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## The Birth of the MUSAC, a Museum of the Present

**The MUSAC, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, was created with the aim of becoming a “Museum of the Present”. Located in the city of León, the official opening will take place on April 2005 with the project, *Emergencias* composed of more than 80 works from the MUSAC Collection.**

Since the approval of the project in the year 2001 by the Castile-León government, the vocation of the MUSAC has always been in becoming a Museum of the Present. Located in the city of León, in the Eras de Renueva district, this ambitious museum project aims to develop a new attitude in the conception and exhibition of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Art.

The redefinition of the classical idea of the Museum will be undertaken by means of a collection that almost exclusively relies on what is created in the present time, on the selective and critical support to the same, and on the elaboration of different activities that make an artwork comprehensible to a wide range of public.

The final years of the past century have provided the point of reference of its **Collection** that, having started from the year 2002, already comprise more than 900 works of national and international artists.

In this way the MUSAC introduces itself as a clear exponent of a new period in the history of western art and—more concretely—of art made in Spain. A new cultural stage, in which aesthetic values and artistic behavior that were considered revolutionary in the past have already become well-established.

### **MUSAC, a reflection of contemporary artistic trends**

The MUSAC seeks to be a fundamental piece in the development of current Contemporary Art, not only in the region that inscribes it, but also on a national and international level.

As such, apart from showing works from its collection in its exhibition halls, the museum shall produce various shows from León, with the objective of integrating them in the international circuit. Another objective of the museum is to house travelling exhibits from other centers at the same time.

In the same manner, a wide-ranging experimental sense when conceiving and developing projects and other initiatives shall mark all interactions of the MUSAC with its environment.

The museum was built with the aim of being a relational place where the public is no longer a mere passive element that observes. Exhibitions, workshops, talks, meetings with artists, educational guides and works that interact with the spectator are some of the essential elements in the activity of the MUSAC.



## MUSAC Staff

On December 2002 **Rafael Doctor Roncero** was named Director of the MUSAC. He is an Art Historian, photographer and curator. From 1993-2001 he was responsible for the programming of the Sala de Exposiciones del Canal de Isabel II de la Comunidad de Madrid. From 1996 he has been the coordinator of various projects related to photography for the Contemporary Art Fair, ARCO, and has curated the Open Road section within the program Cutting Edge. From 1997 to 2000 he directed the Espacio Uno in Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, where he curated a total of 28 exhibitions. In 2001 he curated the exhibit "Ofelias y Ulises. En torno al arte español contemporáneo" for the 49th Venice Biennial. In 2002 he directed the cultural programme of the Casa de America in Madrid.

He has published, among others: "Una historia otra de la fotografía" and "Historias de las fotografías" (Taller de Arte, 2000 and 2002), and has created the collection "T.F. Foto" of T.F. Editores and the artist books "Arte sobre papel" published by Coydis.

**Agustín Pérez Rubio**, art critic and independent curator, is the Chief Curator. The rest of the artistic team are: **Kristine Guzmán**, General Coordinator; **Tania Pardo**, Exhibitions, Projects and Grants Coordinator; **Carlos Ordás**, Exhibitions and Projects Coordinator; and **Belén Sola**, Coordinator of the Department of Education and Cultural Action.

