

Madrid, 24 October 2018

Matadero strengthens its long-running programmes and creates new projects in connection with international networks

Matadero presents an ambitious cross-disciplinary programme and positions itself as a major centre of contemporary culture for the city of Madrid

- The centre has presented the programme to be developed in 2018 and 2019 under the artistic direction of Rosa Ferré.
- Design of the cross-disciplinary, holistic and long-term plan was enabled by the diversity of the institutions that comprise Matadero.
- The programme is divided into six lines of work: Ecosophy, Critical Technology & Digital Culture, Art & City, Childhood, Literature as Collective Intelligence and Body Dissidence.
- These themes will be developed via four international festivals organised in-house, an independent study programme, plans for new exhibitions and various public programmes.
- In addition, a research project called *Matadero Mutant Action* will be launched to explore how art can help raise awareness of the climate crisis and transform cities in the face of this challenge.

This morning Matadero Madrid's new artistic director, **Rosa Ferré**, presented the cultural and artistic plan to be developed by the centre in 2018 and 2019 at a press conference held in the space Abierto x Obras. Accompanied by **Manuela Villa**, who runs the Centre for Artists in Residence, **Ana Ara**, from Matadero's programming team, and **Emma Brasó**, from Intermediae's programming team, Ferré stressed that "*Matadero Madrid is striving to move towards organicity in its programmes and spaces. We are currently refurbishing various spaces that will bring new projects to the centre, adapting some spaces for new uses, working to create a more user-friendly environment and redesigning the way we communicate*".

Through a **holistic programme** that draws on the diversity of the institutions that comprise Matadero, as well as new and **ambitious lines of cross-disciplinary work in connection with international networks**, **Matadero Madrid is positioning itself as a major centre of contemporary culture for the city.**

Matadero **will step up its work with local artistic and international communities and its support for production** through its long-running programmes: **Intermediae and artistic residencies**, but it will also **develop new programme areas**: four international

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festivals, an independent study programme, new exhibition lines and a project called *Matadero Mutant Action* which will explore how art can help raise awareness of the environmental crisis and broaden imaginaries and narratives for an ecological discourse able to bring about transformation.

The new programme is structured around **six thematic areas**: Ecosophy, Critical Technology & Digital Culture, Literature as True Collective Intelligence, Art & City and Body Dissidence. These themes will link artistic practices, research and theoretical discourse together, and will be fleshed out in formats such as debates, artistic residencies, projects to foster production, exhibitions, festivals, performances, concerts, interventions in public space, educational programmes, publications, video blogs and radio shows, among others.

This will open Matadero Madrid up, positioning it as a space for conversation and debate with a view to promoting critical thinking and contributing to the renewal of ideas and languages. Matadero will operate like a **watchful radar** that can react flexibly to social challenges in response to which culture can be galvanised as a tool for change. In the words of Rosa Ferré "*Matadero aims to stimulate experimentation as an essential instrument for the emergence of a new culture*".

The 2018–2019 programme will be structured around the **cross-disciplinary work** carried out by Matadero's Programming Unit, Intermediae and the Centre for Artists in Residence, in addition to two independently-managed public centres, with independent artistic management teams, Cineteca Madrid and Naves Matadero, and a number of private partners whose initiatives contribute to a broad and multidisciplinary programme that will activate the space on a daily basis: Central de Diseño, Casa del Lector - Germán Sánchez-Ruipérez Foundation, Factoría Cultural and AVAM.

With regard to physical spaces, in 2019 works will be carried out by Langarita-Navarro architects to equip Nave 15 to host, from the second half of the year onwards, Matadero Madrid's Centre for Artists in Residence, while Nave 16 will be used for exhibitions, public programmes and Matadero Critical Studies classes. In spring 2019 works planned by David Adjaye and Arturo Francos are scheduled to begin to refurbish Nave 9 to host the Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation. Studio Myerscough + Paula López Barba will undertake a redesign intervention in Café Teatro, located in Nave 12 in Naves Matadero.

NEW INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

A cyborg and mutant garden will invade Matadero

As part of the line of work entitled *Ecosophy. New Narratives for Green Thinking*, a new research project will explore how art can create a new discourse against climate change. **Matadero Mutant Action** is an initiative curated by Matadero and elii (architectural firm) which will involve, for at least two years, an international group of

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artists and institutions such as the Technical University of Madrid's Innovation and Technology for Human Development Centre (itdUPM), working through the Living Lab (with Madrid City Council and the MIT Center for Collective Intelligence), and Madrid City Council's Sub-Directorate General for Energy and Climate Change and Directorate General for Intervention in the Urban Landscape and Cultural Heritage.

