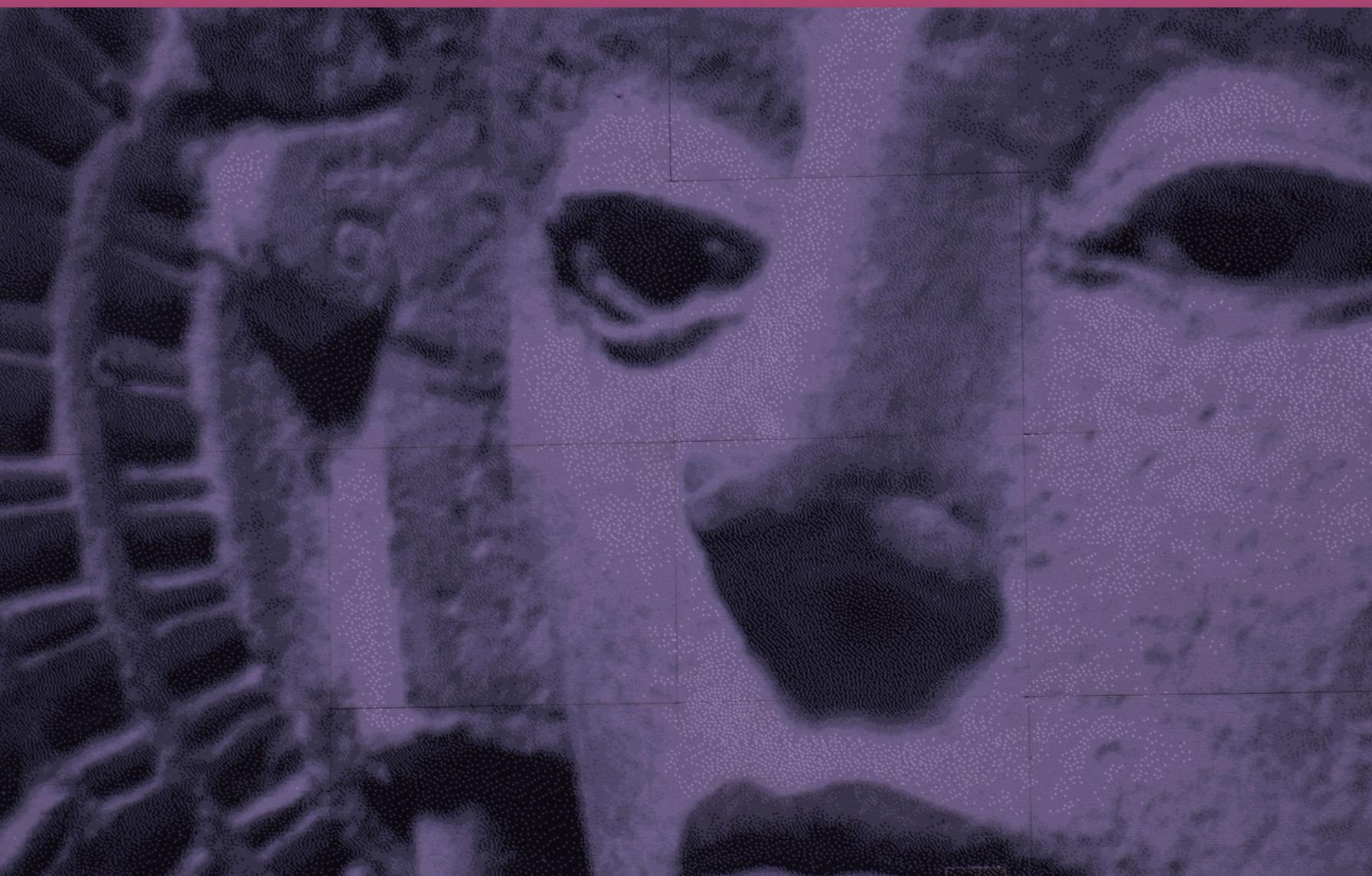


WOMEN FROM ELCHE

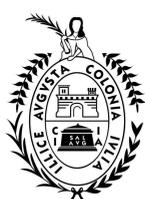
IN HERITAGE



Dama de Elche | 5th or 4th century BC

The Dama de Elche (Lady of Elche) is an Iberian limestone sculpture that dates back to the 5th or 4th century BC. She was discovered by the farmer Manuel Campello in a niche in the Alcudia archaeological site, in the city of Elche, on the 4th of August, 1897. There is a lack of consensus in the research community about the symbolism and the role of the Dama de Elche. Over time different hypotheses have been evaluated, it is thought that she might have been a goddess, a priestess, a queen or a worshipper. She is currently on display at the National Archaeological Museum of Madrid

