

Organized by the Government of the Canary Islands

The seven islands are the setting for the 1st Architecture, Art and Landscape Biennial of the Canaries

The Government of the Canary Islands is organizing the first *Architecture, Art and Landscape Biennial of the Canaries*, an international event that is dispersed over numerous spaces and landscapes on the seven Canary Islands, from 27th November 2006 to 10th February 2007. **A cultural encounter with art and architecture engaged in mutual relationship, with landscape as the shared backdrop.** The Biennial gives all residents and visitors a platform for sharing ideas on the importance of landscape, and the search for imaginative solutions for a better future, in harmony with the environment.

The Biennial has been conceived by the Government of the Canary Islands, taking into account all the singularities of the Canaries. **Fully aware of the place we live in, on islands with limited territory, yet in a strategic position, with a growing population and strong urban development pressure.** With a view to finding solutions preserving the exceptional natural spaces scattered around the geography of the Islands, and to reinvent for the future those architectural and urban interventions which, over the years, have been particularly insensitive with landscape.

In short, an opportunity to articulate a **constructive critique** of what is currently happening, featuring artists and creators and, therefore, from a **free, open and imaginative space**, and with the necessary distance to provide responses at the level demanded by the circumstances.

This Biennial is conceived as a **singular** event that intentionally reflects the specificities of the territory, spread over the whole of the geography of the Canaries, occupying well-known centres and venues, as well as lesser known conventional spaces. **A project** in which the reflection represented in architecture, landscape and art will impregnate the **whole of the Archipelago**, involving the seven islands, with each one of them hosting actions of a similar scale in the areas they occupy, both in the cities and in the natural environment.

The *Biennial of the Canaries* is directed by **Rosina Gómez-Baeza**, supported by the curatorial work of the renowned curator **Antonio Zaya** for the Art section with the collaboration of the art historian **Clara Muñoz**; and by a Scientific Committee for the Architecture section, made up by **Virgilio Gutiérrez**, **José Antonio Sosa**, Architect and Professor of Architecture Projects at the School of Architecture of the University of Las Palmas; and **Miriam Arricivita**, architect in charge of the Technical Committee.

The Regional Department for Culture, the Canaries institutional body overseeing this initiative, is promoting the Architecture, Art and Landscape Biennial focusing on three continents -Africa, America and Europe- through a significant representation of the contemporary art produced there, rounded off by theoretical encounters with the participation of renowned experts.

Besides, the event intends to act as a tool, not only for gathering information about the responses from countries with similar problems, but also as an **incentive to incite enthusiasm among the population of the Canaries to look for the best solutions.**

The Regional Department for Culture is therefore adding a specific viewpoint to the goals of the Government of the Canaries. The development of the Canaries throughout the centuries has been conditioned by its ability to establish a communication between the Islands themselves and with the outer world. A territorial fragmentation, and a long distance from the continent we belong to politically and historically, were barriers to our progress. The history of the people from the Canaries is the history of a struggle to overcome those barriers. A struggle in which we still find ourselves, and with one major goal ahead: to reduce internal and external distances.

The achievement of inter-territorial cohesion, and the definition of our position in the world, implies the development of transport networks, and of sea and air links favouring rapprochement and expansion.

The Biennial will be our contribution to join a global world, with strategies defining ways for development tailored to the space we live in, and fully adapted to our needs. It is about contributing from Culture to strengthening the goal of consolidating the Canaries as an **Atlantic Archipelago**, a crossroads for a myriad of cultures, communications, peoples, goods, trade, political dialogue for cooperation and solidarity: a meeting point.

Subsequently, this project shall **reinforce the Atlantic character of the Canaries**, our identity linked to the three axes defining our ties with Europe (social and political), America (social and cultural) and Africa (close political, economic, social and cultural cooperation with the countries on Africa's Atlantic coast).

One of the major challenges faced by the Canaries is the **need to respect the landscape** because it is our source of life. **We inhabit a unique land**, small and remote, and that is the reason why, through the organisation of the Biennial, the Government is taking a step forward by **tackling the growth problems from the perspective of artistic, architectural and urban creation, with landscape as the protagonist.**

The programme presented by the *1st Architecture, Art and Landscape Biennial of the Canaries* includes a quality cultural offer based on those concerns. By dealing with issues affecting landscape from an artistic viewpoint, it will encourage and promote free analyses and calm reflections, emerging from the sensibility and emotion inherent to creation.

