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World Heritage Impact Assessment, a growing specialty

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Miguel Falomir reveals the promising future of the Prado Museum during the Summer Courses



Okuda San Miguel inaugurates his exhibition "Fractal View": color, geometry, positivism and diversity, in the Summer Courses



"Echoes of the Cosmos", contemporary astrophysics seen by artists

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"Echoes of the Cosmos: Ancestral Galaxies Revealed" is the title of the exhibition that can be seen at the Casa de Cultura during the second week of the UCM Summer Courses in San Lorenzo de El Escorial . As is traditional, this exhibition, in which various artists present their personal vision of the world of astronomy , accompanies the course held in Robledo de Chavela around space research, entitled this year " Paradigm shift in the evolution of galaxies. Collaboration between space agencies ". The artists exhibiting in 2024 are members of the Complutense research group Sustainability, Science and Art (SCIART-UCM) , who have worked in collaboration with scientists Cristina Cabello (IPARCOS-UCM), Luca Constantín (Astrobiology Center) and Jairo Méndez (Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary Islands).

Professor José Carlos Espinel , from the Department of Sculpture and Artistic Training of the Faculty of Fine Arts of the Complutense , and curator of the exhibition together with professor Marta de Cambra , reports that the Faculty of Fine Arts and the city council of Robledo de Chavela have been collaborating since 2019 and "in relation to the theme of the Summer Course they request, they propose to the artists of SCIART-UCM the same theme to develop a collective exhibition".



In this case, in collaboration with the three scientists mentioned above, they defined five basic concepts of astrophysics that will be worked on in the course and from there the artists have developed images that "have a bit of a scientific part, but above all come from artistic inspiration , that is, they do not seek to be a scientific illustration of a concept, but rather are inspired by it to create work."

According to Espinel, the exhibition is a demonstration "not only of how art is inspired by science, but also of how science is inspired by art, and that is the back-and-forth conversation that can be seen in the works on display."

For each of the five astrophysics concepts (light as a messenger, reionisation of the Universe, morphology of galaxies, the Milky Way and ceers-2112) two works have been created, which are accompanied by a simple text written by the scientists , and also, in the catalogue, by the artists' explanation of how they arrived at their work . Espinel assures that the central part of the exhibition, and of the entire course, is "the galaxy ceers-2112 that was recently discovered by a group of scientists including Luca Constantín, and which has the particularity of being a twin galaxy of the Milky Way".

In other years the exhibition has been made up of original works, including sculptures, but this year it has changed to an almost informative poster format measuring 1.80 metres x 80 centimetres . This will allow the exhibition to be moved more easily, travelling from El Escorial to Robledo de Chavela, where it will be for a month and then, as Carmen García , director of the course , reports, it will go to other places such as teacher training centres, the Madrid Planetarium, the Spanish Space Agency ... She herself recalls that Robledo de Chavela's connection with space began in 1964, when the first collaboration agreement between the United States and the Spanish government was signed, so "this year is the sixtieth anniversary of that agreement which has been renewed again".



Espinel believes that the new format has given them the opportunity to unify the size of all the works that are originally drawings, oil paintings, AI-generated images, 3D rendering, photographs ... "They are different techniques that end up on the same support, which unifies the exhibition to facilitate its transport and take it beyond the Summer Courses," says the curator of the exhibition.

The curator Marta de Cambra admits that in the previous exhibitions for these Summer Courses they have worked in a more material way and that, at first, it was quite difficult for them to understand the subject, although the scientists have guided them in a simple way, although for the artists it has

continued to be complex . She herself has had to do reionization and admits that she has enjoyed that space that at first was all dark and that she came out of it "creating physical bubbles, soap bubbles, putting sugar in them so that they would maintain more volume and colors."

The artists exhibiting , apart from the two curators , are Pablo de Arriba , Monica Cerrada , Gema Goig , Maria de Iracheta , Monica Oliva , Jennifer Parker and Santiago Tena .

