

contemporary culture



Cover image: Tomo Estudio

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# The art of the interface

This quarter, sculpture passes the baton to art and technology at the Exhibition Hall. *The Artwork as a Living System* by the Austro-French artistic duo composed of Christa Sommerer and Laurent Mignonneau, internationally renowned in the digital art world, will take over for *Decrecer*, the project by artist Bene Bergado. The exhibition tells the story of thirty years of research and development of artificial living systems through interactive installations that connect art and nature.

#### **ART, AN OPEN SYSTEM**

Christa Sommerer and Laurent Mignonneau view art as an open system in which "creation is no longer understood as an expression of the artist's inner creativity or 'ingenuity' but becomes in itself an intrinsically dynamic process based on the parameters of interaction and the evolutionary processes of the image of the work."

In this paradigm shift, the interface, the intersection between humans and machines, is an important creative element and one that is necessary for the work of art to become visible and available for experimentation.

Through innovative technical developments, not only do people enter virtual worlds but they also create them, without overlooking the art-nature discourse. They use plants, water and light as sensitive interfaces through which people can create and connect with virtual environments.

#### FEELING AND BEING PART OF THE ECOSYSTEM

In the resulting interactive works of art, the audience experiences a "corporeal" relationship with nature and becomes aware of how any decision, no matter how small or individual, can bring about major changes in the ecosystem.

In this exhibition, communities of audiences can not only touch and experience the works of art, but also approach and understand concepts related to the most diverse fields of science and technology: from quantum physics and the theory of complex systems to molecular genetics, nanoscience and artificial life.





#### **DIGITAL ART CLASSICS**

The works of Christa Sommerer and Laurent Mignonneau are now practically classics of digital art. They have won awards at the world's leading art, science and digital culture festivals and been shown in more than 350 exhibitions.

Their work is part of important international collections such as those of the Media Museum at the ZKM in Karlsruhe (Germany), the NTT InterCommunication Center and the Metropolitan Museum of Photography, both in Tokyo, the Cartier Foundation in Paris, the Millennium Dome in London and the Ars Electronica Centre in Linz (Austria).

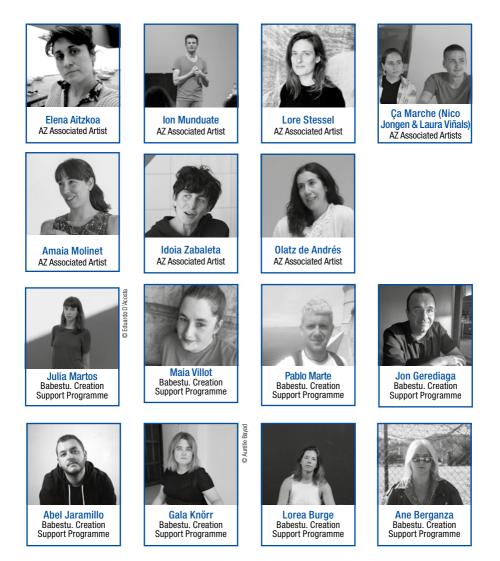
#### **NEW MEDIA ART**

The Artwork as a Living System comes to Bilbao via a collaboration network between Azkuna Zentroa and three of Europe's leading contemporary art centres that have co-produced and exhibited it at their venues: the ZKM | Centre for Art and Media in Karlsruhe, Germany; the OÖ Landes-Kultur GmbH in Linz, Austria; and the iMAL in Brussels, Belgium. Based on a concept by Karin Ohlenschläge, it was initially curated by Ohlenschläger herself, together with Peter Weibel and Alfred Weidinger.

The project connects the audience with digital cultures through a new media art exhibition that addresses their transformative capacity to see and feel contemporary art.

# Accompanying us this quarter are:

Azkuna Zentroa - Alhóndiga Bilbao programme arises from the complicity of people from different disciplines who give value, contribute and enrich our proposals aimed at the different audience communities. The projects and people accompanying us this quarter, who form part of the conversations we started this year, are shown here.



