



MONTENMEDIO
CONTEMPORARY
FOUNDATION

MONTENMEDIO
contemporánea



Susana Solano. Encens y Mirra, 2001.

MONTENMEDIO CONTEMPORARY FOUNDATION

The Montenmedio Contemporary Foundation was created as a point of interaction with its social, cultural and geographical context. Following the current model for a relational based institution, the project was conceived as a mediating museum, committed to supporting contemporary artists to create site-specific projects which promote social dialogue and understanding through art.

The significance of a management model of a relational institution is linked to how the established connections with diverse social groups, their interests and, their potential participation are denied.

The Foundation works as an experimental institution in the public arena where various projects have been developed that promote the existence of art in the public sphere. At Montenmedio Contemporary Foundation we understand relational management as a space for art that explores new forms of social interaction. We look for ways in which art can make a significant contribution through its own specific nature.



40 site-specific projects, created by national and internationally renowned artists, such as Susana Solano, Marina Abramović, Adel Abdessemed, Pilar Albarracín, Cristina Lucas, Maja Bajević, Maurizio Cattelan, Jacobo Castellano and James Turrell, to name but a few.

One of the aims of the Monténmedio Contemporary Foundation is to promote the development of young creators who are emerging on to the artistic scene and to offer them the opportunity to exhibit alongside other internationally recognized artists. In this way, the foundation serves as a stepping stone for artists who have never before had the opportunity to exhibit in Spain.

The curation of the collection is based on the idea of presenting images that allow the viewer the chance to lose themselves for a while in imagining parallel worlds, and in this way and to and links and connections with the real world in which they live.



LOCATION

The Montenmedio Contemporary Foundation is situated in the Montenmedio farmlands, sited in Vejer de la Frontera.

Only 54 kilometres from Cadiz, and with a population of 13.000 residents, Vejer de la Frontera has a huge cultural heritage and it is known as one of the most beautiful villages in Spain. Vejer was declared an historical-artistic complex in 1976, and a very influential touristic area in 1977.

Montenmedio Contemporary is located in a natural environment with native flora and fauna, typical of the Mediterranean coast. The NMAC area is an extension of the natural park "Marismas de Barbate y la Breña".

It is considered one of the most impressive natural spectacles of all the Atlantic Andalusian coast. El Parque Natural de la Breña and las Marismas de Barbate grant visitors impressive landscapes of cliffs up to 100 meters high.

"Marismas de Barbate y la Breña" was declared a natural park in 1989 and is more than 3.797 hectares.

Currently, the Montenmedio Contemporary collection is sited in a Mediterranean pine forest, along 30 hectares, and the foundation's exhibition areas are comprised of 11 old barracks, which form part of a military complex which is abandoned since the 1970s.

ART AND NATURE

The relationship between art and nature has affected artistic practices and theories of art throughout time.

It is well known that nature has been abused in this present century and that its resources are exploited for the purpose of individual enrichment. We have distanced ourselves from nature by losing respect for it and devastated it to the demands of a new way of life.

Awareness of the damage done has resulted in the appearance of a new collective consciousness that tries to engage in a more cordial dialogue, and a more respectful approach, towards the natural environment

Thus, within the heart of artistic expression, a way of understanding has been created, which intends to improve our relationship with the natural environment, through the promotion of knowledge and direct interaction with it.

In accordance with this, the Montenmedio Contemporary Foundation, situated in the Montenmedio farmlands, which contains a Mediterranean pine forest, invites the visitor to experience multiple and perhaps new relationships with nature through the “site-specific” interventions made by the artists.

THE NMAC COLLECTION

To date more than 40 artists have undertaken 'site-specific' projects at Montenmedio Contemporary, of which 22 are permanent projects of collection, open to the general public every day.

Inaugurated in June 2001, the foundation's main objective is to offer a vision of contemporary art in which the natural landscape and social environment, including the historical background are determinants in the creation of the works.