For that common enterprise, and in order to rethink the future, for three months **over 70 artists from the Canaries, America, Africa and Europe and an equal number of renowned architects and city planners from the same geographical origins**, will share the whole of the geography of the Islands confronting solutions to those problems.

The *1st Architecture, Art and Landscape Biennial* will encourage participants to establish ties with the territory, favouring new formulations and creative plans, contributing with similar experiences from other territories, but placing the Archipelago

as a singular major player in this debate, with the need to come up with specific solutions, conceived and planned from our own territory.

The Biennial intends to analyse a number of issues concerning society, including, among others, population growth, the model and resources for land occupation, public space, cultural diversity, migration, landscape, communication, territorial capacity, and public resources, habitation, connectivity and mobility.

Art & Landscape

The Biennial's *Art* Section, curated by Antonio Zaya, proposes a reflection around a number of topically relevant issues: natural elements and energies, archaeology and memory, and migrations. Those are the subjects to be developed through interventions in nature and exhibitions by **artists coming from many places around the world**.

The fact that this international event is developed in a fragmented and discontinuous territory such as the Canaries, poses an exciting challenge, for it allows a distance from the biennale's traditional concept. The singular features of the Canaries will also make it possible to engage in a strategy for action, not only with space, but also with the real time of the Biennial. A dynamic concept that will mirror reality itself, understood as a space immersed in ongoing transformation and its relationship with the environment, action and human reflection.

Another feature is the organisation of the **1st Africa, America and Europe Symposium** with the theme *Art and Social Landscape, On Sustainable Culture*, that will analyse, in the University of La Laguna between 27th November and 1st December, the vocation of the Canary Islands to act as a three-continental platform, and the Archipelago's role vis-à-vis those territories, represented by an abundant contingent of contemporary artists. In this regard, the contemporary scene from Europe, Maghreb, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, will be analysed in seminars with prestigious experts.

Architecture and Landscape

In the Architectural section, a Scientific Committee made up by Virgilio Gutiérrez, Professor of Architectural Projects at the School of Architecture of Las Palmas, José Antonio Sosa and Miriam Arricivita (architect in charge of the Technical Committee) has organised a number of exhibitions, seminars, lectures, debates, workshops and interventions in the landscape.

An **exhibition** has been programmed in Gran Canaria including an interesting list of architects, consisting of projects dealing with issues related with the growth, limits, resources and models, and the criteria for intervention, preservation and articulation affecting growth. Models, videos, projections, graphics, etc., will demonstrate the professional experience of architects who have analysed these issues in various places

worldwide. The interpretation and restructuring of the territory and the creation of new scenarios for new ways of life, will be other of the premises to be addressed.

In parallel with the exhibition, the College of Architects of Gran Canaria is organising a **seminar** that will consist of lectures and debates to discuss those issues related with the growth of the population and the effect that growth has on the territory.

Fuerteventura will host a **Project Laboratory (E-Immigrations)**. Considering the Canaries as a space for the encounters of cultures, a number of proposals will be launched for the creation of a space for cultural and architectural hybridisation of intervention in the landscape of the Gully of La Herradura, in Puerto del Rosario, coordinated by José Antonio Sosa.

La Palma is the chosen venue for a workshop titled **4 Energy Observatories**, coordinated by the architect Iñaki Ábalos. Its goal is to revise technical and landscape culture, and to establish a new type of relationship between nature and man in the short-term. The idea of an observatory as a typology capable of bringing landscape and knowledge together, is based on the exploration of new forms of establishing dialogues between the human and the non-human. Therefore, it is not just a cultural and landscape institution, but also a political one: a new public space.

The experience is to be developed from **four observatories** located in Santa Cruz, Los Llanos de Aridane, Garafía and Fuencaniente, aimed at setting in place a profound dialogue with which one of the elements comprising the singularity of their landscape. The idea is to take architecture, landscape architecture and environmental techniques to their ultimate ends, generating a new itinerary with a cultural and architectural value in itself, applied to the global and environmental culture of today.

Tenerife is the starting point for a **touring exhibition of Canaries Contemporary Architecture**. The exhibition proposes a journey through the best architecture produced in the Archipelago in the last 45 years, and will begin its itinerary on this island before moving later to Caracas and Rabat. The initiative is aimed at conveying specialised information to the general public, through the creation of a dynamic and didactic experience.

