

ECOS

- ECOS is a new exhibition project that offers a renewed look at one of the most important corporate collections in Spain: the Banco Santander Collection.
- Six Spanish artists turn the Art Gallery of the Financial City into the stage for a creative dialogue with surprising results.
- Painting, photography, video, ceramics and sculpture by contemporary creators interact with masterpieces of art from the 15th to the 21st century.
- Works by Irma Álvarez-Laviada, Mira Bernabeu, Sonia Navarro, Fernando Renes, Santiago Ydáñez and José Medina Galeote dialogue with religious paintings and portraits from the 16th and 17th centuries, tapestries from the Manufacture in Brussels, ceramics from Alcora and pieces by José Gutiérrez Solana and Josep Maria Sert.

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Madrid, October 9, 2019-

ECOS is the title of a new exhibition project that Fundación Banco Santander is opening at the Santander Art Gallery in the Ciudad Financiera in Boadilla del Monte (Madrid). From October 9 to December 20, ECOS offers visitors a new way of approaching the Banco Santander Collection, as contemporary creations by Spanish artists will be on display alongside the masterpieces from the 15th to 20th centuries held by the bank.

"The Banco Santander Collection can hardly be interpreted as a single score. In fact, each arrangement of the works in the Boadilla halls gives rise to a new interpretation, a different reading that enriches us and enriches it as a living organism," says Nacho Ruiz, curator of the project. "The echo suffers the deformation of time and space, so that what is heard, or seen in this case, is a distant interpretation of what happened at the origin", continues Ruiz, for whom "the idea of the creation and evolution of art, beyond the continuous line of time, is present". In the same direction, the other curator of the project, Carolina Parra, points out that "temporal crossings change the way we understand art, they force us to start over", emphasizing that ECOS seeks to generate an inner movement that will lead to new readings of the Collection.

In this first edition, six Spanish artists -Irma ÁlvarezLaviada, Mira Bernabeu, José Medina Galeote, Sonia Navarro, Fernando Renes and Santiago Ydáñez- have been invited to search for references, relations or links between their works and those of the Collection. "What has driven us to undertake this new project, within our commitment to cultural patronage, is to showcase the enormous artistic talent of our country, to bring contemporary creation closer to a non-specialist audience and to demonstrate the influences of the past on current art," said Borja Baselga, director of Fundación Banco Santander.

The tour of the contemporary interventions begins with the confrontation of three great paintings by Santiago Ydáñez with outstanding pieces by José Gutiérrez Solana, of which the Banco Santander Collection keeps the most important set in private hands. This is also the first time that the work *El fin del mundo* (The End of the World), created around 1932 by this painter from Madrid, has been exhibited in the Art Gallery.

Next, the set of tapestries *La exaltación de las artes* (The Exaltation of the Arts), made by the Manufacture of Brussels in the 17th century, is interspersed with works by Sonia Navarro, an artist who, as Nacho Ruiz points out, "creates a new design that refers to the mobility and immobility of women, which is striking among tapestries built in collective systems in which women used to be integrated anonymously and silently".

In the room dedicated to 16th and 17th century portraits, works by Sanchez Coello, Van Dyck, Rubens and Tintoretto coexist with photographs by Mira Bernabeu, starring groups of artists, gallery owners, collectors and critics in a sort of collective portrait of the Spanish art sector.

Religious paintings from the Spanish Golden Age surround Irma Alvarez-Laviada's pieces, the result of her love for research on the utopia of art restoration.

The rich collection of Alcora ceramics from the 18th century kept by the Banco Santander Collection shares the same space as a project by Fernando Renes that combines geometry, figuration and text on a wall where ceramics are understood as expanded painting.

And finally, the pictorial set that Josep Maria Sert created for the decoration of the main dining room of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York in 1929-1930, conserved by the Banco Santander Collection, coexists with two large murals created in situ by the artist José Medina Galeote in which he assumes Sert's chromatic play in his fields of colour through the line that is so characteristic in his work.

Biographical profiles of the artists

Irma Álvarez-Laviada (Gijón, 1978)

Her work, which has been exhibited in Spain and Europe, Seoul, the USA, Puerto Rico and Mexico, has received grants from the Residencia de Estudiantes, the Colegio de España in Paris, the Real Academia de España in Rome and the Casa de Velázquez. She has exhibited at the Luis Adelantado Gallery, the RAC Foundation or the City of Culture in Santiago de Compostela. In 2019, she presented *El espacio entre las cosas* at the Fundación Cerezales Antonino y Cinia (León). At the Gallery Weekend of Barcelona in 2019, she exhibited her work at Ana Mas Circunstancias materiales Gallery. Her works can be found in different public and private collections such as the Pilar Citoler Collection, Ministry of Culture, AECID, the Masaveu Foundation, Madrid City Council, etc.