The Matadero complex will be a case study in which proposals based on nature will be trialled, aimed at making the space fresher and friendlier, and work will be undertaken to design a Mutant Garden, a "renatured" space with infrastructure that hints at new uses to visitors. One of the initiatives that will be launched is the *Mutant Institute for Environmental Narratives*, which will review cosmologies and drive a new form of storytelling to tackle the climate challenge. The project will be developed gradually by means of talks, dialogues, debates and workshops that will include philosophers, anthropologists and researchers in the process, as well as stakeholders and collaborators who have worked in research and practice groups focusing on the relationship between art and ecology at Matadero in recent years.

Digital Culture, the focus of a large part of the programme

Matadero Madrid will launch three major international festivals focusing on all aspects of digital culture. The first edition of ***Tentacular. Critical Technology and Digital Adventures Festival*** will be held from 22 to 24 November 2018 and will feature Eyal Weizman (Forensic Architecture), Metahaven, Bruce Sterling, Amalia Ulman, Disnovation, Joana Moll, Joan Fontcuberta and Exonemo, among many others, in a forum for reflection, essential creative projects and research aimed at understanding the new crises that have developed in an interconnected society. Curated by Julia Kaganskiy, Bani Brusadin and José Luis de Vicente, *Tentacular* will include round tables, meetings, performance art, screenings and unique formats such as *Yami Ichi* ("black internet market" in Japanese), rounded out by artist Zach Blas' installation *SANCTUM*, which will be on display in Abierto x Obras until January.

The first edition of ***L.E.V Matadero*** will take place in October 2019. The Visual Electronics Festival, which has been held in Gijón for ten years, is broadening its scope of action by moving into Madrid, where it will offer unique audiovisual shows, performance art, concerts, audiovisual installations, workshops, presentations and artistic residencies. At Matadero, *L.E.V.* will also move towards immersive experiences connected with virtual reality, surround sound experiences and new narratives and formats.

Another notable contemporary language, animation, will take centre stage again in September 2019 at the second edition of ***Animario***. Once again, Madrid's International Contemporary Animation Festival will fill Cineteca and Matadero with today's finest

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animated films as well as the premiere of the film that won the 1st ANIMARIO Award, created with the support of the shopping centre Plaza Río 2.

Thinking with literature, creating with literature

A fourth major festival will fill Matadero in March 2019. **Capítulo uno. Matadero Madrid International Literature Festival** will develop the work area *Literature as Collective Intelligence* by means of a selection of the finest international contemporary literature in its multiple forms: the spoken and written word, poetry, speculative fabulation, documentary practices and critical writing. Emphatically hybrid in nature, *Capítulo uno (Chapter One)* will address themes like chance and probability, focusing in particular on emerging female science fiction narrators.

Intermediae's La Nave will turn into a playground

With the experience gained by Intermediae on projects like *La Madroñera* and *Los Madriles Childhood Edition*, Matadero will use a programme of artistic interventions to explore what kind of places are available for children in the public space and in cultural institutions. It will invite artists to create new pieces and installations for Intermediae's La Nave which reflect on the concept of the playground. The first guest artist will be Iza Rutkowska, whose installation *What Animal Is This?* will be displayed from 5 November. The playgrounds planned for 2019 include those created by Aberrant Architecture and Leonor Serrano Rivas.

Themed exhibitions to question the present through art

Matadero Madrid will strengthen its exhibition format with two main aims: hosting exhibitions that increase the visibility of international art in the city and strike up an exchange with the local scene, and creating forums for debate about the areas of interest that underpin its programme. To this end it will organise the *Manifesto Exhibitions*, which will focus on topics that define our contemporary world. The first will be *Amazon*, an exhibition curated by Sharon Lerner and Gredna Landolt that will open on 22 February 2019 as part of ARCOmadrid, with Peru as the guest country. The exhibition will present a set of pieces by over 40 artists, most of them on loan from the collection of the Lima-MALI Art Museum. The project, co-produced by Matadero Madrid, has been organised in collaboration with the Ministries of Culture and External Affairs of Peru, the Inca Garcilaso Cultural Centre and the LXG Amazon Reforestry Fund.

A space with an ongoing programme devoted to video

In January 2019 Matadero's former cold storage room, which previously hosted the programme *Abierto x Obras*, will launch ***Depth of Field***, a new programme curated by Ana Ara devoted to the production, display and study of contemporary audiovisual practice. With the aim of providing an in-depth view of audiovisual artists' work, it will offer series that showcase –in monographic format– the work of a particular artist every

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two months, featuring a selection of their recent works as well as works from earlier in their careers. Collaboration with Cineteca Madrid will open up the possibility of allowing artists to expand their work with projections of works by other artists who have influenced them. Violence, the theme of the first series, will be developed through exhibition and exploration of the work of Meiro Koizumi and María Ruido.