The same island will host a **Seminar on Mobility and Communication**. A reality: the space making up the Canary Archipelago is perceived by starting from the diversity of the different facts of its various islands, although recognised in the unity of the Atlantic experience. An unresolved task: the identification of systems and procedures that may help us to experience and understand a fragmented and discontinuous territory. We are alluding to transfers between places, of information, capitals, peoples and goods; from small island territories with unalterable physical features but sharing common identity marks, to which we must add their singular strategic position from a geographical viewpoint.

Ephemeral interventions will be made by the architects Diller-Scofidio and Elías Torres in both Lanzarote and El Hierro.

PROGRAMME BY ISLANDS

Venues, Artists & Interventions

TENERIFE

Santa Cruz

Castillo Negro

SALOMÉ CUESTA & BÁRBARO MILLARES (Spain/Cuba)
LIGHT & SOUND INSTALLATION

Casa de La Pólvara

SHIRIN NESHAT. (Iran, 1957. Lives in New York).
TOOBA, 2002. DOBLE VIDEO-PROYECCION.

El Tanque Cultural Centre

ALFREDO JAAR. (Chile, 1956. Lives in New York).
SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION.

La Recova

FERNANDO ÁLAMO. (Tenerife, 1952. Lives in Las Palmas).
4 POLYPTYCHS / INSTALLATION.

CARMELA GARCÍA. (Lanzarote, 1964. Lives in Madrid).
VIDEO INSTALLATION
Espacio de silencio

MATEO MATÉ. (Madrid, 1964. Lives in Madrid).
SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION.

SARA MANEIRO. (Caracas, 1965).
5 PHOTOGRAPHS.
Untitled from the series *Souvenirs (Cartografía en Proceso)*

THAMI BENKIRANE. (Fez, 1954).
6 PHOTOGRAPHS.
Fès: fissures et fascines.

HAMDİ ATTIA (Assiut, Egypt, 1964. Lives between Cairo & New York)

Urban Intervention in calle Noria and surrounding area

ROGELIO LÓPEZ CUENCA. (Malaga, Spain, 1959. Lives between Malaga, Tunisia & Las Palmas de Gran Canaria).
SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION.

Former Jet Foil station

HALA ELKOUSSY. (Egypt, 1974. Lives in Cairo).

VIDEO. *Peripheral Stories*. 28'

AMAL EL KENAWY (Cairo, 1974)

VIDEO. *You will be killed*

Sala de Arte Contemporáneo

ALEXANDER APÓSTOL. (Venezuela, 1969. Lives in Madrid).

THREE SCREEN VIDEO. *Pueblo canario*

JAVIER TÉLLEZ (Venezuela, 1969. Lives in New York)

VIDEO

SERGIO BRITO. (Venezuela, 1960. Lives in Las Palmas).

VIDEO PROJECTION. *Loop*

Los Lavaderos

RUTH SACKS. (Port Elizabeth, South Africa, 1977. Lives in Cape Town).

SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION.

Plaza del Príncipe

KCHO (Isla de la Juventud, Cuba, 1979. Lives in Havana)

VIDEO

Playa de las Teresitas

PABLO LEÓN DE LA BARRA. (Mexico, 1972. Lives in London).

PERFORMANCE & PUBLICATION.

Party wall in calle Noria

JUAN LÓPEZ (Cantabria, 1979. Lives in Barcelona)

VIDEO

Others, Santa Cruz

GRAFFITI. NOXER.

INTERVENTION 3 CITY BUSES

Plaza Alberto Sartorius (Colegio de Arquitectos)

EXHIBITION: CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE IN THE CANARIES

Overview of architecture from the Canaries in the last 45 years

27th November 2006 to 10th February 2007

Tenerife Auditorium

SEMINAR ON MOBILITY IN ISLAND TERRITORY

Organized by the College of Architects of the Canaries, delegations of Tenerife, Gomera and Hierro. January 2007

La Laguna

Ermita de San Miguel

EIJA-LIISA AHTILA. (Finland, 1959. Lives in Helsinki).
VIDEO PROJECTION. *The Hour of Prayer*.

Casa de los Capitanes

YOUNÈS RAHMOUN. (Tetuan, 1975. Lives in Tetouan & Pedreguer).
CONSTRUCTION. *Hoyra*

EELCO BRAND. (Holland, 1969. Lives in Amsterdam).
2 VIDEOS. *R.movi* y *V.movi*

URSULA BIEMANN. (Zurich, 1955).
INSTALLATION (Sahara Panels)+ VIDEO *Guns and Slyness*, 2006. Algero-Moroccan Borderlands. 7'10"

Instituto Cabrera Pinto

MAHMOUD KHALED. (Egypt, 1982. Lives in Alexandria).
SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION

Ateneo de La Laguna

KARINA BELTRÁN (Tenerife, 1968. Lives in London).
6 PHOTOGRAPHS.

