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C3A Marks Its Tenth Anniversary with a Major Exhibition Exploring the City of Córdoba and the Social Role of Art

Patricia del Pozo highlights that, since opening in 2016, the centre has presented 70 exhibitions, welcomed more than 200 artists and attracted over 300,000 visitors

The exhibition *City of Whom* brings together works from the institution's collection, loans and new productions by artists including Beuys, Lorca, Matta, Valdés Leal, Espaliú, Motherwell, Asins, Bacon and Christo

Patricia del Pozo, Acting Regional Minister of Culture and Sport, accompanied by José María Bellido, Mayor of Córdoba; Salvador Fuentes, President of the Provincial Council; and Adolfo Molina, Delegate of the Regional Government of Andalusia, today visited the installation of the exhibition *City of Whom*. Conceived to mark the tenth anniversary of the Centro de Creación Contemporánea de Andalucía (C3A) in Córdoba, the project reflects on the city, its shared memories, its conflicts, its imaginaries and the different ways of inhabiting urban space.

Patricia del Pozo noted that “the celebration of the C3A’s tenth anniversary provides an excellent opportunity to acknowledge the work carried out by the institution since its opening, as well as the role it has played as a space for artistic creation, research, production and exhibition. Its programme has balanced the review of established trajectories with support for the most recent experimental practices, paying particular attention to creative processes and emerging artists.”

In this regard, the Acting Regional Minister explained that, since 2016, the C3A “has organised more than 70 exhibitions and welcomed more than two hundred Andalusian, national and international artists.” She added that the centre “has supported the production of more than 120 works conceived specifically for its spaces, developed a residency programme that has enabled more than 80 multidisciplinary creators to work in Córdoba, and attracted nearly 300,000 people to its exhibitions, interventions, concerts, performances and educational programmes.”

According to Del Pozo, this major exhibition marking the tenth anniversary of Córdoba’s contemporary creation centre “demonstrates the institution’s commitment to consolidating its position as a leading cultural space, open to the public and strongly connected to its territory. A space belonging to everyone and for everyone, of Córdoba



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and for Córdoba, which is integrated into the principal national and international networks of contemporary art.”

The exhibition *City of Whom*, curated by Gilberto González, Artistic Deputy Director of the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo (CAAC) and the Centro de Creación Contemporánea de Andalucía (C3A), both under the Ministry of Culture and Sport, together with Lola Baena, curator at both institutions, will open to the public on 12 June. The adaptation and redesign of the museum’s circulation routes have made it possible to develop a project that extends across almost all of the C3A’s spaces, making it one of the largest exhibition undertakings produced by the institution since its inauguration.

The implementation of the project has required the coordinated work of teams from both institutions, including the Conservation Department, responsible for the documentation and coordination of works from the collection, the Exhibitions and Public Programmes Department of the CAAC and C3A, as well as the Production, Maintenance and Administration teams. The project has involved the joint efforts of the specialists responsible for the museum’s exhibition programme and collection, supported by more than thirty professionals working across technical, installation and logistical areas.

City of Whom: A Journey Through the Layers of Urban Life

City of Whom reflects on the role the C3A has played since its opening and on its relationship with the territory in which it is embedded. The exhibition begins with an open question about the role of an institution dedicated to contemporary creation in Córdoba, Andalusia and the national context, proposing a simultaneous consideration of the past, present and future, taking the city of Córdoba as its point of reference in order to reflect on the role of cultural institutions, the creation of shared urban spaces and the different ways in which art, citizenship and territory relate to one another.

Bringing together nearly one hundred works, the exhibition is conceived as “a temporary museum built through a dialogue between works from the CAAC Collection and numerous works on loan from institutions and collections across Córdoba,” according to curator Gilberto González. In addition to constituting the largest presentation of the CAAC Collection ever shown outside Seville, the exhibition has benefited from the collaboration of other institutions under the Ministry of Culture and Sport, including the Archaeological Museum of Córdoba, the Museum of Fine Arts of Córdoba and the Filmoteca de Andalucía.

Other lending institutions include organisations under the Córdoba City Council, such as the Municipal Archive, the Pepe Espaliú Collection at VIMCORSa and the Bullfighting Museum. The exhibition also features works from the Cathedral Chapter, the Juan Antonio Bernier Collection, the Rafael Carrillo Maestre Collection, the Heirs of José Duarte Collection (Equipo 57), the Joaquín Fayós Collection, the Provincial Council of Córdoba, Nieto y Sobejano Arquitectos and the Palacio de Viana (Kutxabank Foundation). In addition, artists Ángeles Alcántara, Juan López, Miguel Ángel Moreno Carretero and Álvaro Perdices have contributed works on loan as collaborators in the project.



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This extensive group of works is complemented by newly commissioned projects by Pilar Monsell and Fernando Vacas, created specifically for the exhibition. These works reflect on the presence of the C3A, its capacity to listen, and its responsibility as a cultural institution within the fabric of the city. The exhibition design further reinforces this idea by hybridising the concept of storage with a space that opens itself to the public, dismantling traditional hierarchies within the galleries as originally conceived by the architects.

