

LABORAL AND THE TOWNHOUSE GALLERY OF CONTEMPORARY ART IN EGYPT ESTABLISH AN ARTIST EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

ASTURIAN ARTIST PABLO DE SOTO WILL TAKE UP RESIDENCY IN CAIRO, WHILE EGYPTIAN SHADY EL NOSHOKATY WILL RESIDE IN GIJÓN'S ART CENTRE.

LABoral Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial and The Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art in Egypt have started a collaboration initiative that, during the course of this year, will establish an artist in residence exchange programme. The Asturian Pablo de Soto will take up residence in Cairo in December while the Egyptian Shady El Noshokaty will reside in Gijón's art centre from June 16th to August 18th.

The programme was made possible thanks to collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and LAB and, more specifically, will be organised through the Spanish Embassy in Egypt.

The Townhouse Gallery was established in 1998 as Egypt's first independent space dedicated to making contemporary art accessible to the public. Its rapid development has resulted in no less than 20 exhibitions per year. It is also organises a programme of ten workshops in which approximately 800 people participate annually, many of them belonging to marginal population groups. Townhouse has always based its activity programme on the needs of the numerous communities that it serves, aiming to increase knowledge, appreciation and development of contemporary art in Egypt, aiding in the growth of a community of independent artists.

Artist and activist Pablo de Soto, born in Gijón (Asturias) 1977, will be the first Asturian to partake in this experience. As author of *Situation Room*, he was the winner of the first edition of the LABjoven_Experimenta competition, organised by LAB in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Principality of Asturias. He is a researcher and constructor of prototypes in the fields of architectural *media* and social cybernetics. Together with Sergio Moreno and José Pérez de Lama, he forms the kernel of *hackitectura.net*, a collaborative network of architects, hackers and social activists experimenting in the emerging fields of cyborg spatiality composed out of the recombination of physical space, ICT networks and physical bodies.

For his part, Shady El Noshokaty (Damietta, 1971) is an established artist in Egypt. His work has been exhibited in a variety of international venues such as the Venice Biennale, the Tate Modern in London, the Pompidou Centre in Paris and the Hayward Gallery, among others. He is a member



of the organisational committee of the Cairo Biennale that is to be held this year.

Townhouse's Artist Residency Project was established in 2000 to provide foreign artists with the opportunity to work in the context of urban Cairo. It currently hosts an average of 10 artists per year. LABoral Centro de Arte, which has only been active for a year, has already begun collaborating with a number of national and international organisations in order to facilitate this kind exchange. In addition, Gijón's Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial has issued an international call for applications to fill the positions of a curator and an artist in residence, whose stay in Gijón is to begin before the end of this year,

Opening Hours: Wednesday to Monday from 12:00 to 8:00 PM
c/ Los Prados 121 33394
Gijón. Asturias
T. +34 985 185 577
F. +34 985 337 355
info@laboralcentrodearte.org
www.laboralcentrodearte.org