Elche
a woman's gaze



Excelentísimo
AYUNTAMIENTO
de ELCHE

CASA DE LA DONA



Cátedra
Pedro Ibarra
UNIVERSITAS
Miguel Hernández



Cátedra
Dama de Elche
UNIVERSITAS
Miguel Hernández

WOMEN FROM ELCHE

IN HERITAGE



Recreation of the image of the time (Image courtesy of the MAHE)

Isabel Caro *Misteri d'Elx* 16th century

Isabel Caro was the first camarera (an honorary position of being in charge of looking after and preparing the image of the Virgin Mary), she was also the first woman to be given the role of protector of La Festa (the annual patron saint celebrations of the city). Thanks to the money that she left in her will, which dates back to 1523, she managed to promote and perpetuate the celebration of the Misteri d'Elx.

This will is the oldest written reference about La Festa, in which Isabel Caro stated that she had an image of the Virgin Mary at home that, each year, on the 14th of August in the afternoon, was taken to the Basílica de Santa María in a solemn procession.

Elche
a woman's gaze



Excelentísimo
AYUNTAMIENTO
de ELCHE

CASA DE LA DONA



Cátedra
Pedro Ibarra
UNIVERSITAS
Miguel Hernández



Cátedra
Dama de Elche
UNIVERSITAS
Miguel Hernández

WOMEN FROM ELCHE IN HERITAGE



Woman working on the White Palm Frond.



Huerto de San Plácido, women working on the white palm fronds.



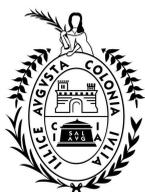
Selling the White Palm Fronds on the streets in Alberic (Valencia).

The Palmeral

The production and the weaving of the white palm frond is extremely painstaking artisan work that involves using ancient techniques that have been passed down from generation to generation, transforming the white palm fronds into one of the symbols of our city. This art exists thanks to many families in Elche, namely the women, master craftswomen, who were in charge of keeping this tradition alive, creating culture through their hands.

Every Palm Sunday, the white palm fronds accompany the procession that has been celebrated, at least, from 1371, and it was declared to be a Festival of International Tourist Interest Spain in 1997.

Elche
a woman's gaze



Excelentísimo
AYUNTAMIENTO
de ELCHE

CASA DE LA DONA



Cátedra
Pedro Ibarra
UNIVERSITAS
Miguel Hernández



Cátedra
Dama de Elche
UNIVERSITAS
Miguel Hernández

WOMEN FROM ELCHE IN POLITICS



Mari Carmen García

Ferrández Elche, 1891 - Madrid, 1936

In 1925, with the Directorio of Primo de Rivera (a military directory that consisted of eight senior military commanders with himself as President) she was appointed councillor, becoming part of the Municipal Commission for Charity and Health. During the Second Spanish Republic she was leader of the Acción Cívica de la Mujer (women's group of the conservative party Derecha Regional Agraria), from when it was created in Elche, on the 19th of June, 1932, which is why she was persecuted. She was murdered in Madrid by a militant of the CNT from Elche, on the 8th of September, 1936, together with Asunción Parreño García.



Asunción Parreño García

Elche, 1905 - Madrid, 1936

Housewife with profound religious beliefs. Persecuted for her ideas, she sought refuge in Madrid during the Civil War and she was located by a militant of the CNT from Elche. He murdered her on the 8th of September, 1936, together with Mari Carmen García Ferrández.



Frasquita Vázquez González

Elche, 1907-1993

She served as a militia woman at the front in Madrid. She joined the Juventudes Socialistas (Socialist organisation for young people) in 1930 and, together with other women, she formed the Grupo Femenino Socialista (Female Socialist Group). In 1937 she also got involved in the Junta de Auxilio Familiar and worked as assistant secretary of International Red Aid. She went into exile to return to Elche in 1964. She was the honorary president of the Agrupación Socialista Ilicitana until she died.

WOMEN FROM ELCHE

IN THE SHOE INDUSTRY

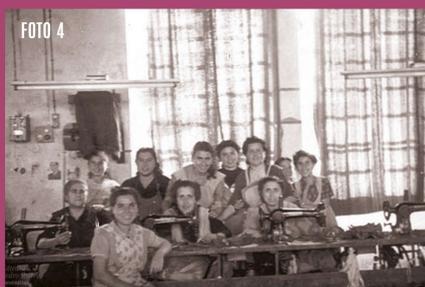


Photo1: Espadrille factory of Juan Orts Miralles (1912)

Photo2: Stitching workshop, girls working in the 1950s.

