Velázquez was the official court painter of King Philip the 5th in Madrid, Spain. He has been called “the painter of the truth”. The masterpiece shows him at his easel, with various members of the royal family. But it is not clear whether he has shown himself at work on a portrait of the king and queen (who are reflected in the mirror) when interrupted by the Infanta Margarita and her maids of honour or vice versa.

Velázquez, Self-Portrait, 1643.

Velázquez, Las Meninas - Maids of Honor, Spain, 1656.