



## **The Focus-Abengoa Foundation opens the exhibition of the works selected in the Focus-Abengoa Painting Prize 2012**

- The exhibition comprising 31 works by finalists and award winners will be open to the public until Sunday 28 April 2013 at the Hospital de los Venerables.

Seville, 22 February 2013. The Focus-Abengoa Foundation opened the exhibition of the works selected in the Focus-Abengoa Painting Prize 2012, which features 31 works of art by finalists and award winners, this evening. The opening of the exhibition was attended by Felipe Benjumea, Chairman of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation; Anabel Morillo, Director General of the Foundation; and the award winners at this edition, Juan Luis Jardí Baraja, Silvia Cosío Díaz and Felipe Ortega-Regalado.

The exhibition, which will be open to the public until 28 April 2013, has reserved a special space for the work by Juan Luis Jardí Baraja (Barcelona, 1961), entitled “*El círculo*”, which won the 29th edition of the Painting Prize. It also features the works by Silvia Cosío Díaz (Santander, 1976), “*Domesticación*”, and by Felipe Ortega-Regalado (Cáceres), “*Oda*”, which were the runners-up in this edition. The prize-winning works will form part of the Focus-Abengoa Contemporary Art Collection that consists of paintings, sculptures and graphic works and which already contains pieces by Antonio López, Botero, Carmen Laffón and Gustavo Torner, among others.

The exhibition will also include works by Estefanía Martín Sáenz, “*Pinturas para un muestrario*”, and Carlos Morago Fernández, “*Interior*”, to which the jury gave a special mention.

At the opening of the exhibition, Felipe Benjumea congratulated Juan Luis Jardí Baraja and the other finalists, whom he praised for “the expectations and trust they placed in this Prize”, as well as for “the indisputable quality of the works submitted”. He also stated that the Painting Prize “is a clear example of the Foundation's firm commitment to promoting fine arts and creative young artists”.

The exhibition of the finalists' and award winners' works will be open to the public from Saturday 23 February, between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm, and from 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm, at the Hospital de los Venerables in Seville, the headquarters of the Foundation, where it will remain on show until 28 April 2013. Entry to the exhibition is free. As a new feature this year, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation will be offering guided tours and family visits.

The Focus-Abengoa Painting Prize, which has a long tradition and a prestigious reputation, has been held for the last 29 years and has become one of the foremost European and American awards in the art world. The jury at this edition, which was chaired by Anabel Morillo León, Director General of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation



and comprised Jaime Brihuega, Juan Fernández Lacomba, Manuel Sánchez Arcenegui, Guillermo Pérez Villalta and Juan Carrete Parrondo, analysed more than 600 works, all of outstanding quality and technique.

From the outset 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 expressions at a national and international level.

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, following the acquisition of Velázquez's *Santa Rufina* by the Foundation in 2007.

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### Information about the prize-winners

**Juan Luis Jardí Baraja** (Barcelona, 1961). A graduate in mural painting from the La Llotja School of Applied Arts and Artistic Skills, he also took painting studies at the Tàrraga School in Barcelona. He first started giving individual exhibitions in the 1980s in various galleries in Barcelona. Today, his works have been displayed in more than 50 spaces across Spain. He has also participated in important group exhibitions in New York, Chicago, Paris, Edinburgh and Madrid, among others. His work has received various awards, such as the *Mostra Juvenil d'Arts Plàstiques de Catalunya*, *Memorial Picasso*; the medal of honour at the 9th and 12th editions of the BMW painting prize; the Sala Valentí painting prize, Sant Pere de Ribes (Barcelona); the 18th Villa de la Roda National Painting Competition, and the Acquisition Fund prize in the 10th Virgen de las Viñas Cultural Competition, among others

**Silvia Cosío Díaz** (Santander, 1976). A graduate in Hispanic language and literature from the University of Seville, she completed her education with fine arts studies also at the University of Seville. She has been exhibiting her work individually since 2006 in various galleries in Seville and has participated in numerous group exhibitions in Seville and Malaga. Her work has been selected for collections of the provincial government of Seville, the Cajasol Foundation and the Andalusian Youth Institute.

**Felipe Ortega-Regalado** (Caceres). A fine arts graduate from the University of Seville, he has also studied drawing, sculpture and ceramics, and is currently preparing his



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doctoral thesis. He has been exhibiting individually since 2003 in various galleries around Spain (Seville, Madrid, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Santiago de Compostela, Granada) and has participated in numerous group exhibitions in the USA, Italy, Cuba, Mexico and Peru. His academic prizes include twice winning the Francisco Zurbarán grant from the department of culture of the regional government of Extremadura; first prize in the Gregorio Prieto drawing competition in 2010; the grant for authors and visual artists from the University of Extremadura, and various awards and runners-up prizes in national and international competitions.