C Lorea Alfato, 2021

Isabel de Naverán AZ Associated Researcher



AZ Associated Researcher



**Ixiar Rozas** AZ Associated Researcher

Francisco Ruiz

de Infante

Artist



Gorka Rodriguez, Arrate Presilla, Maialen Ariz, María Arana. Urbanbat **Resident Collective** in AZ



Ziomara Hormaetxe Choreographer



Fran Mengual International Comic Residency



**Gaston Core** Choreographer



Vallières International Comic Residency



Cía. Laenananaranja



Bene Bergado Artist



Lisa Blumen

International Comic

Residency

JL Moraza Curator & artist



Maria Urcelay, Na Gomes & Yogurinha Borova Lari Produzioak



Paul B. Preciado Philosopher, curator and writer



**Cris Blanco** Set Designer



Caspervek Musical group



**Christa Sommerer &** Laurent Mignonneau Artists

#### **#livearts #eszenAZ #theatre**

# **Cris Blanco** Grandissima illusione

Cris Blanco's latest production is the result of researching and creating a large-format stage piece where several theatrical genres coexist. According to its creator, *Grandissima Illusione* is a tribute to theatre and the theatrical conventions that are her obsession. The play begins when a 17th century theatrical character, a Marquise from Lope de Vega, for example, meets the theatre's tattooed technician and falls in love with him. From then on, chaos takes over and all conventions are thrown into disarray.

On the morning of the premiere, Cris Blanco will share the creative process of this work with schoolchildren.

Set Designer Cris Blanco also works as a dance, theatrical and film performer. Her work has been performed on European, American and Asian stages and festivals.



#### **JANUARY 18, THURSDAY**

#### BASQUE COUNTRY PREMIERE

7:00 p.m.

Auditorium Price: consult on the website and at AZ Info 90'

Encounter with school audiences January 18, thursday 11:00

#### ARTISTIC INFORMATION

Directed by: Cris Blanco Performed by: Cris Blanco and Óscar Bueno Artistic accompaniment: Anto Rodríguez, Óscar Bueno Stage play: Cris Blanco, Rocío Bello, Anto Rodríguez, Óscar Bueno

Theatrical advice: Roberto Fratini



Azkuna Zentroa Live Arts Season 2023-2024

#### AZ CARD

The AZ card lets you enjoy a wide range of cultural, social and physical activity offers at our centre. With this card you will receive periodical information regarding all the activities taking place, and obtain interesting discounts and advantages. The renewal of the card due to loss and/or modification of data has a cost of 3 euros.

We should like to remind you that the AZ Card is personal and non-transferable. Please bring it with you at all times to obtain discounts when purchasing your tickets at AZ Info.

#### **DISCOUNTS AND SPECIAL PRICES**

Azkuna Zentroa – Alhóndiga Bilbao fosters accessible cultural diversity for everyone. To this end, and amongst other measures, it offers reduced rates for groups, professionals, students, young adults, people with functional diversity and other collectives, prior proof of identity.

#### **GOLEM ALHÓNDIGA CINEMAS**

Consult the updated information at golem.es

#### YANDIOLA, THE BOAR, HOLA BAR

Consult the updated information on yandiola.com

#### ACCESSIBILITY

Azkuna Zentroa is a friendly, open and accessible space for everyone.

We work on the continuous improvement of the space and the programme to ensure that all audiences have a rewarding experience, are able to participate in the creative processes, and experience, share and enjoy culture on equal terms. Should you require any specific information, please proceed to Az Info, the information point located in the Atrium.

Azkuna Zentroa has the AENOR certificate of Universal Accessibility according to the UNE 170001-1 Standard.

Check the Center's accessibility measures on our website: azkunazentroa.eus



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER IN: AZKUNAZENTROA.EUS



# MONTHLY PROGRAMME IN AUDIO

Audio format can be downloaded here: soundcloud.com/azkuna-zentroa

CONSULT THE PROGRAMMING IN AZKUNAZENTROA.EUS





# **CONTACT AZ**

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# society and contemporary culture



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