

CAIXAFORUM MADRID
2012-2013 PROGRAMME

Press Dossier



Major exhibitions showcasing the in finest contemporary art; a particular focus on film and photography; and shows devoted to architecture and archaeology: these are just some of the outstanding features on the programme of events for the coming season at "la Caixa" Foundation's social and cultural centre in Madrid

CaixaForum Madrid intensifies its cultural activities with an exceptional programme of exhibitions for all audiences

- "la Caixa" Foundation presents the programme for the 2012-2013 season at its social and cultural centre in Madrid. The programme features an all-embracing range of activities aimed at all audiences.
- The programme kicks off with two exhibitions: *Towers and Skyscrapers. From Babel to Dubai*, which explores the human urge to build ever-higher constructions, from the myth of the Tower of Babel to the present; and *Contemporary Cartographies*, in which twentieth- and twenty-first-century artists work with physical, mental and emotional maps to question our systems of representation.
- CaixaForum Madrid will also host two exhibitions of an archaeological and ethnographic nature. The first is a major show featuring some of the finest works created by Sumerian culture. The second, *Masters of Chaos*, will speak of the forces of order and disorder and of their intercessors, who have fought over the world since ancient times, and still do so in contemporary art.
- As every year, moreover, "la Caixa" Foundation will devote particular attention to the art forms that define our times, such as film and photography. This season, with a retrospective devoted to Georges Méliès, the first "magician" in cinema history, and a provocative look at the influence that paintings by the great masters have wielded over historic and contemporary photography.
- The programme is completed by *Food Justice*, an exhibition devoted to social issues, analysing the problems of food distribution and access at world level. "la Caixa" Foundation's social and cultural centre will also maintain activities aimed all audiences so that it becomes a space that brings culture and citizens together.



Madrid, 5 September 2012. This morning, Elisa Durán, assistant general manager of "la Caixa" Foundation, Ignasi Miró, director of culture of "la Caixa" Foundation, and Isabel Fuentes, director of CaixaForum Madrid, presented the programme of activities for the 2012-2013 season at the Foundation's social and cultural centre in the Spanish capital. Once more, this year's programme is governed by a clear principle: that the centre should pursue the **civic mission of providing a meeting place between culture and citizens**, a goal that is reflected in the broad-ranging programme of activities, designed to interest all audiences.

Once more, then, CaixaForum Madrid provides a platform that, whilst taking contemporary social concerns into account, seeks to promote the value of culture as a factor in social integration. Through a programme that includes exhibitions, concerts, literary and poetry seasons, debates on current affairs, social events, educational and family workshops, and activities for the elderly, "la Caixa" Foundation **promotes knowledge and personal growth amongst citizens of all ages.**

For the 2012-2013 season, then, CaixaForum Madrid has prepared an innovative, wide-ranging programme at the service of communication, socialisation and, in short, the wellbeing of all citizens: a unique model of a social, civic and cultural centre that the Foundation has also transferred to its other CaixaForum sites.

The first CaixaForum centre opened in **Palma** in 1993, in a building by the architect Lluís Domènech i Montaner. This was followed in 2002 by CaixaForum **Barcelona**, installed in the former Casaramona factory (an Art Nouveau site designed by Josep Puig i Cadafalch), and in 2008 by CaixaForum **Madrid**, in central Paseo del Prado. From 2009, CaixaForum centres opened in the cities of **Lleida** and **Tarragona**, whilst CaixaForum **Girona** opened this year. Over the coming years, centres will also open in **Saragossa** and **Seville**, where construction is already underway.

From ancient cultures to the finest contemporary art, not forgetting architecture, photography and film

"la Caixa" Foundation has now completed the work of drawing up the programme for the 2012-2013 season at CaixaForum Madrid, which includes both newly-produced exhibitions and co-productions with leading museums of international standing in a range of fields: painting, architecture, archaeology, film, photography and contemporary art.

