

focus ABENGOA

“Népliget” by Miguel Galano wins the Focus-Abengoa Painting Prize 2011

- Ismael Iglesias Serrano and Alvar Haro Sánchez were runners-up.
- At this edition, the jury also gave a special mention to the works submitted by Tomás Mendoza Arracó, Diego Pujal Laplagne and Diego Vallejo Pierna.

Seville, 13 December 2011. The Focus-Abengoa Foundation today announced the winner of the 28th edition of the Focus-Abengoa Painting Prize as Miguel Galano, for his work entitled *Népliget* (oil on canvas; 180 cm x 200 cm). The jury defined the painting as “a reinterpretation of the Western figurative tradition, capable of transforming common themes such as melancholy and mystery with an unflinching take on the world”.

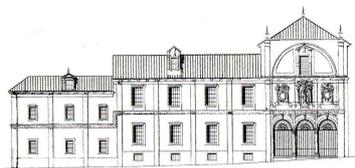
The jury awarded the runners-up prizes to Alvar Haro Sánchez for his work *Embarque para Citea*, for its capacity to “merge contradictory aesthetic horizons through a surprisingly harmonious synthesis”, and to Ismael Iglesias Serrano for his work entitled *CTRL+Z (XXX)*, for “tackling abstract language in a complex and thoughtful way, which features piercing geometry alive with crystallographic echoes with sinuously musical rhythms”.

The jury at this edition, which was chaired by Anabel Morillo León, Director General of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation and comprised Jaime Brihuega, Juan Fernández Lacomba, Juan Manuel Bonet, Manuel Sánchez Arcenegui, Guillermo Pérez Villalta, Juan Carrete Parrondo and Estrella de Diego, analysed a total of 34 works, all of outstanding quality and displaying excellent technique.

Furthermore, at this 28th edition, the jury decided to award special mention to the works submitted by Tomás Mendoza Arracó, Diego Pujal Laplagne and Diego Vallejo Pierna, highlighting the exceptionally high quality and the outstanding level of professionalism among the participants.

The Focus-Abengoa Painting Prize, awarded for any technique and theme, is worth a total of €36,000, with €24,000 going to first prize which will be awarded to Miguel Galano, and two runners-up prizes of €6,000 each, which will be presented to Ismael Iglesias Serrano and Alvar Haro Sánchez. The works of the three winners will form part of the Focus-Abengoa Contemporary collection of paintings, sculptures and graphic art.

The exhibition of the finalists’ and award winners’ works will be opened on Tuesday 27 December at the Hospital de los Venerables in Seville, the headquarters of the Foundation. Entry to the exhibition is free.



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The Focus-Abengoa Painting Prize, which has a long tradition and a prestigious reputation, has been held for the last 28 years and has become one of the leading European and American awards in the art world. This international prize reflects the Foundation's ongoing commitment to contemporary art and promotes an exchange of artistic experiences beyond our borders, reflecting the concerns and wishes of the award's founders.

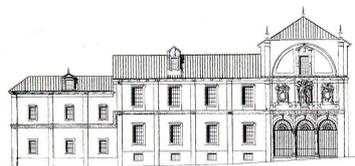
As shown in recent years, participation in this award strengthens the value of the works of recognised painters and creates new opportunities for young talent, who need both financial and social support in their careers towards becoming professionals.

From the outset the Focus-Abengoa Foundation has expressed a clear interest in all cultural activities, not only in those directly connected to the city of Seville, but in all artistic, literary and scientific expressions at a national and international level.

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 around the same time. This initial cultural work showed Abengoa's directors the importance of the company's involvement in activities that directly benefit society, beyond its core technology work, which led to the creation of the Seville Cultural Fund Foundation. Since 2007 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, which was created to mark the acquisition of Velázquez's Santa Rufina by the Foundation in the same year.

Information about the prize winners

Miguel Galano (Asturias, 1956). Miguel studied fine arts at the San Fernando Higher School of Fine Arts in Madrid. He completed his studies in this area thanks to various grants from public institutions, such as the Ministry of Culture, as well as private institutions such as the Endesa Scholarship for Fine Arts. He has held individual exhibitions since 1997 in various galleries in Madrid, Segovia, Gijón, Oviedo and Stockholm, and his work has been chosen for collections by the Museo Jovellanos and the Príncipe de Asturias Foundation. He has won various prizes for his work, including first prize in the 2nd edition of the Painting Prize of the Regional Government of the Principality of Asturias.



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Ismael Iglesias Serrano (Vizcaya, 1974). Ismael graduated in fine arts from the University of the Basque Country, specialising in painting and audiovisual arts. His academic distinctions include the Delfina Foundation Residential Scholarship in London, and the Spanish College Residential Scholarship in Paris, awarded by the Ministry of Culture. At an individual level he has exhibited in Bilbao, Barcelona and London and has also participated in various important collections at the Durango Museum of Art and History, and at the Provincial Government of Alicante.

Alvar Haro Sánchez (Paris, 1964). Alvar has achieved national recognition through various awards, including the Prize of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Madrid, the Rafael Zabaleta Painting Prize, and the purchase prize of the Wellington Foundation in the 2nd Contemporary Painting Competition. His work has been exhibited in various museums and public collections including the “Spazio Samuele Mazza” in Milan and the *Círculo de Bellas Artes* in Madrid, as part of the “*Miguel Logroño. Reconocimientos*” exhibition.