Photo3: Workers in the factory of Antonio Martínez Macia Pin

Photo4: Shoemakers in Ripoll factory (1955)

The shoe industry in Elche started midway through the 19th century, with handmade production that focused on espadrilles. Initially, it was work that was mainly done by women and even girls. Some worked in factories and workshops, and, many others, at home. This group of workers has contributed, in an exceptional way, to making Elche the leading footwear production centre of Spain.

Viuda Pérez Factory



Josefa beside her son, her granddaughter and great-granddaughter.

Josefa Soto Navarro, after the death of her husband in 1912, continued on with the business under the trade name Viuda de Pérez Sánchez. In Elche she was known as the widow of Pérez, and indeed, she and the shoe factory, had that name. She had six children: Vicente, Juan, Gaspar, José, Teresa and Ángel, her sons helped her run the family business. In 1936, the company changed its name to Hijos de Vicente Pérez Sánchez.

WOMEN FROM ELCHE

IN THE POLICE FORCE

En 1972, with the mayor Vicente Quiles, eight women joined the Local Police unit of Elche, it was the first year of female police officers. In those days, only single women or widows could join the police force, so many of them had to give up their dream to get married. Others, however, resumed their professional career when this was no longer required, but some had to change profession and, they even postponed their wedding.

«We paved the way, we have to continue so that finally we are all equal», said Francisca Ballester, one of the first eight policewomen who were hired.



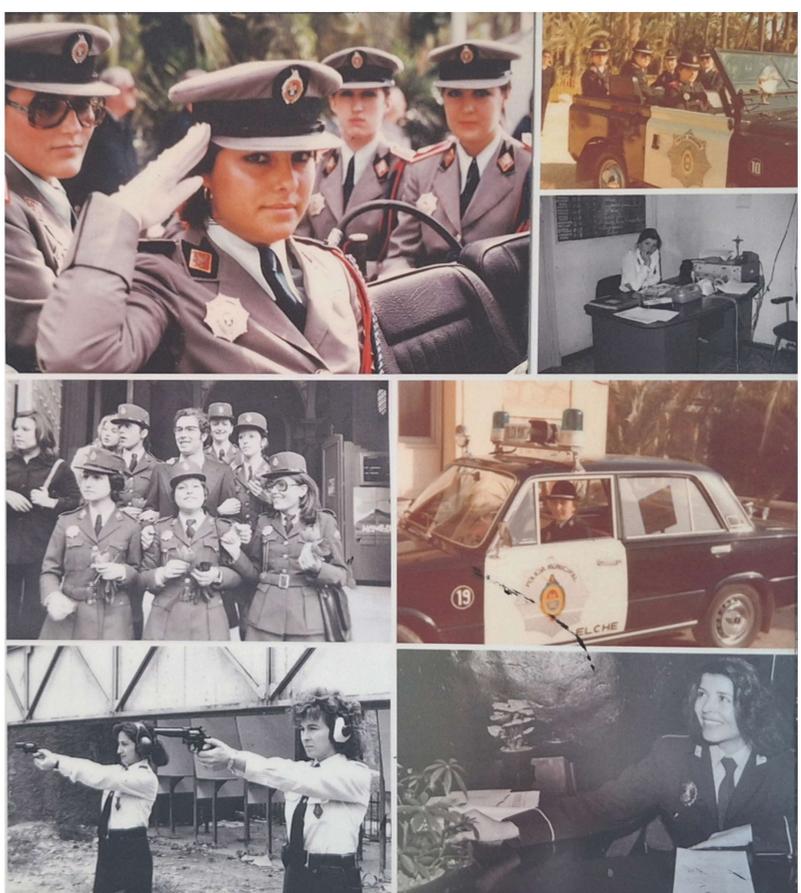
FIRST YEAR OF POLICEWOMEN

Pioneers:

- BIENVENIDA TOMÉ - FRANCISCA BALLESTER
- MARÍA NIEVES CECILIA HERMINIA UREÑA
- MARÍA ASUNCIÓN BAÑÓN
- MARÍA LUISA VERA ENCARNA SÁNCHEZ
- ANA MARÍA ONCINA



Directing traffic on Canalejas bridge in 1977.



Collage from Bienvenida Tomé.

WOMEN FROM ELCHE IN SPORT



Female cyclists on Canalejas bridge.

