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The Focus-Abengoa Foundation opens the exhibition of the works selected in the Focus-Abengoa International Painting Prize 2015

- The exhibition comprising works by finalists and prize-winners will be open to the public until 20 March 2016 at the Hospital de los Venerables.

Seville, 21 December 2015- The Focus-Abengoa Foundation today opened the exhibition of the works selected in the Focus-Abengoa International Painting Prize 2015, which features works of art by finalists and prize-winners. The opening ceremony was attended by José Domínguez Abascal, Chairman of Abengoa and its Foundation; and Anabel Morillo, Director General of the Foundation; the members of the jury and the prize-winners in this edition, Lola Berenguer Suarez, Gabriel Grün and Jesús Zurita.

The exhibition, which will be open to the public until 20 March 2016, gives pride of place to the work by Lola Berenguer Suarez (Almería, 1965), *Las veces difíciles*, which won the 32nd edition of the Painting Prize. It also features the works by Gabriel Grün Yantorno (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1978), *El traje de ramas*, and Jesús Zurita Ruiz (Ceuta, 1974), *El contenido de los murmullos*, which received runners-up prizes. 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 Laffon and Gustavo Torner, among others.

The exhibition also includes the works by Javier Arbizu Martínez (s/t); Pepe Carretero, *El final del almuerzo*; Filippo La Vaccara (s/t); and Simón Zabell, *Of canyons and Stars*, to which the jury gave special mentions.

The jury of the 32nd edition of the prize was chaired by Anabel Morillo León, Director General of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, and comprised Jaime Brihuega Sierra, Juan Carrete Parrondo, Juan Fernández Lacomba, Guillermo Pérez Villalta, Manuel Sánchez Arcenegui and Juan Suárez Ávila. A total of 617 works were submitted on this occasion, of which 122 came from artists outside of Spain.

The exhibition of the finalists' and prize-winners' works will be open to the public until 20 March 2016. Entry to the exhibition is free.

The Focus-Abengoa International Painting Prize, which has a long tradition and a prestigious reputation, has been held for 31 years and has become one of the foremost European and American awards in the art world. This international prize reflects the Foundation's ongoing commitment to contemporary art and the interests and wishes of its founders, helping to promote an exchange of artistic experiences beyond our borders.



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The Focus-Abengoa Foundation has always 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.

About the prize-winners

Lola Berenguer Suárez (Almeria, 1965). Graduate in Fine Arts by the University of Seville, Lola Berenguer has developed her professional career mainly at national level but also internationally active. His career included the exhibition of his work in galleries such as Il Canovaccio (Rome, Italy), Sala de la Cultura of Palacio de Bellas Artes (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic) and Gallery EM (Drachten, The Netherlands). Her work has been recognized with numerous first prizes in competitions such as the 28th Emilio Ollero Painting Prize, the 7th Premi Salou de Recerca Pictòrica, the 35th Casimiro Sainz National Painting Award, the 30th S. Soria Vila de Benissa Painting Contest, the Artes Plásticas Ayuntamiento de Majadaonda Contest, the Pintura Abstracta de La Nucía Contest and the Concello de Cambre painting prize.

Gabriel Grün Yantorno (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1978). The artwork of this artista has been featured across America and Europe. Besides the exhibitions in museums such as the National Museum of Fine Arts, (Buenos Aires, Argentina) and Oscar Niemeyer museum (Curitiba, Brazil), worthy of note is the exhibition of his works in galleries such as Wussman, in Buenos Aires (Argentina) or Milan (Brazil), Galería MiTO (Madrid, Spain) and Galería La Santa (Barcelona, Spain). In addition, the artista participated in international exhibitions such as *Miami International Fair* (Miami, USA) and *Hey! Act III*, in the Halle Saint Pierre museum (Paris, France).

Jesús Zurita Ruíz (Ceuta, 1974). He studied Fine Arts in the University of Granada. His artwork has been featured in national and international museums, such as the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo (Seville, Spain) or the Museo de Bellas Artes of Guadalajara (Mexico), besides the Instituto Cervantes de Tokyo (Japan) or in galleries such as Blanca Soto (Madrid), Riccardo Constantini Contemporary (Turin, Italy), Seven Contemporary (The Hague, Holland) and Il Torchio (Milan, Italia).

Focus-Abengoa Foundation

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, since the acquisition of Velázquez's "Santa Rufina" by the Foundation in 2007. The focus on this



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crucial era of the Golden Age is complemented with the legacy from Professor Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez, bequeathed to the Foundation in 2011. It comprises his library, photo library, personal archive and art collection and is being catalogued to help create a library specialising in the art and culture of the Baroque period. <http://focus.abengoa.es/>


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