The 2012-2013 exhibition season at CaixaForum Madrid will begin with a new show devoted to the human urge to build ever-taller constructions. Humanity has long been driven to attempt to conquer the heavens by creating higher and higher buildings. The idea of designing buildings that can be seen from a great distance, so that they



become symbols of prosperity, progress, development and power, is implicit in the very concept of architecture. The exhibition ***Towers and Skyscrapers. From Babel to Dubai***, which features more than 200 works, including models, photographs, films, etchings, paintings, drawings and projections, evokes the natural fascination that inspires us to construct tall buildings, and explores our urge to build ever higher. This exploration of high-rise architecture starts with the myth of the Tower of Babel and ends at the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, whose 828-metre height makes it the tallest building in the world today.

In November, CaixaForum Madrid will host ***Contemporary Cartographies. Drawing Thought***. Produced by "la Caixa" Foundation and featuring works by twentieth- and twenty-first century artists, this show explores and questions our systems of representation. We map our world in order to gain a glimpse of the reality in which we live. Maps have always been used to represent, translate and encode all kinds of physical, mental and emotional territories. Our representation of the world has evolved in recent centuries and, today, with globalisation and the Internet, traditional concepts of time and space, along with methods for representing the world and knowledge, have been definitively transformed. Responding to this paradigm shift, contemporary artists question systems of representation and suggest new formulas for classifying reality.

Contemporary Cartographies features some 140 works in a wide range of formats – from maps and drawings to video installations and digital art – and includes works by such essential figures as Salvador Dalí, Paul Klee, Marcel Duchamp, Yves Klein, Gordon Matta-Clark, Richard Hamilton, Mona Hatoum and Richard Long, alongside pieces by a wide range of contemporary artists who have subverted the cartographic language, such as Art & Language, Artur Barrio, Ana Mendieta, Erick Beltrán, On Kawara, Ignasi Aballí, Alighiero Boetti, Thomas Hirschhorn and Francis Alÿs.

The exhibition season at CaixaForum Madrid will then continue with an invitation to visitors to discover ancient cultures, though with the clear intention of demonstrating their influence and their relationship to our lifestyle today. The first show in this series is devoted to the culture of ancient Mesopotamia and its later influence on early civilisation in the Middle East. As well as some 400 archaeological pieces from major international public collections, ***Before the Flood. Mesopotamia, 3500-2100 BC*** will also include contemporary works illustrating the image we have today of an unknown culture, and 3D reconstructions produced especially for the show, which recreate such sites as the city of Ur, the White Temple of Uruk, amongst others.

The second project in this series, ***Masters of Chaos***, takes as its starting point a highly ambitious thesis on the concept of chaos and the forces of order and disorder. In most cultures, any order, including the divine, requires an opposing force of



disorder, and these figures of disorder take their place in the pantheon of our beliefs and cultures. Objects from major ethnographic collections and works and installations by contemporary artists clearly confront these themes, which are vital to the constitution of the human consciousness.

As usual, moreover, in line with the centre's mission to reflect on the needs of citizens and to suggest solutions to them, the new CaixaForum Madrid programme also encompasses social issues and current affairs.

Consequently, parallel to the programme organised by its Culture Department, "la Caixa" Foundation's International Cooperation Department will present a new exhibition, entitled ***Food Justice. Sowing Hope***. The aim of this show is to raise awareness about the problem of food distribution and access on a global scale. Organised in cooperation with the FAO and Intermón Oxfam, *Food Justice* expresses the concerns of small farmers in countries in the developing world through the images of the photojournalist Pep Bonet (2nd prize, World Press Photo 2007).

Finally, the 2012-2013 season will end with exhibitions devoted to the two pre-eminent artforms at the turn of the new century: film and photography. Moreover, both of these shows will focus on a pioneering figure in their respective fields. ***Georges Méliès. The Magic of Cinema*** will explore the origins and work of the first wizard of film, showing what a vital figure Méliès continues to be even today, as illustrated by Martin Scorsese's recent film, his first in 3D: *Hugo* (2011). Many of the objects featured in the exhibition are from Cinémathèque Française, which possesses the world's largest legacy of drawings, films, cinema equipment, costumes and objects by Georges Méliès, as well as vast and valuable collections of objects and images related to the origins of the cinema.