Others, La Laguna

GRAFFITI. MOSCO
GUAGUA INTERVENTION

SINER GRAFFITI WORKSHOP

University of La Laguna

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM AFRICA, AMERICA & EUROPE

Theme: Art & Social Landscape, On Sustainable Culture

Moderated by Antonio Zaya, Angel Mollá y Ramón Salas. Participants: Ursula Biemann, Mahi Binebine, Bassam El Baroni, Abdellah Karroum, Abadelwahab Meddeb, Manthia Siawara, Salah Hassan, Alfredo Jaar, Ana Le Roux, Octavio Zaya, Angel Kalenberg, José Roca, María Inés Rodríguez, Ana Tiscornia, Yolanda Word, Remo Guidieri and Joaquín Sabaté

27th November to 1st December 2006

Tacoronte

Parque Hamilton

JUAN CARLOS BATISTA. (Tenerife, 1960. Lives in Tenerife).
SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION. *El síndrome de Estocolmo*

Granadilla

Carretera de los Abrigos al Médano

JUAN CARLOS BATISTA. (Tenerife, 1960. Lives in Tenerife).
SITE SPECIFIC SCULPTURE
Espiral aborigen

Puerto de la Cruz

Casa Rhan

FERNANDO ÁLAMO. (Tenerife, 1952. Lives in Las Palmas).
14 PAINTINGS / INSTALLATION.

Castillo de San Felipe

JOSÉ RUIZ
SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION.

JULIAN ROSEFELDT (Munich, 1965. Lives in Berlin)
VIDEO INSTALLATION *Asylum*

GRAN CANARIA

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

House in Barrio de Vegueta

OPEN CIRCLE. (India. Group created in Mumbai by **TUSHAR JOAG**/1966; **SHARMILA SAMANT**/1967; **SHILPA GUPTA**/ 1976 & **ARCHANA HANDE**/1976. Live in Mumbai).
SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION

JUAN HIDALGO (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, 1927)

ÁNGEL DELGADO. (Havana, Cuba, 1965. Lives in Havana).
SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION
Punto de fuga

ADEL ABDESSEMED (Constantine, Algeria, 1971. Lives in Berlin)
SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION

MIRCEA CANTOR (Rumania, 1977. Lives in Paris)
VIDEO

ALFONSO CRUJERA (Seville, 1951. Lives in Las Palmas)

Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno-CAAM

ORI GERSHT. (Israel, 1967. Lives in London).
VIDEO *The Forest* + 6 Photographs *Liquidation Series: A place with no name, May or May not, The Mountain, Trace1, Trace 3, Drawing Past*

ELLEN KOOI (Holland, 1962. Lives in Haarlem, Amsterdam)
5 Photographs

La Regenta Art Centre

JESÚS PALOMINO. (Sevilla, 1969. Lives in Berlin).
INSTALLATION

OLAF BREUNING. (Switzerland, 1970. Lives in New York).
VIDEO.

MONA MARZOUK. (Egypt. 1968. Lives in Alexandria).
MURAL. SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION.

ESTER PARTEGÁS. (Spain, 1972. Lives in London).
MURAL. *Barbarie*

JON MIKEL EUBA. (Spain, 1967. Lives in Bilbao).
PHOTOGRAPHIC INSTALLATION

ANTON VIDOKLE. (Russia, 1965. Lives in New York) / **JULIETA ARANDA**
INSTALLATION. *E-flux Video Rental*.

ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION: GROWTH, LIMITS, RECOURSES & MODELS
Projects by Rem Koolhaas, Zhupei Architecture Studios, Winy Maas, Jacob van Rijs & Nathalie de Vries; Nieto & Sobejano, José Castillo, Manel Gausa, Pilar Ruiz Sisamón & Javier Hernández Sánchez, and Rex Ramus Ella Architects.

Las Canteras

PABLO LEÓN DE LA BARRA. (Mexico, 1972. Lives in London).
PERFORMANCE & PUBLICATION. Art in context.

