

 GUGGENHEIM BILBAO

Press release

Opening on February 14

ART
INSPIRES
THE FUTURE

The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao is Launching the Celebration of its 25th Anniversary

- The commemoration of the Anniversary will permeate all Museum activities throughout 2022
- “Art Inspires Future” is the overarching concept of the celebration
- The Museum Collection plays a prominent role in the Art programming

In October 2022, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, which was a enormous boost to the cultural, economic, social, and artistic life of the city and its surroundings, will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Over these years, the Museum has garnered success and a degree of international renown which have remained steady over time.

In a very different context than some years ago, and after the necessary reflection sparked by the pandemic, the Museum is enthusiastically tackling future challenges with realistic optimism. The uncertainty and limitations experienced because of the health crisis have served as an incentive to seize new opportunities which require flexibility, proactiveness, and the use of technology to continue disseminating art and serving as inspiration, and to continue being a driving force for the region, just as happened a quarter of a century ago during a severe economic crisis, when the Museum clearly saw that inspiring confidence and helping to reactivate its environs was part of its mission.

In this vein, the Museum has unveiled the overarching slogan of its anniversary: “Art Inspires Future,” as well as a special edition of its logo, which it will use throughout this year, in which the characteristic G’s of the Guggenheim brand move like gears to shape the number 25.

FOCUS OF THE ANNIVERSARY

The celebration this year will focus on a number of aspects:

- **Celebration.** A program that highlights the cultural, artistic, and social milestones over the Museum’s 25 years of history.
- Presentation of the **Museum Collection** which will occupy the entire exhibition space. Visitors will see many of the artworks that the Museum has been acquiring from its inception in a single visit.
- **Acknowledgment** of the Institutions, groups associated with the Museum, and the community at large.
- **Inclusiveness**, with an appealing, dynamic program of activities and initiatives for all stakeholders and people of all ages and backgrounds.
- **Unity, pride, and belonging** as the values that have turned the Museum into an icon of Bilbao, Biscay, and the Basque Country and made it a source of pride for their citizens.
- **Transformation and future projection**, with spaces to reflect on the transformation that the Museum has brought about in multiple spheres and how the region is perceived with regard to the future.

These themes take shape in **art** via a particularly ambitious exhibitions program and a project that seeks to embrace the local artistic community; in the sphere of **culture** in its broadest sense by stepping up the programs and the close ties and collaborations with other cultural agents; and in **celebrations** via a number of events designed to express gratitude, share, and celebrate with citizens.

ART

Exhibitions

The Museum has designed an intense, high-quality, appealing exhibition program targeted at a broad, diverse audience. The public will enjoy a variety of shows, such as the presentations that kick off the 25th Anniversary this February: *From Fauvism to Surrealism. Masterpieces from the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris*, and the retrospective devoted to Dubuffet, not to mention the major exhibition in spring and summer entitled *Motion, Autos, Art, Architecture*, and the main events in the fall, when the entire Museum will be “dressed up” for its birthday with the works from the Collection.

Below is a brief account of this year's exhibitions.

From Fauvism to Surrealism. Masterpieces from the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris

February 11–May 22, 2022

Galleries 305, 306, 307, third floor

Curated by Hélène Leroy and Fabrice Hergot, Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris, and Geanine Gutierrez-Guimarães, Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

Sponsored by the BBVA Foundation

This show presents a selection of 70 masterpieces by fundamental artists in the collections of the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris to provide an overview of the avant-garde movements that blossomed in Paris in the early 20th century. Organized chronologically into three sections, the exhibition begins with pieces that represent Fauvism and Cubism, whose boldness and freedom revolutionized art and changed the traditional perception of the landscape, the human figure, and still-lives. The exhibition continues with the works of a generation of artists from all over the world who comprised the “School of Paris” in the interwar period; and it ends with the works of artists associated with Surrealism.

Jean Dubuffet: Ardent Celebration

February 25–August 21, 2022

Gallery 105, first floor

Curated by David Max Horowitz, Assistant Curator, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

Sponsored by BBK

This exhibition examines the decisive decades in Jean Dubuffet's career, from his early creations from the 1940s to the last series he completed in 1984. The show, drawn primarily from the extensive collection of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, complemented by a selection of works from the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, seeks to affirm that across all Dubuffet's shifts in focus, his work remained grounded in its dedication to sharing new and revitalizing perspectives with viewers.

Monira Al Qadiri: Holy Quarter

March 10–June 12, 2022

Film & Video Gallery

Curated by Manuel Cirauqui, Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

In a place in the Arab desert virtually bereft of human activity, the artist undertakes an investigation into the origins of the Earth, the meaning of life, and its connection with the rest of the universe, simultaneously recalling recent moments of colonial history and exploring the capacity of new technologies to predict the evolution of our societies.

