

Fundación Bilbao Arte Fundazioa

Artist exchanges with arts production centres

Background: history, issues, main political initiatives etc.

Fundación Bilbao Arte Fundazioa is an artistic production centre belonging to the Culture Department of the Bilbao City Council. Since it opened in 1998, it has been focused on the development of the following programmes and activities: Grants for the development of artistic projects; Courses, seminars and conferences involving consolidated and prestigious international creators; Exhibitions by young creators and open days; Exhibitions of artistic proposals in various European countries and artist exchanges with other artistic centres. We will focus our attention on that last programme.

How it works

Fundación Bilbao Arte Fundazioa maintains stable collaboration relationships with other European and American artistic production centres, which allow the young creators being resident artists of the Centre to develop their projects in other institutions for a period of time of two months approximately, as well as to know of various cultures and to contact various agents of the communities that participate in the exchanges. The Fundación Bilbao Arte Fundazioa covers the expenses corresponding to transport, accommodation, stay, and expendable materials necessary for the development of artists' projects, who participate in its exchange programmes.

Among the institutions with which Bilbao Arte maintains stable collaboration agreements, one can find, among others, the Dublin Technological Institute, the One Academy of Communication Design of Malaysia, the Centro de Producción Gráfica de San Luis in Potosí, the Secretaría de Estado de Morelia (Mexico) or the Rogaland Art Centre of Stavanger. This way, the Fundación Bilbao Arte Fundazioa keeps on developing a collaboration network with various art centres and institutions of international level.

The exchange programme allows its resident artists to complete their training by means of the development of their creative projects in other artistic production centres, and it also enables the organization of courses, seminars and other activities with artists and professionals of various origins. At the same time, the programme provides an international image to the centre.

Results

From November 2004 to 2007, the exchange programme allowed 25 artists to be residents at the Kunsthaus Bregenz (Austria), The Rogaland Art Centre of Stavanger (Norway) and the Centro de Producción Gráfica de San Luis Potosí and the Secretaría de Estado de Morelia (México).

Since 2004, more than 40 artists from countries as diverse as Germany, Mexico, Austria, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Congo, Japan or Brazil or from Spanish Communities as Valencia, Madrid and Asturias have resided in the city of Bilbao, developing their artistic projects in the Fundación Bilbao Arte Fundazioa.

After ten years, the future of the artistic centre points towards a strengthening of scholarships and international exchanges programmes, which allows it to identify internationally as a production centre rather than as an exhibition centre.

With this exchange programme, the Fundación Bilbao Arte Fundazioa provides outstanding professionalisation to young creators, with the aim of promoting the artistic development of young artists and their work. When national or international artists come to the Fundación Bilbao Arte Fundazioa the benefit is twofold; on the one hand, artists come into contact with a city and a neighbourhood in transformation and, on the other, the city and the neighbourhood are enriched by the presence of residents with artistic and cultural interests.

Sources

Fundación Bilbao Arte Fundazioa: <http://www.fundacionbilbaoartefundazioa.org/english/index.htm>

Author

Anna Villarroya