

## LABoral gives explanatory statements after the controversy surrounding the LABmóvil Graphic Design Competition

Given the controversy surrounding the **LABmóvil Graphic Design Competition**, intended to encourage young graphic design professionals to reflect on the mobile telephone as an everyday technology as well as a medium for artistic expression and social interaction, LABoral would like to give the following explanatory statements:

- 1.- LABoral never intended to make commercial use of the submitted designs. Rather, the intention was to promote an initiative of collective creativity through social networks.
- 2.- As has already been stated on the Competition's web page, LABoral Centro de Arte apologises for the error that was initially included in the Terms and Conditions of the competition (<http://www.concursolabmovil.com/bases/>) which have been duly modified.
- 3.- In accordance with the Terms and Conditions already established, LABoral will not have the right to economically exploit or modify the submitted designs. LABoral will only reserve the right to exhibit them.
- 4.- Everything carried out by LABoral Centro de Arte to date clearly demonstrates our defence of the moral and economic rights of creators and artists as well as the resolutions laid out in Intellectual Property Law.
- 5.- In recognition and defence of these rights, LABoral has assumed a pioneering position, signing specific contracts for the exhibition and promotion of works, including the payment of an honorarium to the artists - a policy that is being progressively implemented by other cultural institutions.
- 6.- LABoral has always been respectful of the artist's freedom to decide in what manner he or she would like to exercise his or her rights, or what she or he might want to do with them. We have always understood that some artists prefer to publish their work with one of the existing licences, such as the *Creative Commons*, that take the philosophical position that culture is everyone's property (thereby prioritising the ethical above immediate economic interest). We believe that the model for economic arrangements in the pre-digital era cannot be applied today, at a time in which we are experiencing a paradigm shift. By removing all restrictions on the use of reproductions or even the works of art themselves, many artists hope that

they will circulate better and reach more people, thereby providing better publicity. LABoral uses free licensing for some of its own publications.

7.- El Centro de Arte has carried out many competitions that have resulted in exhibitions or awards. The primary objective has always been to serve as a platform for the dissemination and distribution of art, culture and creative industries, allowing young creators and designers to publicly display their work.

8.- Initiatives such as this competition are also meant to help accomplish LABoral's mission to contribute to employment growth and economic development in the region of Asturias. El Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial takes this to be a duty, deriving from its philosophy that anchors territorial space within its tradition.

9.- With this in mind, we have carried out intensive research into the artistic world that surrounds us, supporting artists from many different fields. The Archive of Asturian Artists, in development since 2008, is a faithful reflection of our dedication, constituting an essential tool for researchers, programmers and all other kinds of cultural professionals working in the domain of the arts.

10.- The work currently being carried out to establish an Archive of Asturian Designers is also part of this process of defining and identifying the creative talent of the Principality of Asturias. It includes designers born or carrying out their work in Asturias after 1950. The project involves the compiling of basic information on professionals in the sector and their work. It is a database that can store and visualise videos, images and other documents as well as being a physical archive. Both are open to the public for consultation in the Mediatheque\_Archive.

11.- Finally, LABoral would like to thank all the participants for their contributions to the LABmóvil Graphic Design Competition, part of the *LABmóvil Luz verde a la movilidad* project of El Plan Avanza, sponsored by the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce of the Government of Spain. The echo of this competition resonates with the vitality of these young designers, giving clear evidence of their creativity.