



Teruhiro Ando wins the Focus-Abengoa International Painting Prize 2013 for his work “*Memorias XII-03*”

- Miguel Gómez Losada and Marisa Álvarez Gil were runners-up for their pieces “*Una historia rusa*” and “*Temporal*”.

Seville, 26 December 2013. The Focus-Abengoa Foundation has announced the winner of the 30th edition of the Focus-Abengoa International Painting Prize, which this year has been awarded to the work “*Memorias XII-03*” by Teruhiro Ando. Of the 23 shortlisted pieces, the jury unanimously decided to grant first prize to the work by Teruhiro Ando, highlighting “the subtle intensity with which he evokes shapes, emotions and spaces, and the surprising ability to create a synthesis between poetics as diverse as 17th century Dutch painting, Zen graphics, the magical interwar realism and even recollections from an array of movie images rooted in our memory”.

The jury also awarded a runner-up prize to the work by Miguel Gómez Losada, entitled “*Una historia rusa*”, for “having managed to articulate a figurative and highly suggestive space that transports us to a strange, mysterious and frozen place; and for creating it through a masterly use of methods of representation that denotes sound wisdom and pictorial sensitivity”.

The second runner-up prize went to “*Temporal*”, the work submitted by Marisa Álvarez Gil, which “conjures up an image full of pictorial understanding, energy and evocative characteristics: the spatial, dynamic and emotive value that emanates from the perception of the countryside and the energy of nature”.

Finally, the work by Pepa Pérez, “*Nei pressi di Forte Begato*”, received a special mention from the jury for “resolving a complex argument with pictorial skill and sensitivity, which ties in with the tradition of the countryside experience begun by Courbet”.

The jury of the 30th edition of the prize was chaired by Anabel Morillo León, Director General of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, and comprised Jaime Brihuega, Juan Carrete Parrondo, Juan Fernández Lacomba, Guillermo Pérez Villalta and Manuel Sánchez Arcenegui. Some 362 works were submitted on this occasion, of which 53 came from artists outside of Spain.

The Focus-Abengoa International Painting Prize, awarded for any technique and theme, is worth a total of €36,000, with €24,000 going to first prize, which will be awarded to Teruhiro Ando, and two runners-up prizes of €6,000 each, which will be presented to Miguel Gómez Losada and Marisa Álvarez Gil. The works of the three winners will become part of the Focus-Abengoa collection of paintings, sculptures and graphic art.



The exhibition with the works by the finalists and award-winners will open on 17 March at the Foundation's headquarters, the Hospital de los Venerables in Seville. Entry to the exhibition will be free.

The Focus-Abengoa International Painting Prize, which has a long tradition and a prestigious reputation, has been held for 30 years and has become one of the foremost European and American awards in the art world. This international prize reflects the Foundation's ongoing commitment to contemporary art and promotes an exchange of artistic experiences beyond our borders, in keeping with the concerns and wishes of the award's founders.

As shown in recent years, participation in this prize increases the value of works by recognised painters and opens new channels for young talent, who need both financial and social support in their careers towards becoming professionals.

Ever since it was founded, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation has expressed a clear interest in all cultural activities, not only in those directly connected to the city of Seville, but all artistic, literary and scientific work, both nationally and internationally.

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation was created in 1982 as a result of the cultural work begun in 1972 by Abengoa with the publication of the works *Temas Sevillanos* (Themes of Seville) and *Iconografía de Sevilla* (Iconography of Seville). A collection of documents, books and engravings on the Kingdom of Seville and by Sevillian authors was created during the same period. This initial cultural work showed Abengoa's directors the importance of the company's involvement in activities that directly benefit society, beyond the firm's core technology work, which led to the creation of the Seville Cultural Fund Foundation. The Hospital de los Venerables, a 17th century monument and the headquarters of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation in Seville, has housed the Diego Velázquez Research Centre, a leading institution for studying and disseminating the Baroque era and the Sevillian period of this universally renowned artist, since the acquisition of Velázquez's *Santa Rufina* by the Foundation in 2007.

Information about the prize-winners

Teruhiro Ando (Zentsuji, Japan, 1962). Teruhiro Ando is a Japanese artist who has lived in Spain since 1992. He graduated in fine arts from the University of Tama (Tokyo) in 1984, where he specialised in drawing, producing minutely detailed and highly realistic figurative works. Between 1985 and 1990 he continued his training in Slovenia with a postgraduate scholarship to study painting and restoration at the Academy of Fine Arts in Ljubljana. His career then moved towards minimalism and installation pieces.



In 1991 he lived in Edinburgh (United Kingdom), working on the Japan Festival at the University of Edinburgh, before travelling to Seville in 1992 to participate in the Japanese Pavilion at Expo92, when he decided to stay on and live in Spain. During this period he participated in various group exhibitions in Germany, Austria, Great Britain and Spain and his work from this era is conceptual, working mostly with installations.

Between 1993 and 2000, while living in Spain, he withdrew from the world of art and did not exhibit his work, focusing instead on seeking his own language and developing his personal journey. He began studying classical art in search of a connection between this and contemporary art, which resulted in his new style that has a technical precision, common among the great classical masters, in a constant search for shapes and new proposals.

In 2000 he returned to his artistic work and since then his pictorial work has questioned the reality of perception and surprised the viewer with the optical illusion of the *trompe l'oeil*.

He has won numerous painting prizes including the Adaja Prize in 2005, the Bancaja Prize in 2006, the Plasencia Salón de Otoño and the BMW Painting Prize in 2008, and the Valdepeñas International Fine Arts Exhibition prize in 2012.

Miguel Gómez Losada (Córdoba, 1967). Fine arts degree from the University of Seville.

He has exhibited his pictorial work in various national galleries and exhibitions, holding the individual *Ida* and *Fecunda* exhibitions at the Pilar Parra Gallery in Madrid (1996 and 1999); *Tundra* at the Rayuela Gallery in Madrid (2000), at ARCO 2000; *Árbol* at the Carme Espinet Gallery in Barcelona (2003), or *Geografía Reservada* at the Fàbrica de Licors in Palma de Mallorca (2005). In 2008 he presented his exhibition *La Esperanza* at the Carmen del Campo Gallery in Córdoba (ART MADRID 2009), and *Visiones de un nuevo mundo / primeras flores y otras hierbas / el frío, las estrellas* at the Aba Art Gallery in Mallorca.

At the same time he has shown special interest in street art, creating pictorial pieces that criss-cross our cities, such as CDAN in Huesca in 2007; *La orilla del paraíso*, in La Alameda de Hércules for the 2nd Festival de Perfopoesía in Seville; or transforming the heart of Córdoba (*Ártica* for Eutopía 2007), in which he emphasises the artist as a citizen with a collective mind-set.

Marisa Álvarez Gil (Seville, 1971). Marisa holds a degree in fine arts, specializing in photography, from the universities of Seville and Barcelona. While studying for her



degree she also attended numerous seminars at Menéndez Pelayo International University on photography, the history of painting, and abstract painting by Kandinski.

She has participated in various group exhibitions in venues such as the Francesc Mestre Art gallery or the Asociación de Amics de la Rambla, both in Barcelona. Marisa has also held solo exhibitions in cities such as Burgos, Barcelona, Toulouse, Frankfurt and Constanza.

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation

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