Motion. Autos, Art, Architecture

April 8–September 18, 2022

Galleries of the second floor

Curated by Norman Foster; Manuel Cirauqui and Lekha Hilleman Waitoller, Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

Sponsored by Iberdrola and Volkswagen

A major exhibition that explores the relevance of the automobile as it relates to the history of art and design in the past century. The exhibition will include a selection of 38 iconic, rarely seen vehicles, as well as some 300 pieces including paintings and sculptures by celebrated artists, photographs and audiovisuals, sketchbooks, and architectural models by some of last century's most influential architects and designers. Envisioned by the Norman Foster Foundation and the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, the exhibition design will be as compelling as the objects on view. The show will also dedicate one of its main galleries to the future of mobility, featuring the ideas of sixteen of the most prestigious schools of engineering and design from across the world.

Serra/Seurat. Drawings

June 9–September 6, 2022

Galleries 305, 306, 307, third floor

Curated by Lucía Agirre

This exhibition reflects the importance of drawing in the works of Georges Seurat (b. 1859; d. 1891) and how he attracted numerous followers and is still a matter of great interest to art critics and artists today, including Richard Serra (b. 1938). Both creators' interest in this artistic practice came early in their careers and remained a way that they could examine issues like process, weight, and gravity. The show will

highlight the challenging way Seurat used the drawing techniques he had learned, and particularly his use of the characteristics of the materials, just like Serra, who views drawing as an activity unto itself and “a constant concern, with its own concomitant, inherent problems.”

The Otolith Group. O horizon

June 23–October 9, 2022

Film & Video Gallery

Curated by Manuel Cirauqui, Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

This work stages moments from the visionary pedagogy of the great Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore, who founded the experimental art school Kala Bhavana in West Bengal in 1919. The film by The Otolith Group, accompanied by a series of photographs and specific set designs, traces a route through moments, rituals, and places in the life of the school while also extending the Group’s consideration to climate change and the era known as the Anthropocene.

Sections/Intersections. 25 Years of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao Collection

September 8, 2022–February 26, 2023

All the Museum galleries. First floor opens on September 8; third floor on September 20; second floor on October 19

Curated by Lekha Hileman Waitoller, Manuel Cirauqui, Geanine Gutierrez-Guimarães, Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

An ambitious showing of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao Collection that will take up its entire exhibition space. *Sections/Intersections* will present the Museum’s holdings grouped thematically, tracing new connections between multiple artistic languages and highlighting important milestones and trends in the history of modern art, represented by paradigmatic works in the Collection. Among the many exceptional aspects of this exhibition, of particular note are large-format and site-specific works that will once again be publicly displayed

Basque Artist Program Exhibition Project

July 8–September 6, 2022

Gallery 177

In line with its goal of forging closer ties with the local artistic community, the Museum will undertake an initiative with the participation of the artists participating in the Basque Artist Program, the program of residencies in New York for emerging artists from the Basque Country organized jointly by the Guggenheim Museums in Bilbao and New York. The project will bring together a selection of works by ten resident artists in the five editions of the program held to date: Raquel Asensi, Nora Aurrekoetxea, Helena Goñi, Jon Gorospe, Gala Knörr, Maite Pinto, Karla Tobar, Alain Urrutia, Cristian Villavicencio, and Diego Vivanco. These artists work in a variety of mediums, including painting, sculpture, works on paper,

photography, video, site-specific installations, and performance, and they explore concepts like memory, identity, representation, spirituality, and the senses.

CULTURE

TopARTE Events

On the Museum's 25th Anniversary, the TopARTE program, held in collaboration with entities working in the fields of art and culture, will be given a renewed impetus. Its goal is to share with the public the variety and richness of the proposals and projects undertaken in a wide array of disciplines like music, film, video, dance, performance, theater, and gastronomy.

In the new context brought about by the pandemic, the relaunch of TopARTE on the Museum's 25th Anniversary seeks to join forces to convey the power of creativity and culture to transform and generate enjoyment. The collaborations secured to date, which will give rise to a packed program of cultural activities and events at the Museum throughout the year, are: ACT Festival, BCAM - Basque Center for Applied Mathematics, Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa, Design Research Society (Bilbao Ekintza), Festival Anime Bilbao, Gau Zuria, International Forum of Visual Practitioners, Kuraia, La Fundición, Loraldia Musikene, Choral Society of Bilbao, Philharmonic Society of Bilbao, and Zinegoak.

Musical Program

Music will play a prominent role in the 25th Anniversary through a Musical Program which will feature five unique performances.

***Hamar* by Gabriel Erkoreka** (April 30 and May 1, 2022)

Museum galleries

On its 25th Anniversary, the Museum will host the performance of *Hamar*, created by the prominent Basque composer Gabriel Erkoreka when the Museum turned ten. Envisioned as a musical installation to be performed in different spaces inside the building, the piece explores the nooks and crannies of Frank Gehry's architecture and engages in dialogue with the works in the Museum Collection, giving them a sound dimension that highlights their presence. *Hamar* creates a sensorial experience that allows visitors to experience the Museum in a unique way.

The World is a Museum (May 11 and 12, 2022)

Museum Atrium

This unique proposal, created specifically for the Museum's 25th Anniversary, brings together music, literature, art, and architecture. It is a literary and musical journey in which a story created by Kirmen Uribe

for the occasion joins the merger between the architecture of the building and the music of the Choral Society of Bilbao and the brass orchestra Euskadi Brass.