Finally, ***Seduced by Art. Photography Past and Present*** explores the relationship between classical painting, early photography from the mid-nineteenth century, and works by contemporary photographers. The exhibition —jointly organised by "la Caixa" Foundation and the National Gallery, London— will present paintings and photographs grouped together according to traditional genres, such as portraiture, still life, nudes and landscape, for the first time comparing works by such artists as Julia Margaret Cameron, Helen Chadwick, Émile-Jean-Horace Vernet and Luc Delahaye; the portraiture of Tina Barney, Martin Parr and others, seen alongside the painting of Thomas Gainsborough; the nudes of Gustave Rejlander and contemporary artists like Richard Learoyd; and the photographic interventions of Richard Billingham, Craigie Horsfield and Learoyd himself, juxtaposed with great nineteenth-century paintings by Constable, Degas and Ingres.



An intense agenda of activities for all audiences

Year after year, "la Caixa" Foundation provides an important point of reference point in our country's cultural scene. Based on a vast repertory of cultural initiatives (including seasons of talks, seminars, performing arts and film devoted to a wide range of themes, including contemporary thought, literature and poetry, history and psychosocial issues), the Foundation pursues its mission to **conduct in-depth exploration of the foundations of our culture and to suggest the keys that can help us to understand the great transformations that are currently taking place in it.**

CaixaForum Madrid will also host an extensive **music season** featuring a varied range of activities. These include performances by leading figures in the world of **ancient music and outstanding personalities and ensembles from the world music scene**, embracing a wide variety of styles and formats. The centre will also present a season of **electronic and experimental music**, bringing major international artists to Madrid so that audiences can sample the latest trends in this sphere.

The programme will also feature a new series of **family activities**, as well as initiatives aimed specifically at the **elderly**, and **cultural activities aimed at generating social impact**, in which "la Caixa" Foundation opens up its social and cultural centre in Madrid to groups with particular special needs.



CAIXAFORUM MADRID

**2012-2013 SEASON
PROGRAMME PREVIEW**

Exhibitions



Towers and Skyscrapers. From Babel to Dubai



10 October 2012 – 5 January 2013

Official opening: 9 October 2012

Organised and produced by: "la Caixa" Foundation.

Curators: Robert Dulau, Head Curator for Heritage, France,
and Pascal Mory, architect and professor of Architecture

Du Zhenjun, *Winds*, 2010

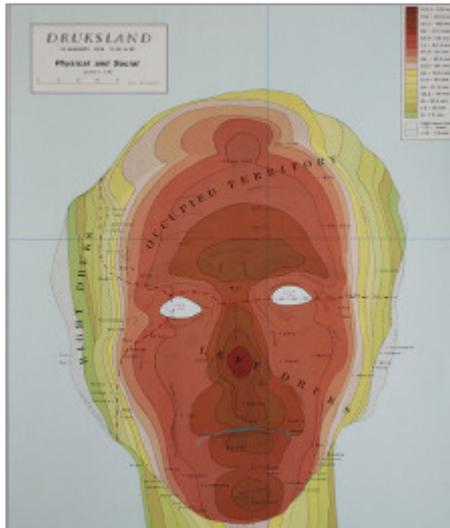
CaixaForum Madrid hosts an architecture exhibition that explores humanity's urge to build ever-higher constructions throughout history

Humanity has long felt driven to build ever upwards, to conquer the sky. The desire to erect buildings that are visible from afar, that act as symbols of prosperity, progress, development and power, is implicit in the very idea of architecture. The exhibition *Towers and Skyscrapers. From Babel to Dubai* evokes the natural fascination that inspires humanity to construct tall buildings, and explores our urge to build ever higher. Starting from the myth of the Tower of Babel – a Bible story that has inspired artists throughout the ages and which symbolises the loss of the human scale, the failed utopia, excessive ambition – the show provides a glimpse of the world of skyscrapers from a range of different perspectives.