SERGIO BRITO. (Venezuela, 1960. Lives in Las Palmas).
VIDEO PROJECTION *Welcome*

JESÚS PALOMINO. (Seville, 1969. Lives in Berlin).
INSTALLATION. *Espacio para el viento*

Plaza de Santa Ana

KEY PORTILLA KAWAMURA (Oviedo, 1979. Lives in Brussels)

Urban Interventions

ROGELIO LÓPEZ CUENCA. (Malaga, Spain, 1959. Lives in Malaga & Tunisia).
SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION

Z (CLUB)/NÉSTOR TORRENS
PROJECT ON AGAETE/LA ALDEA MOTORWAY

JUAN LÓPEZ (Cantabria, 1979. Lives in Barcelona)

Others, Las Palmas

GRAFFITI. NATO.
GUAGUA INTERVENTION

GERMÁN PÁEZ
Street Performance

GUILLERMO LORENZO
Performance in Barrio de Vegueta

SEMINARIO DE ARQUITECTURA SOBRE CRECIMIENTO
Organized by the Gran Canaria delegation of the College of Architects of the Canaries

Venue to be confirmed

KENDELL GEERS. (South Africa, 1968. Lives in London & Brussels).
SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION.

Teror

FABIANA DE BARROS (Brazil, 1957. Lives in Geneva)/ **MICHEL FAVRE**
INTERVENTION. MOBILE WORK BASED IN MILLAR BUILDING.

JUAN CARLOS ROBLES

TERESA SERRANO

FUERTEVENTURA

La Oliva

Casa de los Coroneles

JAÂFAR AKIL. (Meknès, 1966).
4 PHOTOGRAPHS.

WON JU LIM. (Korea, 1968. Lives in Los Angeles).
INSTALLATION.

OTOBONG NKANGA. (Nigeria, 1974. Lives in Paris & Amsterdam).
4 PHOTOGRAPHS plus OPENING PERFORMANCE.

ALLAN deSOUZA (Kenya, 1974. Lives in Paris & Amsterdam).
3 DIPTYCHS (6 PHOTOGRAPHS).
Bloodhills I, II, III,

Betancuria

Monastery (ruins and chapel)

JOHAN THOM (Johannesburg, 1976. Lives and works in Johannesburg)
VIDEO INSTALLATION *The Theory of Flight* & PERFORMANCE *The Theory of Gravity*

Castillo del Tostón. El Cotillo

JORDI COLOMER (Spain 1962. Lives in Paris)
VIDEO SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION

Puerto del Rosario

Centro Juan Ismael

LABORATORIO DE PROYECTOS SOBRE BARRANCO DE LA HERRADURA
Organized by José Antonio Sosa; participating architects: Diabedo Francis Kere (Burkina Faso & Berlin), Anne Lacaton (Paris), Manuel Gausa (Barcelona) and Laboratorio de Investigación de Proyectos at ETSALP. The final work will be presented on 26, 27 & 28 January 2007.

LANZAROTE

Arrecife

San Gabriel Castle

MARIA PAPADIMITRIOU. (Greece, 1957. Lives in Volos & Athens).
The plug inn hotel

Promenade

MATEO MATÉ. (Madrid, 1964. Lives in Madrid).
SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION.

Teguiise

Castillo Guanapay

ÁNGEL MARCOS. (Spain, 1955. Lives in Medina del Campo/Valladolid).
PHOTOGRAPHIC INSTALLATION.

Others Lanzarote

EPHEMERAL ARCHITECTURE INTERVENTION

Build the Gaze project

Architect: Elizabeth Diller y Ricardo Scofidio

Curator: Ana M. Torres

EL HIERRO

Frontera

Antiguo Poblado de Guinea

CONCHA JERÉZ/JOSÉ IGES (Canary Islands, 1941. Lives in Madrid).
SOUND INSTALLATION. (Jameo).

CECILIA PAREDES. (Peru. Lives in Philadelphia).
SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION. (volcanic tube).
El rocío de cada mañana

Valverde

Plaza del Virrey de Manila

ALEXIS W.
INSTALLATION.
La Ventana Indiscreta

Others, El Hierro

EPHEMERAL ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTION

Build the Gaze project

Architect: Elías Torres

Collaborating architect: Cristina Glez Vázquez de Parga

LA GOMERA

San Sebastián

Visitors Centre

JOSÉ ROMÁN MORA (Canary Islands ????)
INSTALLATION. *Barrancos del silbo* + *PERFORMANCE*

DAVID MORATÓN. (Alicante, 1974. Lives in Tenerife).
DVD + 3 photographs

MIWA YANAGI. (Japan, 1967. Lives in Kyoto).
DVD *Sunna Onna* + large format photograph

LA PALMA

Santa Cruz de La Palma

Convent of San Francisco

REGINA GALINDO. (Guatemala, 1974. Lives in Guatemala).

