

ENGLISH

APRIL MAY JUNE 2019



AZKUNA  
ZENTROA  
ALHÓNDIGA  
BILBAO

**B**ilbao



# Associated Artists Programme

## *Supporting creation*

Azkuna Zentroa has launched the artistic creation support programme '*Associated Artists*', aimed at accompanying and promoting creators with a consolidated career, whose works are an inspirational look at artistic languages.

A new collaboration framework related to the centre programme lines, which reinforces the fact of being an access platform to contemporary culture and a support platform to the creation processes.

### **Walking together**

Artists are essential in social change and in the generation of a critical society via performing arts. Their proposals offer their own view of today's world, enabling thought, imagination and representation of other worlds.

Our goal is to accompany different artists on their journey by inviting them to stay with us for two years. The aim is to strengthen their active reference role in the environment artistic-cultural map, facilitating exchange between the community and the diverse cultural and social agents, driving their projection and favouring connection with other networks, and allowing themselves to be affected by these processes while the Centre learns their ways of doing things. This is a programme for walking hand-in-hand.

Starting in January 2019, Sra Polarowska and [Oscar Gómez Mata](#) are the Associated Artists with Azkuna Zentroa.

### **Sra Polarowska**

Alaitz Arenzana and Maria Ibarretxe are the creators of [Sra Polarowska](#). Alaitz Arenzana is a Graduated in Audiovisual Communication. Since her early works as an artist she made it clear that her way would always be linked to research and creation processes closer to the world of art as opposed to the most industrial interests of image. At the same time, she produces documentaries, advertising and television programmes. María Ibarretxe holds a Diploma in Dramatic Art and comes from the world of stage creation and performance, besides working as a dancer and actress in different companies. Their collaboration has meant the permeability of both these worlds in an intermediate place. Both are also members of the collective RUEMANIAK centred on the research of dance and stage arts.

The audiovisual work of [Sra Polarowska](#) revolves around the art of action, scenic creation and choreography. Their work is based on the search for other spaces and languages, where the body and its relation to the space where it is located is always the lead protagonist. They avoid conventional narrative structures and closed concepts for the spectators. Their intentionally ambiguous works play with



[The audiovisual work of Sra Polarowska revolves around the art of action, scenic creation and choreography.](#)





body associated roles, destabilising the way the observers look, forcing them to position themselves within what they are watching. Spectators become fully submerged in the space that has been created, yet said space is open and contains as many interpretations as the looks that have observed what has happened on screen.

As an *Associated Artist*, [Sra Polaroiska](#) will continue its creative process as regards the creation of references and empowerment of older women

To this end, they will develop an expanded intergenerational programme of the works they are working on, with the aim of making visible and questioning the system of beliefs, both aesthetic and behavioural, related with age. The audiovisual work *'No hay nada más moderno que envejecer'* is an invitation to contemplate bodies condemned to the social ostracism of older women; and the project *'El Atlas de los Cuerpos'* is an animated film which proposes an exploration of the personal, sensual and sexual affection universe of 6 women in their 60s brought up during

Franco's dictatorship.

Through the work *'El musical, cuerpo, movimiento, adolescencia, amor y fantasmita'*, [Sra Polaroiska](#) proposes a wider look at this question through the exploration of the educational concept of love, which revolves around different generations from a corporeal and scenic perspective.

And with the installation and collective workshop *'Hamacas'*, they propose an interactive and intergenerational activity that brings together groups of different generations. Through the creation of sculpture-objects with fabric, they favour a meeting among people with different stories, by listening and observing.

### **Oscar Gómez Mata**

Actor, director, author and scenographer, [Oscar Gómez Mata](#) began his theatrical activities in the Basque Country in 1987, when he became cofounder of the Company Legaleón-T, with which he created shows until 1996.

In 1997 he founded the Company L'Alakran in Geneva for which he signed the direction, conception, playwriting and texts of several shows. Since 2013 he has been a teacher at Manufacture (Swiss-French Drama School - HETSR), and was granted the Swiss National Theatre Award in 2018.

During his collaboration this year with Azkuna Zentroa, [Oscar Gómez Mata](#) will develop *'Laboratorio de derivas'*, where drifting is understood as displacement of thought and emotion within urban geography. A kind of index-compilation of the kinds of walks any person might do. In this first part as Associated Artist with Azkuna Zentroa, [Oscar Gómez Mata](#) poses 'thought as a contemporary vindication, as a true and necessary moment in which there is an encounter between myself and the outside world. Thought as an inner intimate strength which every person has to look after, stimulate, defend, move and provoke.'

He focuses on walking and on the fact that 'the rhythm of our steps is related to our way of thinking, talking to ourselves, telling us things and describing what surrounds us, and to making the world around us exist' he explained.

////////////////////  
[In this project,](#)  
[Oscar Gómez Mata poses](#)  
[«thought as contemporary](#)  
[vindication».](#)  
////////////////////

It is all about awakening the unexpected.

To reinvent and try something we all know, i.e. everything is connected, and one thing leads to another.

To work on the observation and exploration of the day-to-day urban landscapes, of the infra-mild. To stimulate chance, synchronicity and serendipity, and to see how a personal material is created from this experience.



Oscar Gómez Mata. Photography: Steeveluncker

This project is co-created by [Oscar Gómez Mata](#) and Esperanza López. The first stage will be carried out on 16, 17 and 18 April; and from 27 May to 8 June.

The aim of this first stage is to conclude a first *Catalogue of Meanderings* and experiment it with the audience of Azkuna Zentroa. Furthermore, a workshop style meeting is organised with art professionals to brainstorm this kind of device as a creative material generator.