CaixaForum Madrid hosts an exploration of the world of towers and skyscrapers based on around 200 works, including models, photographs, films, etchings, paintings, drawings and projections. *Towers and Skyscrapers* illustrates the human propensity to take on seemingly impossible challenges and overcome material obstacles, from ancient times (the first elevated constructions, religious in nature) to the present. The show focuses particularly on the triumph of North America, beginning in the late-nineteenth century, and the worldwide spread of skyscraper construction since the 1970s, a phenomenon that has led to a situation in which two-thirds of all the highest buildings in the world are now located in the Far East and Middle East. This is an enthralling slice of living history that invites us to touch the sky, from the Tower of Babel to the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, whose 828-metre height makes it the tallest building in the world today.



Contemporary Cartographies ***Drawing Thought***



21 November 2012 - 24 February 2013

Official opening: 20 November 2012

Organised and produced by: "la Caixa" Foundation

Curator: Helena Tatay, independent curator

Michael Druks, *Drukmland – Physical and Social*, 15 January 1974, 11.30 am, 1974 © Michael Druks. Photograph: England & Co Gallery, London

In this exceptional show, CaixaForum Madrid presents works created in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries by artists driven to explore and question our systems of representation

We map our world in order to gain a glimpse of the reality in which we live. Since time immemorial, people have used maps to represent, translate and encode all kinds of physical, mental and emotional territories. Our representation of the world has evolved in recent centuries and, today, with globalisation and the Internet, traditional concepts of time and space, along with methods for representing the world and knowledge, have been definitively transformed. Responding to this paradigm shift, contemporary artists question systems of representation and suggest new formulas for classifying reality.

The exhibition, organised and produced by "la Caixa" Foundation, comprises more than 140 works in a wide range of formats –from maps and drawings to video installations and digital art– on loan from the collections of several major contemporary art galleries. The artists represented include such essential figures as Salvador Dalí, Paul Klee, Marcel Duchamp, Yves Klein, Gordon Matta-Clark, Richard Hamilton, Mona Hatoum and Richard Long, alongside a large selection of pieces by contemporary artists, including Art & Language, Artur Barrio, Carolee Schneemann, Ana Mendieta, Erick Beltrán, On Kawara, Alighiero Boetti, Thomas Hirschhorn and Francis Alÿs. Finally, the exhibition is completed by a series of revealing documents drawn up by experts from other fields, such as Santiago Ramón y Cajal, Lewis Carroll and Carl Gustav Jung.



Food Justice. Sowing Hope



© Pep Bonet

31 January - 19 May 2013

Official opening: 30 January 2013

Organised and produced by: "la Caixa"

Foundation International Cooperation Programme, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and Intermón Oxfam

Curator: Gonzalo Fanjul, expert in development policy

Something is wrong with the way the food system works. Our planet produces enough food for everyone to eat, yet nearly 1,000 million people go hungry whilst another 1,000 million suffer from different forms of obesity

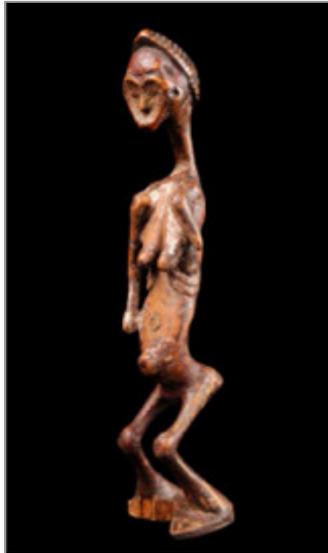
The purpose of this new exhibition, organised by "la Caixa" Foundation International Cooperation Programme, is to raise awareness about the problem of food distribution and access on a global scale and to sound a warning about the serious problems we face if the present model is maintained.

