

THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION PRAISES LABoral's ACTIVITY PROGRAMME AND ENCOURAGES ITS DIRECTORATE TO CONTINUE WORKING TOWARDS THE INTERNATIONAL CONSOLIDATION OF THE PROJECT

ITS MEMBERS REFER TO LABoral AS A "CENTRE OF REFERENCE IN ART, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY" AND BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD PRESERVE ITS STRONG TIES WITH THE LOCAL PUBLIC.

LABoral's Scientific Commission praised the activity programme carried out during the Centre's first 18 months of operation for its "anticipation" and encouraged its Directorate to continue its efforts to consolidate the project internationally. The experts that comprise this advisory body consider LABoral to be a "Centre of reference in art, technology and industry" that needs to define its priorities in such a way that it harmonises its objective of becoming an important reference centre on the international level with the necessity of maintaining and deepening strong ties with its local public.

The Scientific Commission comprises creators and students, critics, professors and professionals from the art and industrial creation sectors that are renowned nationally and internationally. Members include **Roy Ascott** (Founding President of the Planetary Collegium of the University of Plymouth, United Kingdom), **Ute Meta Bauer** (Director of the Visual Arts Programme at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA), **Derrick de Kerckhove**, (Director of the Marshall McLuhan Programme at the University of Toronto, Canada), **Roger Malina** (Astrophysicist at the Laboratoire d'Astrophysique in Marseille, France), **Christiane Paul** (New Media Art Curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA), **Gerfried Stocker**, Artistic Director of Ars Electronica Linz, Austria) and **Amelia Valcárcel Bernaldo de Quirós**, (Professor of Moral and Political Philosophy at the UNED, State Councillor and Vice President of the Real Patronato of the Prado Museum).

During their meeting this past weekend, the Commission's experts analysed and discussed the direction the Art Centre's programming will take during the 2008-2011 period in its five areas of activity: exhibitions, education, research, production and activities. They laid emphasis upon the Centre's consolidation of a programme "of such quality in such short time" and its selection of content "well suited for Asturias."

To consolidate LABoral as a unique brand name, with a project and an identity tightly linked with technological art and industrial creation; to develop an educational programme that propagates the new technological culture; these are the axes that will drive the activity of LABoral forward

during this period. In the opinion of the experts, LABoral needs to collaborate with other educational professionals and organisations, such as with NGOs, in order to foster knowledge of current artistic languages and the new media that contribute to the development of the Information Society. The experts recommend the use of every medium that allows for mass communication that can disseminate the activities of the Centro de Arte in all its programme areas: the radio, digital television, the Internet, social networks, blogs, wikis, LABoral's own web page, publications and the celebration of symposia in an international context

LABoral's exhibition programme that, according to the Scientific Commission, is a reflection of the transformations of our society, aspires to become a local, national and international reference for its research into innovative formats and languages and aims to reflect the emergence of diverse disciplines of contemporary artistic production.

Research and production should always be linked, in the opinion of the Scientific Commission, with transdisciplinary performances that bring together artists, technicians and industry within the framework of an artistic institution. This ties in with LABoral's intention to seek out, support and produce individual and collective research projects that interrelate artists, creators, industry universities and other institutions. In the field of production, the Centro de Arte proposes the creation of a resource and production centre over the middle term, as well as fulfilling the demands of LABoral and its area of influence and satisfying external requests.

The recommendations and suggestions made by the Scientific Commission will be passed on to the Executive Committee and, subsequently, to the Board of Patrons of the Foundation that will approve the axes of activity and the programme of the Centro de Arte for the next three years.

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