Elche
a woman's gaze



The bicycle

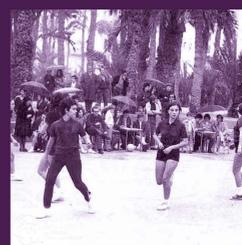
The bicycle was a tool for emancipation, which has favoured the independence and the autonomy of women since the 19th century.

Women on bicycles parade 1949.

The Handball Club

The Elche Handball Club was founded in 1958. Throughout history, Elche handball has supplied the national team with many female players. The senior female team of the Club is currently a senior member of the highest national category. There were extraordinary women who fought to be able to play a football match, because they were only allowed to play basketball and handball. The Club Femesala, the women's indoor football team, was set up in 1995, and the Elche CF Femenino was set up in 2003.

Carmen Sánchez and Milagros Dolado playing in the Female Handball team in the Sports Park (1960s)



Carmen Sánchez and Milagros Dolado participating in the Women's Handball team at the Sports Park (1960s)



Women playing football in honour of Miguel Quirant (23rd of February, 1971)



Excelentísimo
AYUNTAMIENTO
de ELCHE

CASA DE LA DONA



Cátedra
Pedro Ibarra
UNIVERSITAS
Miguel Hernández

WOMEN FROM ELCHE

IN ART

Elche
a woman's gaze

Maria del Carmen Baeza

Murcia, 1941

Thanks to the influence of her godmother Fuensanta, she began to follow her passion for music and dance. At the mere age of 5 she joined a dance school and years later she got into the Conservatory of Music, Dance and Dramatic Arts in Murcia.

In 1962, and after getting married, she settled in Elche for good, where years later she opened the first professional classic ballet school in the city.

She practiced her profession for thirty years, although she was forced to give up dancing due to health problems. In 2009 she founded the classic ballet association for young people called Asociación de Ballet Joven Illidanç Classic that she was the president of, with the objective of preserving the value of classical dance in Elche.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE FAMILY M^a Carmen Baeza



Excelentísimo
AYUNTAMIENTO
de ELCHE

CASA DE LA DONA



Cátedra
Pedro Ibarra
UNIVERSITAS
Miguel Hernández

WOMEN FROM ELCHE IN ART

Elche
a woman's gaze



"Autorretrato" (Self-portrait) by Pola Lledó

Pola Lledó in the 1960s



Pola Lledó creating in 2010

Pola Lledó | Elche, 1924-2015

She studied at the Academy of Fine Arts called Escuela Superior de Bellas Artes de San Carlos (Valencia), and she was one of the first women to graduate in Fine Arts in the city. She was involved in the plastic arts revival movement that emerged in the 1950s and 1960s, and she was one of the most influential individuals in the foundation of the Contemporary Art Museum. She was recognised as being one of the best abstract artists from Elche, and she exhibited her paintings in Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia. She was also part of the contemporary avant-garde of the mid twentieth century, when women were hardly visible in art, and she became a pioneer in the fight for equal rights for all women.



Excelentísimo
AYUNTAMIENTO
de ELCHE

CASA DE LA DONA



Cátedra
Pedro Ibarra
UNIVERSITAS
Miguel Hernández

WOMEN FROM ELCHE

IN LAW

Ceferina Soriano Martinez

Pamplona, 1931-Elche, 2020



She completed her secondary education in Murcia, at the Instituto Femenino Saavedra Fajardo. After that, she studied a degree in Law at Murcia University, between the years 1950 and 1955. Together with another classmate, they were the only two women of their year.

In 1959, she married the lawyer Basilio Fuentes, and they moved to Elche, where they set up a law firm. In 1972, she became the first registered female lawyer of Elche in the bar association called Ilustre Colegio de Abogados de Elche. She specialised in a branch of law that she called Lawyers for Women, and she managed to process the marital separation of many clients free of charge when they needed help.

She was a lawyer of the Association of Separated Women of Elche and she gave conferences, she took part in talks and round table discussions on Divorce law.

In 2015, she was awarded the Merit Medal in the Law Practice for her countless personal and professional achievements. In 2016, she was awarded the Cross of Merit in the Law Practice, granted by the General Council of Spanish Lawyers.



