

Donostia-San Sebastian chosen to host Manifesta 5 under new curatorial team

Press Release

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The **International Foundation Manifesta** (IFM) is delighted to announce that the city of *Donostia-San Sebastian* in the Basque region of Spain has been chosen to be the host city for Manifesta 5.

Donostia-San Sebastian has been selected because of its dynamic historical and socio-political background, as well as its trans-regional importance. The city has developed an increasingly vibrant cultural identity through daring initiatives on the part of its independent artists, galleries and institutions. At the same time, the local art scene has shown a strong commitment to the International Foundation Manifesta as co-producers and organisers of the 5th Manifesta biennial edition.

The Basque region has a strong sense of cultural and political identity and a determination to develop coherent cultural policies. This attitude and its geographical position in Southern Europe makes Donostia-San Sebastian a perfect location for the 5th Manifesta. One of the IFM's long-term strategic aims is to achieve a stronger North-South balance, in addition to the existing East-West balance in all aspects of its activities, including location, board members, curatorial teams and artistic representation.

During a press conference in ARTELEKU, Donostia-San Sebastian, representatives of the International Board of Manifesta will officially appoint the next Manifesta 5 curatorial team: **Massimiliano Gioni**, art critic and curator, director of the Nicola Trussardi Foundation, based in Milan and New York, **Marta Kuzma**, independent curator and former Director of SCCA Gallery in Kyiv, Artistic Director of the Washington Project for the Arts/Corcoran in Washington DC and Director of the International Exhibitions Program at the International Center of Photography in New York, and **Paula Toppila**, curator at Finnish Fund for Art Exchange, Frame (Helsinki) and one of the curators for Momentum Nordic Biennial of Contemporary Art in Moss, Norway in 2000. In keeping with the Manifesta tradition, the curators have been selected in order to create a specific project by referencing their respective past experiences and perspectives without entering into a preconceived concept or space as to what defines Europe. In contrast to former editions of Manifesta, the curatorial team will commit an extended amount of time to reside in Donostia-San Sebastian to develop the Manifesta project in close proximity to the city and the region, its institutions such as ARTELEKU, CICC, Kursaal, and Koldo Mitxelena including the main exhibition, related public projects and educational programming.

The Manifesta 5 Management team consisting of **Lourdes Fernandez** as General Co-ordinator and **Jose Miguel Ayerza** as General Manager will develop and execute the Manifesta 5 biennial programme. The offices and the production centre will be based in ARTELEKU, and the Centro Internacional de Cultura Contemporanea (CICC) will support the project. The CICC is directed by three institutions in the Basque region: the City of Donostia-San Sebastian, the Diputacion Foral de Gipuzkoa and the Basque Government.

Network Programme 2002-2005

The **International Foundation Manifesta** (IFM), initiator and supporter of Manifesta, the European Biennial of Contemporary Art, has recently started to create a more broad public accessibility to its large archive and resources in her Amsterdam offices. The IFM aims to act as the nucleus for information exchange for the Host Cities, for partner organisations as well as act as a content provider for our newly started co-operative projects within the Manifesta Network Programme.

The Network Programme consists of the following projects:

- Igor Zabel (Ljubljana) and Viktor Misiano (Moscow), will publish a 6-monthly **journal**, documenting and inspiring the lively debate on curatorial practices.

- Roomade (Brussels) is co-ordinating an investigation, which engages in a panoptical and multi-disciplinary manner a critical understanding of Manifesta and the framework in which it functioned over the past decade. The outcome of this inquiry will be reflected in **book**, due to appear in December 2004.

- IFM and the Liverpool Biennial together organise a regular, yearly series of **workshops** called 'Coffee and Tea Breaks' aimed at discussion, reflection and critical investigation of the contemporary social, political and artistic climate.

- IFM and AICA, the International Association of Art Critics (Paris) are involved in creating a three-year **conference programme** on various current practical and theoretical aspects of contemporary art production and debate. The IFM will in this context invite specialists from different fields to explore new topics.

- Basis Wien is developing a **digital archive**, including all artistic material collected from the four previous editions of Manifesta, which will then become part of an online resource centre or **work station**, which will be made accessible to the public through the IFM office in Amsterdam.

- Manifesta 5 is offering through their Biennial Programme a series of projects which will relate to and being integrated into the main discussions and workshops of the Network Programme.

The Network Programme wants actively to create and develop an ongoing relationship between international art professionals through joint in-depth research on contemporary artistic and curatorial practices. In these and other ways, the IFM will seek to build on the strengths of its permanent structure, in the knowledge that it can only continue to survive and flourish through an organised and controlled process of organic change.

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