The hero, **Marina Abramovic**. 2001

Human Nests, **Marina Abramovic**. 2001

The night 1002, **Pilar Albarracín**. 2001

Sky's Impression, **Gunilla Bandolin**. 2001

Untitled, **Maurizio Cattelan**. 2001

River run – Snake in the sun, **Richard Nonas**. 2001

Incense and Myrrh, **Susana Solano**. 2001

Quasi Brick wall, **Olafur Eliasson**. 2002

Ridiculous secuencia, **MP&MP Rosado**. 2001

3000 hollows, **Santiago Sierra**. 2002

Garden Passage, **Michael Lin**. 2003

I remember, **Ester Partegás**. 2003

Le bain, **Huang Yong Ping**, 2003

Home and away, **Berni Searle**. 2003

Bridge, **Shen Yuan**, 2004

Salam Europe!, **Adel Abdesamed**, 2006

Sculpture for blinds, **Maja Bajevic**. 2006

Modied Social Benches, **Jeppe Hein**. 2006

You can walk, too, **Cristina Lucas**. 2006

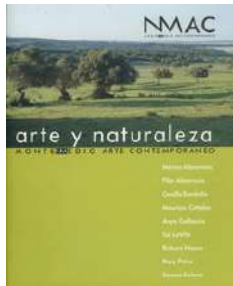
Plansone Dutty Free, **Pascale Marthine Tayou**. 2006

Love Stories, **Aleksandra Mir**. 2004-2007

Second Wind 2005, **James Turrell**. 2009

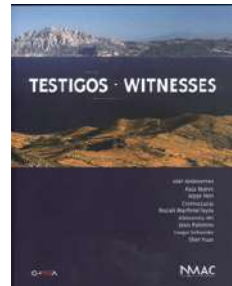
Viga Madre, **Jacobo Castellano**. 2019

PUBLICATIONS



"Arte y Naturaleza" (2001) by Magda Belloti, Antón Castro, Juan Pablo Wert Ortega, Sverker Sorlin, Estrella de Diego, María del Corral, Marika Wachtmeister, Aurora

García and Jimena Blázquez.



"Witnesses" (2006) by Víctor Silba Echeto, Gilane Tawadros, Roberto Pnto, Michele Robecchi, Sergio Rubira, Jerome Sans, Jorge Cassanova, Evelyne Jouanno,

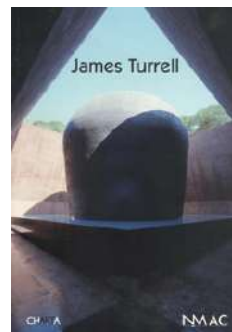
Marcella Beccaria and Jimena Blázquez.



"Guía de Buenas prácticas" (2002) inside the project "An Art and Nature dialogue", organised by the Montenmedio Contemporary Foundation and the european programme "Cultura 2000". By José Albeada, Anna Johansson, Antonella Marino and Jimena Blázquez.



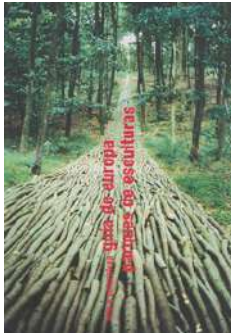
Catalogue 2003 by José Albelda, Cecile Bourne, Julia Caniglia, Juan Vicente Aliaga, Catherine Grenier, Bárbara Perea, Alexandre Melo, Lilet Breddels and Jimena Blázquez.



Monography: James Turrell (2009) by Michael Govan. Charon G. Goto y William P. Banks and Jimena Blázquez.



Catalogue "Bridge" (2004) for students, published by the Montenmedio Contemporary Foundation and supported by the european programme "Cultura 2000".



Catalogue "Guide of European Sculpture Parks" (2005). A selection of 131 projects in 18 different countries about art and nature.



Catalogue "Cleaning the house" (2004) about the workshop by Marina Abramovic in the Montenmedio Contemporary Foundation with 37 young artists.



Catalogue "Love Stories" (2004-2007) about the project that Aleksandra Mir developed in the Montenmedio Contemporary Foundation.



"Nature as Atelier" (2022), catalogue of the dialogue between Contemporary Art and Nature, includes an exhaustive documentation based on more than two decades of work the Montenmedio Contemporánea Foundation's collection.