Mira Bernabeu (Aspe, Alicante, 1969)

Mira combines her career with managing the Espaivisor Gallery. Her projects are interesting for their aesthetics and above all, for their social facet and interest in psychologically and anthropologically analysing the human being, through group portraits on stages by way of a performance. Her individual exhibitions in galleries and institutions such as the Centro Párraga (Murcia), Fernando Pradilla (Madrid), Fundació Espais (Girona), Casal Solleric (Mallorca), etc. are outstanding. And on a collective scale: IVAM (Valencia), Galerie Nord Kunstverein Tiergarten (Berlin), Fundación Botín (Santander), Photoespaña (Madrid), MUSAC (León), ARTIUM (Vitoria), University of Southern California (Los Angeles), La Casa Encendida, Royal College of Art, and a long list of many others.

José Medina Galeote (San Gregorio, Gerona, 1970)

An expert in Contemporary Art and Aesthetic Theory. Jose Medina has carried out fundamental workshops such as that of Tacita Dean at the Tate Modern, and exhibited at the CAC Málaga, Centre Pompidou, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo of Tarragona or the Museo Antropológico of Madrid. He has participated in international fairs such as ARCO Madrid, ZONA MACO (Mexico City) or THE OTHERS (Turin). Collectively, he has exhibited at CASA Salamanca, MUSEO ABC Madrid and has been awarded grants such as the Vázquez Díaz of the Huelva Provincial Council, KW Institute for Contemporary Art (Berlin), Hangar (Barcelona), etc. In 2018 he participated in the Territorios project, and is present in important collections such as the DKV Collection, the Pamplona City Council Collection and the Anthropological Museum Collection in Madrid.

Sonia Navarro (Puerto Lumbreras, Murcia 1975)

Sonia Navarro has been awarded several prizes and scholarships such as that of the Spanish Academy in Rome, the Cité Internationale Universitaire in Paris and the Prize for Visual Arts and Photography by the Ministry of Culture. For over a decade, through media such as sculpture, installation, photography and drawing, Navarro has been creating works that challenge and confront the mechanisms of power, relating women to domestic work and against social conventions. It has been presented individually in national and international galleries, such as T20 (Murcia), Mas Art (Barcelona) Ad Hoc (Vigo), Ybakatu, (Curitiba, Brazil) or Pedro Oliveira Gallery (Porto, Portugal). She has worked on specific projects such as Manifesta 08 or Open Studio Madrid, among others.

Fernando Renes (Covarrubias, Burgos, 1970)

Renes is a visual artist. In 2014 he returned to Spain, after 17 years living in New York and Rome, and began to work with ceramics, giving three-dimensional support to his pieces. He has exhibited at La Casa Encendida (Madrid), DA2 (Salamanca), CAM Raleigh (North Carolina), Mucsarnok Kunsthalle (Budapest), Instituto Cultural Cabañas (Guadalajara, Mexico), CentroCentro (Madrid), among others. His work is part of the following collections: Fundación Botín (Santander), Museo de arte contemporáneo de Castilla y León MUSAC (León), Centre d'art La Panera (Lleida), Centro Federico García Lorca (Granada) or Queens Museum (New York).

Santiago Ydáñez (Puente de Génave, Jaén, 1967)

Santiago Ydáñez has conducted workshops with Juan Genovés and Mitsuo Miura. His work has been exhibited at the CAC in Malaga, Villa di Livia (Rome), Whitebox Art Center (Beijing), Museo Lázaro Galdiano, among others. He is currently one of the young Spanish painters with the greatest international projection. He was awarded the ABC Painting Prize and the Caja Madrid Generation Painting Prize, the Scholarship of the Spanish Academy in Rome and the 33rd BMW Painting Prize in 2018, among others. His work can be found in the collections of the Botín Foundation (Santander), MNCARS, DKV collection, L'Oréal collection, (Madrid), ABC collection (Madrid), Centro Atlántico Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Las Palmas (Gran Canaria), among others.

Workshops for families, schools and accessibility

Fundación Banco Santander, in parallel with the exhibition, organises intergenerational visits-workshops for families and visits for schools. In the Art Gallery, educators will be able to discover the works in the exhibition, while participating in various experiences in the exhibition space itself. Pedagogías Invisibles and Mirarte are the organisations that will be in charge of these workshops and visits. More information at www.fundacionbancosantander.com

Details of the ECOS exhibition

ORGANIZED BY: Fundación Banco Santander

VENUE: Sala de Arte Santander Ciudad Grupo Santander, Boadilla del Monte (Madrid)

DATES: 9 October - 20 December 2019

COMMISSIONERS: Nacho Ruiz and Carolina Parra

VISITS: Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays from 10.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays and holidays closed.

Guided tours for groups - Reservations: 91 259 67 18/19

Intergenerational workshop visits and school visits. Reservations: actividadesfundacion@gruposantander.com

Metro Madrid-Tren ligero, Cantabria Station. Buses 573 and 574

About Fundación Banco Santander

At Fundación Banco Santander we work to contribute to the construction of a more equitable, inclusive and sustainable society.

With this objective, we develop initiatives grouped into three lines of action: the promotion of culture as a tool for understanding the world around us, social action to facilitate the progress of vulnerable groups and care of the environment to protect natural heritage.

In all our programmes we strive to create networks of collaboration with the third sector in order to face the main global challenges together.