

THE DIRECTOR OF LABoral TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS "LUGARES DE CULTURA" TO BE HELD IN SANTIAGO

This Thursday, Rosina Gómez-Baeza will present the Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial as a model example of new infrastructures in the service of culture.

The Director de LABoral Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial, Rosina Gómez-Baeza, will participate tomorrow in the first International Congress on "Lugares de Cultura" ["Cultural Places"] that will begin today in Santiago de Compostela and will continue until next Saturday, January 24th, in the Palacio de Congresos of Santiago de Compostela. The Director of LABoral will give a lecture in which she will present LABoral as a model example of a new kind of infrastructure in the service of culture. This lecture will be given during a session in which she will also discuss other centres and institutions such as Bibliotecas-Parque de Medellín in Colombia, the Kulturforum in Berlin and the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in Newcastle in the United Kingdom.

The Congress "Lugares de Cultura" aims to generate discussion within the framework of a wider scope of theoretical reflection: that of culture and development. Within this framework is included the issue of what role there can be for cultural equipment such as territorial development. In these different sessions the idea of culture and development will be thoroughly explored. In the first place, the evolution of positions on culture and development over the last 25 years, the current state of the question and the lines of progress that are opened towards the future will be analysed from the standpoint of theoretical reflection, established by the inaugural lecture. Secondly, the topic will be examined from the point of view of the experiences and practices that are currently being developed that allow us to see how cultural equipment can generate benefits for the community at large.

In order to facilitate the delivery of the lectures and encourage enriching round table discussions, the topics to be discussed at the congress have been organised according to a computational metaphor that reflects the different aspects that come into play today during the conception, design and management of cultural equipment: SOFT, HARD, ORG and NET. The lecture by Rosina Gómez-Baeza is categorised within as HARD and will take place tomorrow, Thursday, January 22nd. The Director of LABoral will present the Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial de Gijón as the only existing centre in Spain dedicated – from its conception – to technological culture, artistic research, production, education, exhibition and the dissemination of art and creative industries.

According to Gómez-Baeza, LABoral "represents a new model of art centre

whose activity programme has as an essential groundwork strategies of participation and dialogue in the intersection between art and industrial creation." To achieve this, LABoral begins with by conceiving culture and a way towards development and as a faithful reflection of the spectacular changes undergone by society and its immersion in the visual culture of today. She argues that "the driving force behind LABoral's activity is the conviction that museums and art centres need to promote knowledge, foment creativity and facilitate the entire population's access to the Knowledge Society, understanding that this is the only way to achieve an improvement in the quality of life of the citizenry, sustainable generation of economic wealth and the transformation of our society into one that is freer, more cultured and better educated."

In line with these arguments, the Congress also aims to establish a logical connection between its content and the space called upon to be the most cultural important reference point of Galicia: the Cidade da Cultura. In this way it is hoped that there can be a contribution to knowledge and international promotion of this institution as important cultural equipment, positioning Galicia in the defence of culture as a generator of economic and social development at the dawn of the 21st century. La Cidade da Cultura, in line with the objectives of the Congress, is an example of a contribution to the country's development from the cultural domain, becoming an opportunity to renew Galician culture and contribute to its universalisation.

LABoral Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial
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