Organised in cooperation with the FAO and Intermón Oxfam, the exhibition expresses the feelings of small producers in countries in the developing world through the images of the photojournalist Pep Bonet (3rd prize FotoPress 2007 and 2nd prize World Press Photo 2007). These farmers, who are amongst those who most suffer from poverty and famine, are nonetheless crucial to the future of food supply on our planet. Provided with appropriate resources and fair laws enabling them access to land and to compete in equal conditions, these poorer producers hold the key to a fairer, more sustainable food supply model.

"la Caixa" Foundation has cooperated with programmes to promote sustainable development and improved living conditions amongst more vulnerable groups in the developing nations since 1997. Within the frame of this initiative, the Foundation provides support for projects aimed at increasing food sovereignty. Similarly, efforts are also invested in combating child malnutrition and actions to protect and assist the victims of natural disasters and armed conflicts, with particular attention to humanitarian crises caused by lack of access to food.



Masters of Chaos



6 February - 19 May 2013

Official opening: 5 February 2013

Organised and produced by: "la Caixa" Foundation, Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Bonn, Germany) and Musée du Quai Branly (Paris, France)

Curator: Jean de Loisy, assisted by Sandra Adam Couralet

Assistant curator: Nanette Jacomijn Snoep, Curator, Historical Collections, Quai Branly Museum

Tsogo female figure, Gabon, Africa. © Musée du Quai Branly

CaixaForum Madrid hosts a major exhibition that speaks of the forces of order and disorder, and of their intermediaries, who have fought over the world since ancient times, and still do so in contemporary art.

In most cultures, traditions depict opposing forces that compete for power over the universe, that organise or disrupt social contracts, structure and that deconstruct the individual, in a necessary and endless struggle. All order, including divine order, is fundamentally imperfect, limited and threatened with implosion. The awareness of chaos seems to be shared by all civilisations, as if disruptive forces were necessary to ensure the balance and continuity of the universe.

In the exhibition *Masters of Chaos*, objects, costumes and representations from great anthropological and ethnographic collections are shown alongside works and installations by contemporary artists who explore these essential themes in the construction of human consciousness. Figures of disorder form part of the pantheon of our beliefs and our cultures. Ritual is the favoured way of negotiating with the powers that govern human societies, with a single goal: social harmony. Seen in this light, society is the result of a compromise between turbulence and reason, order and excess. Parallel to religious and holy rites, feasts and festivals are moments of social transgression, when satire and laughter make a profane response to the established order.



Before the Flood. **Mesopotamia 3500-2100 BC**



Gift of Mrs. Gallatin Cobb

27 March - 30 June 2013

Official opening: 26 March 2013

Organised and produced by: "la Caixa" Foundation

Curator: Pedro Azara, architect and professor of Aesthetics at Barcelona School of Architecture

Head of female worshipper
Early Dynastic Period, 2900-2334 B.C.
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Through over 400 archaeological objects and 3D reconstructions, this exhibition enables visitors to discover Mesopotamian culture and the influence it had on later civilisations

Some 5,500 years ago, in the marshes of the Tigris and Euphrates delta region, in what is now southern Iraq, the Mesopotamian peoples –who spoke the Sumerian and Akkadian languages– built the first cities. In this way, the first forms of territorial organisation emerged in the early part of the fourth millennium BC, in a region that was both fertile and inhospitable. The first city, Uruk, saw the introduction of communications networks, with roads, canals and ports. Social hierarchies were developed, along with the division of labour, capitalism, strong power (monarchic or imperial), writing, calculus, units of measurement of time, space and the value of goods, and law, as well as cultural manifestations that enabled people to become differentiated from nature whilst, at the same time, dominating it.

Through some 400 archaeological pieces from major international public collections, *Before the Storm. Mesopotamia, 3500-2100 BC* explores our debt to this early culture in the ancient Middle East. The show will also illustrate the image of the world held by the people of Mesopotamia in the fourth and third millennia BC, a worldview which has largely reached us through the Bible, the Koran and Greek myths and texts. *Before the Storm* also includes a series of contemporary works that reveal the influence exercised by Mesopotamia in subsequent periods, as well as several 3D reconstructions created specifically and recreating such sites as the city of Ur and the White Temple of Uruk, amongst others.