The story is a journey in different stages through the Museum's history, its origins, its mission, and the society that makes it possible. Its location, the shipping company Euskalduna, industry, Paris, Russia, and New York are just some of the milestones in this journey. In terms of music, the Choral Society of Bilbao and Euskadi Brass merge the choir's voices with the sounds of the brass instruments, which will resonate alongside the words of Kirmen Uribe himself in the magnificent Museum Atrium.

Two Anniversaries' Concert (June 18, 2022)

Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

In 2022, two of Bilbao's cultural institutions celebrate important anniversaries: the 100-year anniversary of the Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa (BOS) and the 25th Anniversary of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao. To mark the occasion, a concert will be offered in the Museum and open to all citizens, including *Pictures at an Exhibition*, Modest Mussorgsky's tribute to his friend Viktor Hartmann at the time some of his works were exhibited after his passing. In a powerfully expressive way, the music represents the wandering of a visitor while observing the paintings. Originally composed for the piano, Maurice Ravel arranged the music for orchestra. The concert will also include a recovered piece by the French composer Augusta Holmès, who was unfairly treated by history, as is the case with many of her peers; the piece performed will be her symphonic poem *Andromède*, written in a dense, vigorous language. A fantastic chance to celebrate the friendship and dialogue between the arts.

Symphony No. 3 (Mythical Symphony) by Francisco Escudero (October 1, 2022)

Performers: Children's choir of the Sociedad Coral of Bilbao, Ensemble Kuraia, Andoni Alemán (narrator)
Museum Atrium

Symphony No. 3 (Mythical Symphony) is unquestionably one of the great works in composer Francisco Escudero's last creative period. It is astonishing for the sound and vocal resources it uses, as well as for admirably mixing avant-garde music with heterogeneous musical and literary elements, many from Basque folklore. This work is inspired by Basque mythology, specifically the stories compiled by José Miguel de Barandiaran, with text in Basque.

Recital by Joaquín Achúcarro (November 3, 2022)

Museum Atrium

As part of the Museum Anniversary and dovetailing with the celebration of the 90th birthday of Joaquín Achúcarro, the Bilbao-born piano master will offer a recital in the Atrium to commemorate his unforgettable performance at the Museum's opening in 1997.

OTHER PROJECTS

The Missing Element (October 16, 2022)

Museum Atrium

A stimulating performance of dancers participating in the Works & Process program of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York combining disciplines like, rap, beatbox, and street dance with the Museum's immersive architecture. A purely contemporary event to express our gratitude to the Museum's collectives for their loyalty and support over the years. In addition to the main performance in the Atrium, a series of pop-up events will be held both inside and outside the Museum previously throughout the same week, all aimed at delighting visitors.

Water Ecologies

October 6–7, 2022

Museum Auditorium

The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao will host an international symposium on the theme "Water Ecologies: A Framework of Cooperation between Art, Science, and Technology," an interdisciplinary event to foster dialogue and cooperation among artists, scientists, and technologists within the global context of climate change and its associated challenges, stressing the particular importance of water for the future of our planet.

Underscoring the Museum's commitment to formulating and fostering sustainable futures, this event will bring together some of the most prominent voices today in collaboration with the European Union STARTS4Water initiative and the consortium of institutions comprising it, including Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto (Italy), Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary-TB21 (Spain/Austria), V2_Lab for the Unstable Media (Netherlands), BOZAR, and Gluon (Belgium) as well as other stakeholders. The international participants will be joined by figures from the Basque Country, which is viewed as a key venue for reflection due to its particular historical ties with water-related economies connected to both the seas and rivers.

CELEBRATION

The third theme in the commemoration of the Museum's 25th anniversary is comprised of a series of major celebrations with citizens in order to express our gratitude for their support.

Below are details on several of them:

Deabru beltzak: *Symfeuny* (June 24, 2022)

Museum Esplanade

A spectacular event where street theater company Deabru Beltzak shares all its creativity, originality, and energy with the audience. The crash of percussion and fire, along with the need to listen and feel, bring to life an astonishing show which fosters encounters and interactions with the audience.

Reflections II (October 11–13, 2022)

Museum exterior

On the Museum's 20th Anniversary, 300,000 people enjoyed a striking show combining music, light, and sound entitled *Reflections*, where the titanium facade of the Frank Gehry-designed building turned into a canvas and the narrator of its own history. Five years later, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao will offer an updated, exciting version of *Reflections* with new animations and projections, a new musical overture and the collaboration of local creators to share the history today and relive magical moments.

Opening to the Territory (October 19 – November 30, 2022)

Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

Sponsored by BBK

The "Opening to the Territory" campaign will take place throughout the months of October and November. Sponsored by BBK for the 25th Anniversary, this initiative will offer all citizens of the Basque Country the possibility to visit the Museum free of charge as a way to share with the community and thank it for their support, the key to its success over all these years.