

focus ABENGOA

## **Juan Luis Jardí Baraja wins the Focus-Abengoa 2012 Painting Prize for his work “El círculo”**

- Silvia Cosío Díaz and Felipe Ortega-Regalado are runners-up for their pieces “*Domesticación*” and “*Oda*”.
- The jury also gave a special mention to the works by Estefanía Martín Sáenz and Carlos Morago Fernández.

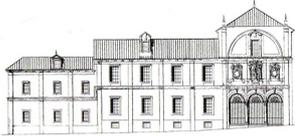
Seville, 22 January 2013. The Focus-Abengoa Foundation has announced the award-winners of the 29th edition of the Focus-Abengoa Painting Prize, which this year has been awarded to “*El Círculo*” (oil on canvas, 195 x 165 cm) by Juan Luis Jardí Baraja from Barcelona. Of the 31 works selected, the jury unanimously decided to award first prize to the work by Jardí, highlighting “his ability to construct a sinister and unusual universe, in which a setting characterised by unease and alienation combines childhood fantasies with obsessive fears”.

The jury also awarded a runners-up prize to “*Domesticación*” (oil on canvas, 150 x 150 cm) by Silvia Cosío Díaz, which features powerful sculptural elements that “reflect the challenges of the composition, the figurative space and its movement, and the expressive body language, while still expressing an intense narrative complexity”. The second runner-up was “*Oda*” (card on wood, 150 x 110 cm), submitted by Felipe Ortega-Regalado, described by the jury as “delicate, poetic and captivating; useful for wandering through an imaginative space where shapes sprout out that are both biological and mineral; evocative of the land, air and underwater”.

Finally, the works submitted by Estefanía Martín Sáenz, “*Pinturas para un muestrario*”, and Carlos Morago Fernández, “*Interior*”, were worthy of special mention by the jury.

The jury for this edition, which was chaired by Anabel Morillo León, Director General of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation and comprised Jaime Brihuega, Juan Fernández Lacomba, Manuel Sánchez Arcenegui, Guillermo Pérez Villalta and Juan Carrete Parrondo, analysed a total of 621 works of art, of which 123 were from artists outside of Spain.

The Focus-Abengoa Painting Prize, awarded for any technique and theme, is worth a total of €36,000, of which €24,000 is for first prize, which will be awarded to Juan Luís Jardí Baraja, and two runners-up prizes of €6,000 each, which will be presented to Silvia Cosío Díaz and Felipe Ortega-Regalado. The works of the three winners will form part of the Focus-Abengoa collection of paintings and graphic art.



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The exhibition with the works by the finalists and award-winners will open on 22 February at the Hospital de los Venerables in Seville, the headquarters of the Foundation. Entry to the exhibition is free.

The Focus-Abengoa Painting Prize, which has a long tradition and a prestigious reputation, has been held for 28 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 promotes an exchange of artistic experiences at an international level, reflecting the concerns and wishes of the award's founders.

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

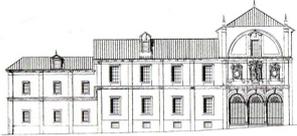
From the outset, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation has expressed a clear interest in all cultural activities, not only in those directly connected to the city of Seville, but all artistic, literary and scientific expressions at a national and international level.

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 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, following the acquisition of Velázquez's *Santa Rufina* by the Foundation in 2007.

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### Information about the prize-winners

**Juan Luis Jardí Baraja** (Barcelona, 1961). A graduate in mural painting from the La Llotja School of Applied Arts and Artistic Skills, he also took painting studies at the Tàrraga School in Barcelona. He first started giving individual exhibitions in the 1980s in various galleries in Barcelona. Today, his works have been displayed in more than 50 spaces across Spain. He has also participated in important group exhibitions in New York, Chicago, Paris, Edinburgh and Madrid, among others. His work has received various awards, such as the *Mostra Juvenil d'Arts Plàstiques de Catalunya*, *Memorial Picasso*; the medal of honour at the 9th and 12th editions of the BMW painting prize; the Sala Valentí painting prize, Sant Pere de Ribes (Barcelona); the 18th Villa de la Roda National Painting Competition, and the Acquisition Fund prize in the 10th Virgen de las Viñas Cultural Competition, among others.



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**Silvia Cosío Díaz** (Santander, Spain, 1976). A graduate in Hispanic language and literature from the University of Seville, she completed her education with fine arts studies also at the University of Seville. She has been exhibiting her work individually since 2006 in various galleries in Seville and has participated in numerous group exhibitions in Seville and Malaga. Her work has been selected for collections of the provincial government of Seville, the Cajazol Foundation and the Andalusian Youth Institute.

**Felipe Ortega-Regalado** (Caceres, Spain). A fine arts graduate from the University of Seville, he has also studied drawing, sculpture and ceramics, and is currently preparing his doctoral thesis. He has been exhibiting individually since 2003 in various galleries around Spain (Seville, Madrid, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Santiago de Compostela, Granada) and has participated in numerous group exhibitions in the USA, Italy, Cuba, Mexico and Peru. His academic prizes include twice winning the Francisco Zurbarán grant from the department of culture of the regional government of Extremadura; first prize in the Gregorio Prieto drawing competition in 2010; the grant for authors and visual artists from the University of Extremadura, and various awards and runners-up prizes in national and international competitions.