VIDEO. (Lobby)

Isla. Performance. Santo Domingo, Dominican Rep..

Castillo Real Santa Catalina de Alejandría.

TOROLAB. (Mexico. Interdisciplinary group founded in 1995 by RAÚL CÁRDENAS in the city of Tijuana working in a number of experiments responding to the city's urban conditions. Live in Tijuana).

SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION

Teatro Chico

ALLORA / CALZADILLA. (Jennifer Allora: Philadelphia, 1974. Guillermo Calzadilla: Havana, 1971).

VIDEO

Convent of San Francisco

TALLER “4 OBSERVATORIOS DE LA ENERGIA”

Santa Cruz, Los Llanos de Aridane, Garafía & Fuencaliente

25th November to 3rd December

Organized by Iñaki Ábalos; with the participation of the architects Lluís Ortega, Renata Sentkiewicz, Axiliadora Gálvez and Miguel Kreisler

Publications

The Architecture, Art and Landscape Biennial will publish a Guide of the Biennial; an Official Catalogue; and the Minutes from the symposium.

Guide

To be distributed before the beginning of the Biennial, focusing on the various spaces, underscoring singular, architectural and natural locations in each one of the Islands.

Official Catalogue

To be published in December, with images of the projects specifically produced for the Biennial, photographed *in situ*.

Book of Minutes

To be published in February, after the closure of the Biennial. It will include the development of the architectural projects, and the papers given in the *Social Landscape, On Sustainable Culture* Symposium.

Fringe Programme

A number of tie-in activities will be carried out in the context of the Biennial, and under its auspices. They include:

- *Species of Spaces* Project. Micro-Architectures for Arrecife: 18 proposals for an encounter with the sea. Curator: Juan Gopar.
- *Projecting Landscape (Gully of Badajoz. Güümar)* Focusing mainly on the power of formal, functional and environmental proposals for certain areas and territories which, due to a number of different causes, have altered and transformed the original geomorphologic conditions of the territory. Curator Juanma Palerm
- Concert by Herminia (Cabo Verde) in Lanzarote
- Concert by Tinari Wen (Tuareg musicians from Mali). Terrero de Lucha de Frontera, El Hierro
- Concert by Mario Rui Siva (musician from Angola). Valle Gran Rey. La Gomera
- Concert by Anour Brahmen (musician from Tunisia). Santa Cruz de La Palma

1st Architecture, Art And Landscape Biennial of the Canaries

by Rosina Gómez-Baeza

To creatively involve the people of the Canary Islands, its residents and visitors in a reflection on the conservation of its unique natural surroundings whose beauty and variety never fail to surprise us, with a view to promoting the interest of different social groups and collectives in the configuration of a large space for shared co-existence, preserving the natural environment, valuing the urban landscape, promoting dialogue between the different islands for a better understanding of the needs of the people of the Canaries and of its visitors, instigating actions and debates with renowned architects, urban planners, landscape architects, artists and sociologists, while also attracting young generations of creators and experts. The seven islands making up the Canaries could be seen as a metaphor of the diversity of man or microcosm, conceived as a complete summary of the universe or macrocosm. Starting off from the term microcosm we will then pose questions affecting man's encounter with his surrounding environment and his optimum use of it. To encourage the setting in place of the necessary synchronicity between "celestial bodies" represented by the conjunction of man and the environment in which he develops and inhabits. Questions pertaining to the preservation of the natural environment and the urban environs, the infrastructures and equipment most suitable to the characteristics of each island, will make up the central axis of the actions, even when the importance of certain equipment already in place in various countries makes an exhibition event essential, required, and even exemplary. We want to offer residents and visitors examples of actions by leading urban planners, architects, landscape architects and artists which stand out for their suitability, respect for the user, the environment and the surroundings in which they are emplaced, and for their innovative character and the proportion and beauty of their lines.