Through the more of 270 pages, is presented unpublished photos from 20 years of artistic production carried out by this institution settled in Cádiz. This center has become in one of the most important recognized institution to an international global level. Jimena Blázquez, director of the Foundation and author of this publication published by Siruela. She immerses us in a unique journey through the paths of a Mediterranean forest where international artists have carried out "site-specific" projects in dialogue with the environment, achieving that the Cadiz Dehesa has become into one of the most important open-air museums in the world.



EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

The Montenmedio Contemporary Foundation continues to develop an important pedagogical program focused on guided tours and workshops for schools, as well as the creation of educational material for teachers and pupils.

The educational program of the Montenmedio Contemporary Foundation is designed to satisfy the needs of the different types of the public that visit the facilities each year. Through this program, the educational department creates specific activities for groups of adults, schoolchildren, students, and teachers, with the aim of disseminating contemporary art by offering the necessary tools for further understanding and analysis.

The workshops, teaching materials, and guided tours help to disseminate current artistic languages and trends, as well as maintaining a close relationship with, and analysis of, the natural environment where a large part of the permanent collection is located.

The Montenmedio Contemporary educational departments program is inspired by the artwork itself, and also from the idea that although contemporary art is of our time, it is curiously the least understood type of art. The viewer can sometimes react with an attitude of rejection towards the work of art, that at first, they may not understand.

Huang Yong Ping. El baño, 2003.



Our objective is to provide knowledge about how the artworks belong to our historical reality so that they can be understood as a maximum expression of human beings in contemporary culture.

In order to achieve this approach to contemporary artwork, we promote activities such as thinking, opinion creation, reacting, and dialoguing, through guided visits, teaching materials, and educational workshops.

The activities aim to bring the artwork closer to the public. The artwork is not intended to be something unconnected from the public.

A photograph of Marina Abramovic's performance 'Cleaning the house' (2004). Two participants, a man and a woman, are sitting on a large, thick tree branch. The man is shirtless and wearing blue pants, while the woman is wearing a white shirt and dark pants. They are both looking down at the ground. The background shows a dense forest with green foliage.

Marina Abramovic'. Cleaning the house, 2004.

WORKSHOPS FOR ARTIST

From the beginning, the Montenmedio Contemporary Foundation has supported the career of young artists by supporting the production of different site-specific projects such as sculpture, installation, video, and photography.

Parallel to the production of these exhibition projects, Montenmedio Contemporary broadens its scope of action by incorporating a series of cultural proposals that support the training of Spanish artists with activities and unique educational experiences, that are dedicated to understanding contemporary artistic languages within both a national and international context.

In these workshops, the artist can interact with a group of participants to discuss issues related to their work and their creative processes, and in which attendees can present their own work to discuss with the other participants.

The realization of these encounters between artists, at the headquarters of the Montenmedio Contemporary Foundation, an art center located away from the usual circuits of contemporary art, provides a more accessible opportunity for the local public and artists to be part of the contemporary art scene.



DOCUMENTARY CENTRE

The Monténmedio Contemporary Foundation has a research centre with more than 3000 books that specialise in contemporary art, specifically land art, and the relationship between art and nature. It also holds articles and publications about public art, site-specific projects, installation, sculpture, and landscape. The centre has essays, catalogues of exhibitions, monographs, and specialised magazines.

The Monténmedio Contemporary documentation center is computerised with easy access to all volumes and the description of its contents.

The staff at the documentary centre are responsible for regularly acquiring all the most recent relevant and interesting publications, keeping the library in constant growth.

The exchange of publications between Monténmedio Contemporary library and other national and international institutions, makes the Monténmedio Contemporary documentary centre a primary point of reference for these specialised materials



Olafur Eliasson. Pared de ladrillos Quasi, 2002.

INFORMATION

Montenmedio Contemporary Foundation

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TIMETABLE

Summer: Tues - Sun

10 am to 2 pm / 5 pm to 9 pm

Winter: Tues - Sun

10 am to 2 pm

Monday closed

PRICES

Free entrance 10 €

Special 50% discount for
students, seniors and disabled people.

Guided tours for groups:

Booking in advance is required

reservas@fundacionnmac.org