Receiving the Merit Medal in the Law Practice from the chairwoman of the General Council of Spanish Lawyers Mrs Victoria L. Ortega Benito

Elche
a woman's gaze



Excelentísimo
AYUNTAMIENTO
de ELCHE

CASA DE LA DONA



Cátedra
Pedro Ibarra
UNIVERSITAS
Miguel Hernández

WOMEN FROM ELCHE IN EDUCATION

Celia Lozano Campello

Elche, 1919-1999



She was the oldest daughter of a shoemaker, Joaquín Lozano, and his wife, a seamstress, Vicenta Campello who encouraged her to continue on with her academic education in a context that was not normal in those days.

She worked as a language and literature teacher at the secondary school called Asunción de Nuestra Señora de Elche, where hundreds of students from Elche studied until it was closed down, in 1963.

In 1946 she married the artist from Elche Sixto Marco, with whom she had two children. Celia Lozano was a dedicated teacher who was very popular with the students and to this day, she is remembered as being the teacher who helped many generations.



THE SCHOOLS OF YESTERYEAR



Photo 1: Girls at school in the little village of Derramador (1940)

Photo 2: Colegio de Jesuitinas in the 1950s

Photo 3: Students at school in Las Bayas

Photo 4: School in the 1940s.

Elche
a woman's gaze



Excelentísimo
AYUNTAMIENTO
de ELCHE

CASA DE LA DONA



Cátedra
Pedro Ibarra
UNIVERSITAS
Miguel Hernández

WOMEN FROM ELCHE

IN HEALTH

Gloria Miñana Román

Elche, 1913-1991



Gloria lived with her maternal grandparents. Her grandfather, Pascual Román, was the first mayor of the city when the second Republic was proclaimed. While she was studying she met her future husband, Francisco García, and they both went into Medicine, she studied in Madrid and he studied in Valencia.

When she graduated, together with four other women, she chose paediatrics as her speciality, a very common formula among female graduates of her time, to avoid the complication of having to look after adult males. She went back to Elche as the first women to practice medicine and, because of her work, she was also the first woman to drive a car in Elche.

Gloria Miñana earned the respect and the recognition of the population to such an extent that her husband was known as the *marit de Da Gloria*, and her children, *els fills de Da Gloria*.



Gloria the only woman who appears in the general guide of Elche (1946).



Doctor Miñana Román working.



In healthcare nursing was a position for women.

Team of nurses at the outpatient's department of San Fermín in the 1950.

Elche
a woman's gaze



Excelentísimo
AYUNTAMIENTO
de ELCHE

CASA DE LA DONA



Cátedra
Pedro Ibarra
UNIVERSITAT
Miguel Hernández

WOMEN FROM ELCHE

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Although the economy of Elche is determined to a great extent by the prominence of industry and services, agriculture also plays an important role given the vast expanse of the municipal district (326 km², out of which only 5% is taken up by the urban area) and the close interdependence that exists between the countryside and the city.

The women from the Camp d'Elx (countryside of Elche) have always worked in agricultural and livestock activities, and even though these activities were part of the so-called "domestic chores", admittedly without their hard work and contributions many farms would not have lasted over time.



Women selecting dried fïora peppers in la Marina, 1960s. (Asaja Mujeres)

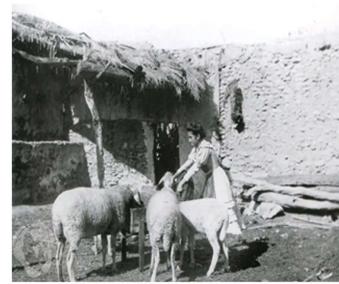
The following exhibit shows women from the Camp d'Elx working on the family farm, they were wage-earning women and, finally, women in their own companies, both in the agricultural and the livestock sector, which is the most common nowadays.



Women picking cotton in the Camp d'Elx. (Asaja Mujeres)



Women in the tomato crops (Asaja Mujeres)



Woman looking after the animals in a house in the countryside. Photo: Gullabert Requena, Jerónimo. "Las fotografías del historiador Pedro Ibarra y Ruiz. Un patrimonio recuperado". Cubicat Ediciones, 2014. p. 271.

The transformation of the rural world involves the change of the role and the position of women in it, as an essential and indispensable element for the progress and the development of the rural areas. Examples of today's rural women from our city:



Josefa Ferrández Ferrández
picking flowers in the greenhouse
(Asaja Mujeres)



Mari Anton Sempere
cleaning a greenhouse of hydroponic tomato
crops de tomale (Asaja Mujeres).



Tere Anton Dier
vegetable harvesting



Marta Gilabert Moncho
veterinary and owner of the Lacabrera
livestock farm



Ganaderia Lacabrera
Matola, Elche

As well as this productive role, rural women are in charge of preserving and sharing a large number of cultural traditions that have continued over the years thanks to their work and dedication to these: gastronomy, handicrafts... Finally, in the development of their productive role, rural women show a preference for environmentally friendly production systems, just like in the case of organic livestock farming and agriculture.