Seduced by Art ***Photography Past and Present***



20 June - 15 September 2013

Official opening: 19 June 2013

Organised and produced by: The National Gallery (London) and "la Caixa" Foundation

Curator: Hope Kingsley, Curator for Education and Collections at the Wilson Centre for Photography, and Christopher Riopelle, Curator of Post-1800 Paintings at the National Gallery, London

Richard Learoyd, *Man with Octopus Tattoo*, 2011
Artist's collection. Courtesy of Richard Learoyd and the McKee Gallery, New York

A provocative look at the influence that fine art traditions have exercised on photography, from its beginnings to work being done by photographers today

This groundbreaking exhibition —organised by "la Caixa" Foundation and the National Gallery, London— explores the relationship between historical painting, early photography from the mid-nineteenth century and work being done by certain photographers today. Right from the beginning, photography dared to claim traditional "high art" subjects as its own. Reflecting this, *Seduced By Art* features works by some of the most outstanding European practitioners, alongside photographs by an international array of contemporary artists, including new photography and video specially commissioned for the exhibition and on public display for the first time.

In the exhibition, paintings and photographs are presented together according to traditional genres such as portraiture, still life and landscape. The show will contrast religious imagery by 19th-century photographer Julia Margaret Cameron and late 20th-century artist Helen Chadwick with spectacular battlefield tableaux by Emile-Jean-Horace Vernet from 1821 and Luc Delahaye's work of 2001. The theme of portraiture includes Tina Barney's astute social portraits, whilst Martin Parr's acerbic work is displayed alongside Thomas Gainsborough's *Mr and Mrs Andrews* (about 1750), and nudes by the pioneering early photographer Oscar Rejlander and contemporary practitioners like Richard Learoyd. *Seduced by Art* will also include photographic "interventions" by Richard Billingham, Craigie Horsfield and Richard Learoyd, compared to great nineteenth-century works by such artists as Constable, Degas and Ingres.



Georges Méliès. ***The Magic of Cinema***



Georges Méliès, design for *A Trip to the Moon* (1902).
Cinémathèque Française Collection. Photograph: Stéphane Dabrowski

26 July - 8 December 2013

Official opening: 25 July 2013

Organised and produced by:

Cinémathèque Française and "la Caixa"
Foundation

Curator: Laurent Mannoni, scientific
director of Cultural Heritage and the
Conservatory of Cinematographic
Techniques, Cinémathèque Française

CaixaForum Madrid takes visitors on a fascinating journey into the world of Georges Méliès, one of the most important creative artists in film history, through a selection of original objects and screenings

Continuing the tradition of organising exhibitions on the theme of the cinema, "la Caixa" Foundation presents a show devoted to the career of Georges Méliès, considered the first wizard of film. The show embraces the diversity of the French director's work and considers the important position he holds in film history, something that was underlined once more recently by Martin Scorsese's 3D film *Hugo* (2011). Where did Méliès come from? How did he bring his extraordinary universe into being? What were his sources of inspiration? For the first time, this exhibition reveals Méliès' cultural, artistic and technical background, showing that the origins of his universe lie in the very roots of cinema itself: shadow theatre, magic lanterns, phantasmagoria, chronophotography, illusionism, magic and fantasy.

Visitors will journey to the strange, agitated, effervescent world invented by one of the most important artists in cinema history to witness the birth of the new artform. The exhibition will feature film screenings, working cinematographic equipment and unique objects, such as Méliès' first camera and the original costumes used in *A Trip to the Moon*. Many of the objects included belong to Cinémathèque Française. Established in 1936, this organisation possesses the world's most important legacy of drawings, films, cinematographic equipment, costumes and objects by Georges Méliès, as well as a large and valuable collection of objects and images relating to the origins of the cinema.



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"la Caixa" Foundation Multimedia Press Room

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