

## MathsLAB, Mathematics and Creativity workshop, begins again on October 6 with new activities

*1,400 students have visited the workshop since its inauguration in April to June 18.*

*The workshop will remain open this year until May 27, 2011.*

**MathsLAB. Taller de Matemáticas y Creatividad [Mathematics and Creativity Workshop]** will begin again at the start of the new school year, October 6, and will remain open until May 27, 2011. This year, MathsLAB will offer new activities and content, such as the *Imaginarium* exhibition, along with other activities whose central focus will be the use of play as a way to learn.

In addition, El Taller de Matemáticas y Creatividad, which occupies more than 300 square metres in the classroom area of LABoral's ground floor, will work together with Las Jornadas para el Aprendizaje de las Matemáticas that will gather more than 1,000 teachers from June 3 to 6, 2011.

A total of 1,400 students participated in the activities of **MathsLAB. Taller de Matemáticas y Creatividad** from April 7, when it was inaugurated by the President of the Principality, til it closed for the summer on June 18.

MathsLAB is a didactic project developed by LABoral Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial whose objective is to transmit a new way of understanding mathematics to students and the public in general, exploring the relationship between art and mathematics. The spirit of collaboration and networking that infuses everything carried out at El Centro de Arte is equally present in this initiative. It has brought together a wide group of institutions and specialists, making MathsLAB a space open for experimentation and learning. To this end, the institutions and organisations that have been actively involved in the project include: The Regional Ministry of Education and Science and the Regional Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Principality of Asturias, The University of Oviedo through La Cátedra de Inteligencia Analítica Avanzada (Ia2) [The Department of Advanced Artificial Intelligence], La Real Sociedad Matemática, La Fundación Española para la Ciencia y la Tecnología (FECYT), El Parque Científico Tecnológico de Gijón, El Centro del Profesorado y Recursos de Gijón, the Agustín de Pedrayes mathematics society and

La Fundación Vodafone.

In addition, behind MathsLAB, there is a team of mathematicians, teachers and artists. Amongst them are included: Promotor and Director Santos González (Head of Algebra at the University of Oviedo), General Coordinator Fernando Corbalán (Head of Mathematics at CPEPA 'E. Navarro' de Utebo, Zaragoza and coordinator of the Vital Mathematics Programme of the Department of Education of the Government of Aragón), Abel Martín (Teacher of Mathematics at Pérez de Ayala high school in Oviedo and member of La Sociedad Asturiana de Educación Matemática "Agustín de Pedrayes"), Belarmino Corte (Head of Secondary School Mathematics and Director of El Centro del Profesorado y de Recursos de Gijón), Manuel José Sastre (mathematician and professor at La Corredoria high school), Antonio Palacio Muñiz, Ángel Salar (Head of mathematics at Maestro Nacional high school) as well as LABoral's mediating team, a catalyst for all its activities, acting as a cultural service to facilitate comprehension and dialogue between the visitor and El Centro.

MathsLAB is the world's first permanent space dedicated to the relationship between art, creativity and mathematics. While many science museums have the occasional activity dealing with mathematics, and while there have been exhibitions demonstrating the connection between both disciplines, MathsLAB has only one precedent. That is Mathematikum, a centre expressly dedicated to mathematics, located in the German town of Giesse, 60 kilometres north of Frankfurt. Nonetheless, this German centre uses conferences, exhibitions and special week end activities to educate on the foundations of mathematical science; its relationship to art is not a specific objective of its activity.