A programme of non-academic learning through artistic practices

Through a range of programmes, Matadero Madrid has developed a significant body of research and experiences that will be organised and broadened through **Matadero Critical Studies**. This new independent learning programme will offer theoretical and practical modules and courses structured around Matadero's lines of work, dealing with issues like the ecological crisis, migratory movements, the construction of dissident subjectivities, the crisis of discourses of the last digital and technological utopia, critical pedagogy and community cultural production. Courses associated with the first open call (2019-2020) include the *Programme Aimed at Subordinate Practices*, run by the Ayllu collective; *The Laboratory. Transmedia Narratives: Archive, Memory and Future*, run by Ana Sánchez Llorca; *FREEPORT*, an international programme run by Bani Brusadin; *Microhabitable*, run by Lucia Pietroiusti and Fernando García Dory, and the seminars on *Grassroots Cultures* and *Citizen Town Planning (Imagina School)* run by the Intermediae team.

STRENGTHENING OF THE PROGRAMMES ON WHICH MATADERO HAS BEEN BUILT SINCE THE BEGINNING

Open calls for new residents at Matadero

Between October 2018 and October 2019, Matadero will publish open calls to fill at least thirty residencies of the following types: residencies for visual artists from the city of Madrid, the Matadero Madrid-AECID mobility programme, performative writing residencies, workspaces for groups and individuals who work in art and education, international residencies for curators, *Levadura* residencies for creators in schools (in collaboration with Medialab Prado, CentroCentro, Conde Duque and the Santander Bank Foundation) and open calls for resident research groups. Members of the public will be able to enjoy the residents' work via open studio days, publications, discussions, talks and exhibitions. International creators such as Daniela Ortiz, Brus Rubio Churay, Jota Mombaça and Les Filles de Illighadad will also work in the Centre for Artists in Residence.

Artivism, commitment to and construction of the city

Under the theme of Art & City, two projects will be developed with considerable grounding in theory and practice which will grow and expand in the coming months. *Imagine Madrid*, an initiative that explores new forms of intervention in the urban space via processes of collective creation between citizens and the artistic fabric in nine spots

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in Madrid, will further develop its projects in 2019 and 2020 and will create new forms of intervention in the urban space. *One City, Many Worlds* will continue to pursue its research on the artistic, cultural and activist work of our times and will organise public activities like *City Dance*, the programme of round tables, workshops and celebrations that will be held this week at Intermediae to reflect on communities, feelings and interactions with the city that arise in relation to dance.

Spaces in which to champion other ways of life: body, justice and future

In connection with the theme *Body Dissidence*, there will be exhibitions like *Give Us Back the Gold*, currently on display at the Centre for Artists in Residence, experiences such as the *Afro-Conscience* research group and the festival by the same name, the fifth edition of which will be held in September 2019, as well as new projects like Brazilian artist Jota Mombaça's *Visionary Fiction Lab*. This project, which will be undertaken from April to June 2019 as part of the artist's research and writing residency at Matadero, will feature the participation of thinkers and activists Walidah Imarisha and Adrienne Maree Brown from the United States and Conceição Evaristo and Cintia Guedes from Brazil.

Four music fests in Plaza Matadero in 2019

After attracting over 80,000 people with the four "plazas" held in 2018, Matadero Madrid will close the year with two new ones: *La Plaza en Otoño. Synthetika (The Square in Autumn. Synthetika)*, curated by Fito Conesa (27 and 28 October), and *La Plaza en Invierno (The Square in Winter)*, courtesy of Naves Matadero (17 and 18 November). In 2019, four more music "plazas" will be held: La Plaza en San Isidro (La Plaza during San Isidro), Día de la Música (Music Day), La Plaza en Otoño (The Square in Autumn) and La Plaza en Invierno (The Square in Winter). These "plazas" will be four unique opportunities to enjoy new music experiments in Matadero's public spaces.

Archives and communication

Matadero Madrid boasts several archives that make up its collective memory. Over the coming months recovery, updating and digitalisation work will be undertaken. The first phase will focus on the Creators' Archive, the Fresh Madrid Archive and the Intermediae Archive, with the aim of boosting their visibility. Similarly, work will be begun to redesign the centre's digital dimension to enable its devices and online platforms to generate an independent and complementary discourse. Communication projects will be managed by artists and creators via residencies on the new website, and they will be able to "inhabit" spaces for creation on platforms such as the radio, in collaboration with the municipal station M21.

- **More information** comunicacion@mataderomadrid.org

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