

ASTURIAN ARTIST ROMÁN TORRE WINS THE GOLDEN FEATHER AWARD AT THE 'INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ART FORUM FOR YOUTH' IN CAIRO

HIS WORK *LIFE FLOOR* WAS PRODUCED BY LABORAL CENTRO DE ARTE AND WILL BE ON EXHIBIT AT *HOMO LUDENS LUDENS* WHICH OPENS ON APRIL 18TH.

The Asturian artist Román Torre has been awarded the Golden Feather at the 'International Media Art Forum for Youth' held in Cairo. Torres won the prize for *Life Floor*, a virtual installation produced by LAB and based on the "game of life," one of the more well-known algorithms of what are known as cellular automata (mathematical representations of intelligent cellular systems), designed by the British mathematician John Horton Conway in 1970.

The installation was selected by LABoral Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial in Gijón to compete in this contest and is currently being exhibited at the Art Palace in Cairo's Opera complex. It will be on exhibit in the Gijón art centre during the *Homo Ludens Ludens* exhibition which opens on April 18th.

Some 20 works of art by various international artists were invited to participate in this first edition of Cairo's International Media Art Forum for Youth (IMAFY), which is sponsored by a number of Egyptian organisations and the Fine Arts department of the Egyptian Ministry of Culture. Román Torre's participation in IMAFY was also supported by Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, more specifically, by its Embassy in Egypt.

Born in Candás (Asturias) in 1978, Torre is one of the representatives of a new generation of contemporary Spanish artists who have not been trained by any school of the fine arts. He defines himself as a self-taught artist whose work has evolved from design into 'performance' and artistic intervention. In 2001 he began working with recycled materials that would later be used for the serial production of designs, the creation of installations and the inspiration for other online interactive projects. He received a Young Designer award at INJUVE in 2004. In 2005-2006, he collaborated with the Recetas Urbanas studio, under the directorship of the architect Santiago Cirugeda. He is currently a member of the Virtual Mogyoro studio (Budapest/Lisbon/Gijón) along with the architects Gergo Kukucska and Tania Magda do Santos.

It was the aesthetics of cellular automata and how they develop that interested Román Torre and inspired *Life Floor*. Although the Asturian artist does not come from the world of mathematics or artificial intelligence, he does not hesitate to bring all techniques and available



possibilities together from an artistic viewpoint that approaches design and is influenced by architecture.

Art works: *Soundwall* (2002), *Netwall* (2002), *Phonoipu* (2003), *Urban Creature* (2006) and *LifeFloor* (2008).

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