

LABoral to participate with 23 other museums and centres in a *bookcrossing* to “liberate” art books

The event will take place this Monday, April 26, until Friday, April 30

LABoral will join 23 other museums and contemporary Spanish art centres in sharing and promoting a *bookcrossing* experience - or, a book liberation campaign - in which cities will be "flooded" with copies of duplicate art publications on different artistic disciplines taken from their personal book stores. The event will be held in various points in Gijón from Monday, April 26, to Friday, April 30, It is part of the activities organised by El Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial to celebrate International Book Day.

The 24 participating artistic centres will put into circulation more than 25,000 "free books." Those who pick them up will enjoy reading them and then re-release them at another place somewhere in the world.

All liberated books will contain unique stickers with instructions for the reader, indicating how to participate in the campaign. Each book is individually registered on the web page www.bookcrossing-spain.com, where readers will be able to indicate where they found each copy and where they liberated it. The goal of this initiative is to include art museum book stores in the effort to promote reading and, more concretely, the dissemination of knowledge on different artistic disciplines.

Ever since becoming a global phenomenon in 2001, bookcrossing has only increased the number of people involved in this kind of initiative. Bookcrossing is defined as a "global book club" directed by three simple rules, the Three Rs: read, register, release. Books are usually "liberated" in public spaces where many people are in transit, from the University to public transport or sports centres. If each user follows the simple instructions, it is possible to track the path followed by each book - on the web page www.bookcrossing-spain.com - from its point of origin to the present. On previous occasions, freed art books through this campaign were found in places as far apart as Paris, New York, Rome or El Cairo.

The initiative arises from the Encuentros de Bibliotecas y Centros de documentación de Arte Contemporáneo [Meeting of Contemporary Art Libraries and Documentation Centres] held in the museum-centre Artium in Vitoria-Gasteiz. Every two years these organisations share information, analyse new lines of work and study the possibilities for

mutual collaboration.

All released books will have four stickers on them. The first of these, on the spine, is the international bookcrossing symbol: a drawing of a book with arms and legs running, personalized on this occasion with the logo of each centre or museum. A written text clarifies what is meant by a bookcrossing. The second sticker is on the book cover and it gives more detail: "pass this book on or leave it to go on its way" and "I am not lost, I am part of a global book club," while it refers to more details inside the book.

Once the book is open, a third sticker instructs the reader on the object of book liberation and on the way to share in the international experience through the web page www.bookcrossing-spain.com. This allows one to discover where the book was published, who has read it and how to include the next reader in its travel journal. Alternatively, the reader can write his or her name and the place where the book was found on the fourth sticker, before re-releasing it.

During the week of April 30, anyone can follow the steps of the more than 25,000 books to be "freed" at various points in seventeen Spanish cities.

Anyone can participate in this experience, not only collecting books but also putting them into circulation, registering them on the bookcrossing web page and liberating them afterwards in a public place.

As well as LABoral, other museums and art centres participating in this experience include:

Arteleku, Donostia-San Sebastián

ARTIUM, Centro-Museo Vasco de Arte Contemporáneo, Vitoria-Gasteiz

CAAM, Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas de Gran Canarias

Casa Asia, Barcelona y Madrid

Centre d'Art La Panera, Lérida

CCCB - Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, Barcelona

Centro Cultural Montehermoso Kulturunea, Vitoria-Gasteiz

Centro de Arte la Regenta, Palma de Gran Canarias

Centro de Arte y Naturaleza – Fundación Beulas, Huesca

Centro de Documentación de Estudios Avanzados de Arte

Contemporáneo, Murcia

Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea – CGAC, Santiago de Compostela

Espai d'art contemporani de Castelló, Castellón

Fundació Antoni Tàpies, Barcelona

Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona

Fundación Marcelino Botín, Santander

IVAM, Institut Valencià d'Art Modern, Valencia

La Casa Encendida, Madrid
LABoral Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial, Gijón
MNAC - Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, Barcelona
MUSAC - Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, León
Museo Esteban Vicente, Segovia
Museo Oteiza Museoa, Alzuza
Museo Txillida-Leku, Hernani
Tabakalera, Donostia-San Sebastián