WOMEN FROM ELCHE

WRITERS AND COMMUNICATORS



Elisa V. Brufal Julià

Elche, 13th of July, 1919 - París, 17th of July, 2006



Postwar Spanish writer. Born into a bourgeois family from Elche. Being self-taught she began her literary career from an early age, writing short stories and novels.

In 1957, her novel *Siete puertas* was runner-up in the Premio Planeta, which put her on the map. In this novel she explored the role of the woman and the sexual freedom in a suffocating rural environment, where social rules were strict and the woman's freedom was limited. She had to pay for the publication of the book herself.

Elisa was known for her rebelliousness against the social norms of her time, because she felt misunderstood in her environment, so she decided to leave Elche and finally she settled in Paris until her death.



Lola Punter Rodríguez

Barcelona, 17th of January, 1941 - Elche, 29th of November, 2010

In 1952 she moved to Elche, together with her mother and sisters, to establish a school named *Nuestra Señora de Monserrat* in the Carrús district. Four years later, in 1956, she auditioned for Radio Elche and this is how she embarked on her career in radio, with a dedicated record programme. In 1980 she started working in Radio Cadena Española, which later became Radio Nacional de España.

In March, 1987, she joined Teleelx, with her programme, “*Las cosas de Lola*” that was broadcasted for twelve years. She collaborated with newspapers such as *Periódico Elche*, *Baix Vinalopó*, *Información*, *La Verdad* and *ABC*.



In Elche it was customary to see her go for a stroll with her spectacular hats, her two-tone shoes and her contagious happiness. On the 8th of March, 2017 a garden that was named after her was opened in the central *Avenida de las Cortes Valencianas*.



Remedios Sanz Tintero

Monóvar, 7th of September, 1941



Reme Sanz is a woman who has dedicated her whole life to the radio. After embarking on her career as a communicator in Radio Monóvar in 1960, when she was only 15, she moved to Elche to join the personnel of Radio Elche as a radio announcer.

Programmes such as *Siluetas de la ciudad*, *Emisión de caridad*, *Navidad en la radio*, *rabaje con música*, *Música 9 - 12*, *Género lírico* and *Apertura*, among others, had this familiar female voice.

In 1993 and after her time in Radio Elche, she continued her work in other media such as the press and television. In December, 2020 she started working with *Versión Radio* with the Podcast of Reme Sanz.

In 2019 the City Council of Elche named the “*Jardín Locutora Reme Sanz*” after her in the Pla district, in acknowledgement of her tremendous professional career and her active involvement in the society of Elche.

Elche
a woman's gaze



Excelentísimo
AYUNTAMIENTO
de ELCHE

CASA DE LA DONA



Cátedra
Pedro Ibarra
UNIVERSITAT
Miguel Hernández

WOMEN FROM ELCHE

THE FIRST COUNCILLORS IN THE DEMOCRACY

In April, 1979 the first municipal elections of the new democracy in Spain were held. In Elche there were five women with different ideologies who actively burst into public and political life, and their incorporation stood for a great step towards equality between men and women.



M^a Teresa Sempere Jaén

Elche, 10th of June, 1947 - 22nd of March, 2023

From an early age she was actively involved in politics and trade unionism, she was a militant and a member of the local executive committee of the PSPV-PSOE. She was the first deputy mayor or councillor under the mandate of the socialist mayors Ramón Pastor, Manuel Rodríguez, Diego Maciá and Alejandro Soler, combining the work of municipal councillor with that of deputy of Congress. Her political career lasted more than three decades, until 2011.

M^a Rosa Verdú Alonso

Elche, 14th of April, 1946

Member of the UGT banking trade union and a militant of the PSPV-PSOE from 1977. After the elections of 1979 she held the position of councillor of Culture, provincial deputy and first deputy mayor. She always said that this initial municipal corporation was the phase of hope, of pushing everyone in the same direction, when everything was yet to be done.



M^a José Torres Amorós

Elche, 4th of July, 1956

A member of the UCD youth from 1976. She was the youngest councillor of the first municipal corporation, and councillor of Parks and Lighting during the last two years of this first democratic corporation, because she wasn't old enough to vote beforehand. She was also provincial deputy in the last year of this legislature.