Art & Landscape. An Outline

by Antonio Zaya

Landscape is a conception of space rooted in our physical, psychic and mental relationship with it. Demanded by the pressing deficiencies of our species in terms of food and shelter, this relationship leaves an indelible mark on our natural surroundings and successive conceptions of a shared space. Both the demographic factor and migrations are logical derivations of the development and modification of this habitat. In such a way that its alteration is and has been consubstantial to our development, at once explaining it and involving it.

When we can almost reach out and touch the limits on our continuous action imposed by the specific and discontinuous territorial space of the Canaries Islands, admittedly with short-term economic benefits yet also with hugely negative consequences for the equilibrium and capacity of our sustainable development in the mid-to-long term, it is

absolutely necessary to articulate the required resources for an interdisciplinary examination of its vulnerability and its sustainability, not only affecting our territory but the environment in general. And this will be the central focus of the 1st Biennial of the Canaries.

The seventy artists from Africa, America, Asia and Europe that I put forward, and who will intervene in the event, pose questions that challenge our territory, specifically or in general terms, dialoguing with the various spatial fields of the Canaries Islands, but also with questions that have affected, affect, or will affect their own lives. This dialectic between Contemporary Art and Landscape proposed by the 1st Biennial is not so much hoping to come up with solutions as to explore the interrogatives which, in this case, the landscape of our islands throws up at first sight, or indirectly or maybe even elliptically. Nonetheless, this kind of site-specific event which is the Biennial also strives to articulate a revision of the different elements affecting our territoriality, ranging from archaeological memory to African immigration, from popular culture to the everyday, from concrete facts to waste, from conservation to utopia, trying to connect the differences, discourses and dreams of art with a multiple, dynamic reality in flux, without shortcuts or pauses, beyond, above and under interests of co-existence.

This approximation to ourselves and our culture, as incarnated in this 1st Biennial of the Canaries, is an exceptionable opportunity to break through the surface of appearances and mirages. As the southern border of the European Union with Africa, our ability to dialogue with ourselves and "others" is crucial. In this regard, insularity does not mean isolation, rather a natural displacement and connection going beyond the limits of space. The strategic location of the Canaries Islands makes our fragmented territory of reflection a unique place in need of special interest, particularly in view of the predictable and transcendental changes brought about and imposed by globalization, and which are forcing us to a rethinking that will stop us from becoming a platform of hidden interests opposing the desires for peace, freedom and self-government expressed by the population.

Horizons

by Virgilio Gutiérrez

...when speaking of landscape we do so from the simple definition offered by the dictionary: *"extension of land seen from a particular spot"*...

...on some small islands, close together, geographically "central" (though never peripheral), in a privileged strategic position, with an ever growing population, with a worrying pressure on urban development, with the need to preserve the unique natural spaces that dot the islands, full of insensitive architecture and infrastructures,..., the landscape, understood from the above description, is something alive, over and above any other disciplinary and scholarly consideration...

...in any place, but with much more repercussion in the small ones, wherever you look you see that architecture is the city and the city is land ...it is that landscape that is always with you ... the disorder, carelessness, indifference, loss of character of places brings a sadness when journeying through the islands...

... this feeling of unease, nonetheless, can be seized as a reason, incentive, opportunity, engagement, excuse, aspiration, challenge... for creativity, imagination, sensibility and emotion in the better construction of the landscape ...the landscape as something alive ...the landscape in function of mankind ...and not man in function of the landscape as the poet put it...

Provisional list of participating architects

José Ignacio Ábalos Vázquez
Luis Ortega
Renata Sentkiewicz
Auxiliadora Galvez
Miguel Kreisler
Florian Beigel
Albert Ferre
Virgilio Gutierrez
José Morales
Teresa Gali
Cristina González Vázquez de Parga
Elías Torres Tur
Ana María Torres de Torre
Elizabeth Diller
Ricardo Scofidio
Rafael Escobedo de la Riva
Rem Koolhaas
Zhupei Architecture Studios
MVRDV
Jose Castillo
Pilar Ruiz Sisamón
Javier Nieto Sobejano
Manuel Gausa
Arsenio Perez Amaral
Jaime Lerner
Jean Nouvel
Jose Luis Fernandez Galiano
Juan Manuel Palerm
Fifteen Architecture Schools
Blanca Cabrera/Rafael Ramírez
Artengo. Menis. Pastrana
Juan Torres: Parque Temático.
Corona y P. Amara.
Manolo Feo
LPA, Juan Palop
Virgilio Gutiérrez
Ramón Chesa & Javier Mena
Ramón Cabrera
Blanca Fajardo.
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