Galleries T2 and T3 are devoted to the collective narrative under the title **Genealogies: Inhabiting the Layers of Shared Myths**. Here, symbolic constructions coexist with historical realities. "The mythical and the lived unfold within a complex space where layers of meaning intertwine," notes curator Lola Baena. Historical works, including the *Mosaic of the Poets*, Juan de Valdés Leal's depictions of *Saint Raphael* and Damián de Castro's *Saint Raphael*, are presented alongside contemporary works such as Federico García Lorca's *Drowned Sailor*, Francis Bacon's *Seated Figure* and Pepe Espaliú's *Carrying VII*.

The exhibition also includes a newly commissioned work by Córdoba-based filmmaker and visual artist Pilar Monsell, the result of more than a decade of research into the Bread Riot of 1652, highlighting the leadership and the central role played by working-class women in that uprising. Also featured is Fernando Vacas's sound and visual installation on *Campo de la Verdad*, a place "in the deep south, where the voices of the neighbourhood continue to transmit a way of inhabiting, singing and understanding community, exploring flamenco as a means of fostering understanding between generations," as Baena points out.

The Atrium is divided into three thematic sections. The first, **Where the City Crosses Time: Why the C3A**, is devoted to the relationship between the building's architecture and the urban context in which it stands. This section includes materials that offer insight into the construction of the centre's identity and its dialogue with the city, among them the architectural model designed by Nieto y Sobejano, a tenth-century marble lattice from the Archaeological Museum of Córdoba, and works from the CAAC Collection by artists including Elena Asins, Ibon Aranberri, Bleda y Rosa, Ana Mendieta and Manolo Millares.

The section **Citizen Cartographies: Visual and Social Narratives of Place** explores the subjective and social dimensions of urban cartography. Within this framework, the city's outskirts and peripheral neighbourhoods take centre stage. Through images, records and narratives, the works construct maps that not only invite visitors to imagine a place but also encourage them to rethink the city as a network of overlapping layers. Featured artists include Alegría y Piñero, Lara Almarcegui, José Duarte, Pepe Espaliú, Federico Guzmán, Irene Infante, Robert Motherwell, Álvaro Perdices and Guillermo Pérez Villalta, among others.

Atrium 1 presents a reflection on the city understood as a stage, "an inexhaustible shared space, an inhabited fiction," in the words of Gilberto González. The section, **Who: Presences/Absences. What Is / What Might Have Been**, brings together works including a selection of historic posters for the Córdoba Fair and objects from the Archaeological Museum of Córdoba and the Mosque–Cathedral of Córdoba, in dialogue



with works by Pablo Capitán del Río, Nuria Carrasco, Manuel Quejido, Allan Sekula and Wolfgang Tillmans.

In the Media Library, the Contemporary Architecture Foundation presents a space for reflecting on the possibilities of architecture and urbanism through a series of projects that, in many cases, verge on utopia. The display is structured around three scales of spatial production: the body and its relationships, human and non-human ecosystems, and utopias.

Participating Artists

The exhibition brings together works by Alegría y Piñero, Alfred Guesdon, Allan Sekula, Álvaro Perdices, Amadeo Ruiz Olmos, Amalia Pica, Ana Mendieta, Ángel María de Barcia Pavón, Ángeles Alcántara, Antonio Rodríguez Luna, Arenas Basabe Palacios, Burgos & Garrido, Christo, Basurama, Colectivo Assemble, Damián de Castro, Ecologistas en Acción, Ecosistema Urbano, Elena Asins, Equipo 57, Federico García Lorca, Federico Guzmán, Fernando Vacas, Francis Bacon, Guillermo Pérez Villalta, Ibon Aranberri, Jacobo Castellano, Jiří Georg Dokoupil, Johanna Billing, Jorge Yeregui, José Caballero, José Duarte, Joseph Beuys / Douglas Davis / Nam June Paik, Joseph Kosuth, Juan Bernier, Juan de Valdés Leal, Juan López López, Juan Serrano, Julio Romero de Torres, Lacol Arquitectura, Lara Almarcegui, Latz + Partners, Mae Durant (Pez Estudio), Manolo Quejido, Manolo Millares, Marta María Pérez Bravo, Martha Rosler, Miguel Ángel Moreno Carretero, Miguel Veriguier, Miralles Tagliabue – EMBT Architects, Nieto y Sobejano, Nomad Garden, Nuria Carrasco, Office for Political Innovation (Andrés Jaque), Pablo Capitán del Río, PAX Patios de la Axerquía, Pepe Espaliú, Pez Estudio, Pilar Monsell, Prada Poole, Rafael de La-Hoz, Rafael Romero Barros, Regina de Miguel, Rita Rutkowski, Robert Motherwell, Roberto Matta, Santiago Cirugeda, Sergio Belinchón, Space&Matter, Temperaturas Extremas, Tete Álvarez, Todo por la Praxis, Wolfgang Tillmans and Zuloark.



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