Antonia Martinez Soler

Crevillente, 1st of June, 1948

She was councillor of Statistics for the UCD until 1983 and once this political party disappeared, from the CDS she was called for the lists of the third legislature, where she was councillor again. She was also appointed provincial deputy holding the position of spokeswoman in the Alicante Provincial Council, and she was the only female deputy in this third legislature. She agrees with other ex-councillors that the first corporation was the best, bearing in mind the human relations that existed among the politicians of all the parties at that time.



Inmaculada Sabater Llorens

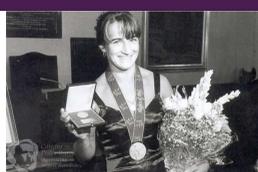
Novelda, 20th of April, 1952

Member of the Cortes Generales (Spanish parliament) for the PSOE in 1977 to 1978. In 1979 she joined the PCE as Artistic Activity councillor for the communist party, and then in 1981 she was also in charge of the Market area.



WOMEN FROM ELCHE

FEMALE MEDAL WINNER ATHLETES



Isabel Fernández Gutiérrez

Elche, 1st of February, 1972

Her brother Aquilino starts her off in judo and she soon stands out for her determination and power of concentration. She starts her sports career, marked by success, winning her first gold medal in the Spanish Children's Championship of 1984. She is one of the few sportswomen who has the triple crown: Olympic, world and European gold.

Her prize list includes sports titles such as: 9 Spanish championships, gold Medal in the Mediterranean Games (Almería. 2005), world champion in Paris (1997). She has competed in 4 Olympic Games between 1996 and 2008, obtaining 2 Medals: bronze in Atlanta 1996 and gold in Sidney 2000. Flag bearer of the Spanish Olympic team in the Olympic Games of Athens 2004.

She belongs to the Royal Order of Sports Merit, she was awarded the Trofeo Reina Sofía for the best Spanish sportswoman, she has won awards from the Provincial Council of Alicante and the City Councils of Alicante and Elche (Bimillenary Medal). The Sports Centre of Torrellano is named after her.



Vanessa Amorós Quiles

Elche, 7th of December, 1982

She has a long and distinguished career as a handball player. She started off in the base teams of the Elche handball Club at the age of eight, standing out in all categories as left-wing player. At the age of 15 she becomes the youngest player when she makes her debut with the senior team of Elche Mustang, in First División.

Member of the Spanish youth, junior, Olympic and absolute teams, she is, overall, one of the players who has defended the Spanish flag on the most occasions. Olympic in Athens 2004. Bronze medal in the London Olympic Games in 2012. Silver medal in the European games of Macedonia in 2008 and bronze Medal in the World championships of Brazil in 2011, scoring a total of 97 goals for the Spanish Team.

She was awarded the Dátil d'Or, by the press association called Asociación de informadores de Elche, the Best Sportswoman award from the Provincial Council, the Gold Medal from the City Council of Elche and the Gold Medal for Sports Merit from the Generalitat Valenciana (Regional Government of Valencia)



Maria Dier Alberola

Elche, 6th of August, 1985

She studied at the secondary school called instituto Tirant lo Blanc. She is a world champion of rhythmic gymnastics for athletes with Down syndrome. She is a member of the Algar Sports Club. From an early age she has been involved in different sports and art disciplines.

Three-time world champion in Italy 2022: Gold Medal in ball, gold Medal in ribbon and gold Medal in rope and also a silver Medal in clubs. Prize for being the best sportswoman with functional diversity from the province, awarded in the Sports Gala by the Alicante Provincial Council in 2023. She took part in the musical Simba's Big Adventure and she played Ariel in the musical The Little Mermaid.



Marta Expósito Garcia

Elche, 12th of March, 1993

She has competed in para swimming in the absolute category since 2006. She began her career at the age of 6 and she has shown the world that functional diversity is not an obstacle to achieving goals.

Her prize list includes: the World Dwarf Games, in Guelph, Canada (2017), where she won the gold Medal in the discus throwing event, silver Medal in the shot put and javelin events, and silver Medal in the 100m breast-stroke, 100m butterfly, 100m freestyle and 50m breast-stroke events. Bronze medal in the 4x50m freestyle event with the Spanish relay team in the World Para Swimming European Championships in Reykjavik Island (2009). Spanish record for 50m butterfly, 100m butterfly, 100m breaststroke, 50m breaststroke and 200m freestyle.

She has won more than 50 Spanish Championship titles during her sports career and she has been voted best disabled athlete of Elche on two occasions (2006 and 2011) and best disabled athlete of the province of Alicante on one occasion (2009).



Sara Marín Fernández

Elche, 21st of June, 1996

A gymnast with Down syndrome, she has trained with the sports club CD Algar of Elche since she was 3 years old. 16 times champion in the Spanish Rhythmic Gymnastics Championship for People with Intellectual Disabilities, (2008 - 2019 / 2021 - 2024); Runner-up in the Spanish Championships in 2020, as well as 4 times Spanish Champion for team events. In the groups category, she has been runner-up twice and 11 times Champion of Spain.

She won five gold Medals in the Trisome Games (First Olympic games for people with Down syndrome) held in 2016, in the ribbon, clubs, hoop, ball and general category events. The same year, the Regional Government of Valencia awarded her the premio 9 d'Octubre in the sports merit category. She was declared World Champion of Rhythmic Gymnastics for athletes with Down syndrome, held in Germany, on the 7th of July, 2018 and runner-up in the Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships for athletes with Down syndrome held in Italy, 2022.



WOMEN FROM ELCHE IN THE ARMY

Estefania Martinez Dier AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER OF THE ARMY

Elche, 26th of September, 1981

She joined the Armed Forces at the age of 22, training at the military academy called Escuela de Técnicas de seguridad y defensa in Zaragoza and three months afterwards she started her first military assignment at the paratrooper academy called Escuela Militar de Paracaidismo "Méndez Parada" of Alcantarilla (Murcia) as air police.

In 2007 she joined the Spanish air and space force academy Academia Básica del Aire located in La Virgen del Camino (León), to begin her 2-year training and be internally promoted to Sergeant specialising in Command and Control. Two years after that she changed her posting as sergeant to be an air traffic controller in the control tower of the air base in Zaragoza. In 2011 she became the 1st military air traffic controller at the ALA 14 of the air base of Albacete.

She has been decorated with 2 Medals: the Cross of Aeronautical Merit with white decoration and the Grand Cross of the Royal and Military Order of Saint Hermenegild.



Elisabet Hernández Moreno

GUARDIA CIVIL

Elche, 18th of September, 1982

She lived in the popular Carrús district, she studied at the Colegio Casablanca and she joined the Spanish Air and Space Force at the age of 22 in the Escuadrón de Zapadores Paracaidistas del Ejército del Aire (EZAPAC), located in Alcantarilla (Murcia), where she stayed until 2019. During this time, she went on 3 international assignments in Afghanistan.

As well as becoming part of the Spanish Air Force's elite parachute demonstration team Patrulla Acrobática del Ejército del Aire (PAPEA), where she stayed for 8 years, she completed 3500 jumps. In 2019 she joined the Guardia Civil.

Precision paratrooper, better known as "Pluma Eli" (Feather Eli), she won the individual female precision bronze medal in the 56th National Military Parachuting Championships.

Until 2022 she was the best precision paratrooper of Spain, giving up her crown to another young lady from Elche Mamen Gómez Hurtado in 2023. She is now posted in Public Security in the top position of Rivas Vaciamadrid.

In 2019 she was awarded the prestigious woman in the armed forces prize "Soldado Idoia Rodríguez, Mujer en las Fuerzas Armadas", for her dedication, sacrifice and spirit of service as a soldier and a high-performance athlete, and for being part of Patrulla Acrobática de Paracaidismo del Ejército del Aire for 8 years. This helped her and her colleagues from PAPEA, win the Gold Medal in the International Parachuting ForSkydive Tournament CISM in 2015 in Switzerland.



M^a Carmen Gómez Hurtado

SOLDIER

Elche, 19th of October, 1985

The paratrooper from Elche, she grew up in the popular Carrús district, she studied at the C.P. Ramón Llull and in the secondary school Instituto Nit de l'Albà.

She joined the Armed Forces at the age of 20, in the EZAPAC, where she trained for 11 years in topography, arms, shooting, survival, combat and self-defence, among others. In 2016 she joined PAPEA (Spanish Air Force's elite parachute demonstration team) and in 2023 she was voted the best precision paratrooper of Spain. On the 12th of October, 2023 she was given the honour to jump with the Spanish flag making her the first woman ever to do this on the Dia de Hispanidad y de las Fuerzas Armadas (Columbus Day). She has already completed 3000 jumps, many of them in complicated scenarios that require great precision.

M^a Carmen has represented Spain and the Spanish Air and Space Force in national and international parachuting exhibitions. She has also taken part in six assignments in Afghanistan as a tactical air control party specialist.



Elche
a woman's gaze



Excelentísimo
AYUNTAMIENTO
de ELCHE

CASA DE LA DONA