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THE CENTRO BOTÍN AND THE FUNDACIÓN BOTÍN

The Centro Botín arts centre, under the aegis of the Fundación Botín, contributes to the fostering of creativity as a means of generating economic and social wealth in Santander.

A space for the development of creativity by means of the arts and an art- and culture-centred place of encounter in Santander, this new facility enables the Foundation to enhance its already extensive support to art and artists in the form of international exhibitions, workshops and grants, as well as encouraging in-depth study of the drawing of the most important Spanish artists of all periods.

The Centro Botín is committed to awakening our creative potential and skills by bringing the arts to all of us and releasing their huge capacity for developing our emotional intelligence and creativity. The research carried out by the Fundación Botín and the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence constitutes the focal point of the Centro Botín's training programme of activities for children, teenagers, families and adults, stimulating curiosity and imagination and encouraging play and learning through the experience of the arts in the form of exhibitions, concerts, theatre, dance, film seasons, workshops and courses.

The Fundación Botín's new arts centre opened in June 2017 with the aim of establishing itself as one of the outstanding venues on the international art circuit, offering the cultural and educational riches of the arts with a cordial invitation to one and all to enjoy the beauty of this exceptional building and the lovely gardens in which it stands.

*The Centro Botín continues and furthers the work that the Fundación Botín has carried out in the arts over the last 30 years. The Fundación Botín's Visual Arts Programme focuses on three key areas: **research, training and exhibitions.** exhibits. The Centro Botín also has a clear social commitment to generating development and wealth by making the most of the potential of the arts to stimulate our creativity.*

Fátima Sánchez · Executive Director of the Centro Botín

The Centro Botín is a unique setting for art, culture and learning, conceived for the purpose of continuing and furthering the important work carried out by the Fundación Botín in the visual arts since 1984 and in the educational field since 1972.

The Centro Botín is already very much a part of daily life in Santander and a vital presence in the city's social and cultural fabric. **Above all, it is a dynamic new place for people to meet and engage with art, music, film, theatre, literature and dance,** not only in the landmark building but also in the open-air amphitheatre and in the Pereda Gardens.

The design of the building and the laying out of the site, which connects the city centre to the bay, are by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano in collaboration with Luis Vidal + Architects.

The Centro Botín stands in the historic Pereda Gardens, which were remodelled and extended as part of the project by internationally acclaimed landscape designer Fernando Caruncho in association with Renzo Piano. The gardens are now twice as large as before, with three times more green spaces extending to the sea, as part of an architectural and landscaping project that attached equal importance to the building proper and the public spaces created around it. The squares to the north and west of the building—the latter an amphitheatre—provide stages for the performing arts, audio-visual screenings, educational activities, debates and creative projects. **Since 2014, the Fundación Botín has been running a full programme of summer activities in the greatly enlarged Pereda Gardens,** including cultural events for children, young people, adults and families, such as concerts of all kinds, film seasons and workshops.

THE FUNDACIÓN BOTÍN

The Centro Botín is the most important project undertaken to date by the Fundación Botín. Created in 1964 by Marcelino Botín Sanz de Sautuola and his wife, Carmen Yllera, to promote the social, economic and cultural development of Cantabria, today, more than fifty years later, while maintaining its principal focus in Cantabria, the Fundación Botín is active throughout Spain and Latin America. Since September 2014 the Fundación Botín has been chaired by Javier Botín, who succeeded his late father, Emilio Botín García de los Ríos, who had presided over the Foundation since 1993. In addition, since 2012 the Foundation has a headquarters in Madrid, further enabling it to meet the growing demands of its activities.

From the outset **the Fundación Botín has been actively promoting the development of society through the creation of cultural, social and economic wealth**, not only in Cantabria, but also in Spain and Latin America. **Its primary objective is to discover and support creative talent in the fields of art, science, education and rural development**, embodying this exceptional combination of priorities in a range of actions that have made the lives of many people in many different places significantly better.

In addition, the Water Observatory is an interdisciplinary think tank which contributes to current and emerging debates about water management, both in Spain and around the world; while the Foundation's Institutional Support team engages with many different organizations with the aim of generating economic and social development. To this end it runs two high-level programmes, one oriented towards Spanish social institutions (Spirit of Solidarity) and the other towards public institutions in Latin America (Programme for Reinforcing the Civil Service).

A CENTRE FOR VISUAL ARTS TRAINING, RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATION

THE FUNDACIÓN BOTÍN VISUAL ARTS PROGRAMME

The Centro Botín arts centre continues and advances the Fundación Botín's Visual Arts Programme, which is developed in three key areas: **training**, by way of grants and international workshops led by major artists; **research** in drawing, and **dissemination** through international exhibitions produced by the Foundation, fruit of its research and training programmes. In addition, the **art collection of the Fundación Botín is a true reflection of its Visual Arts Programme, which has been evolving now for more than thirty years**. Specializing in contemporary art, the collection includes works in a great variety of media: painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, video, installation, etc.

The Centro Botín's Artistic Director is Benjamin Weil, who joined the Fundación Botín team in 2014. Development of the Centro Botín's artistic programme, which is overseen by the Visual Arts Advisory Committee, chaired by Vicente Todolí, former director of Tate Modern in London, is balanced between training, exhibition, acquisition and the promotion of creativity.

When I began to work with the Fundación Botín we wanted our contemporary art collection to include not only works by the artists running the workshops but also works donated by recipients of our Visual Arts Grants. In order to orient the development of the collection we subsequently adopted a more proactive approach, selecting and acquiring works ourselves. In addition, we put on an exhibition each year of works by artists who had received a Visual Arts Grant, which we complemented with an annual exhibition by one of the international artists who had given a Fundación Botín Visual Arts Workshop that year.

Thanks to the Centro Botín, the impact of these activities has multiplied. We will, for example, be running two workshops each year rather than just one, as well as a greater number of exhibitions with the inclusion of two solo shows by workshop directors each year.

Vicente Todolí · Chair of the Fundación Botín Visual Arts Advisory Committee

VISUAL ARTS TRAINING

The first element of the Fundación Botín Visual Arts Programme, **training**, comprises a number of aspects: providing formative support to emerging artists from all over the world through **workshops** led by prestigious international creators; awarding **grants** for artistic projects, and **exhibiting** (and in some cases **acquiring**) the works resulting from these projects. The Fundación Botín also has a grant programme for young Spanish professionals wishing to expand on their training in Exhibition Curating and Museum Management Studies abroad.

Visual Arts Workshops

The Visual Arts Workshops that the Fundación Botín has organized in Santander every year since 1994 have brought to the Cantabrian capital a great number of young creative talents from all over the world, eager to work closely with artists of the calibre of Miroslaw Balka, Mona Hatoum, Jannis Kounellis, Antoni Muntadas, Juan Uslé, Gabriel Orozco, Julião Sarmiento and Paul Graham, among others. **Workshops of particular note in recent years include those run by Julie Mehretu, Carsten Höller and Cristina Iglesias.**

Many of the artists whom the Foundation has invited to run a workshop have not only shared their knowledge and experience with younger colleagues but **also had the chance to have their first major show in Spain.** This, in turn, has given a large number of people an opportunity to become acquainted with the work of leading international artists.

At the end of each Visual Arts Workshop the Centro Botín exhibits works by the artist in charge of the workshop. In addition, it is now established practice for works by these artists to be acquired by the Fundación Botín for its contemporary art collection, which also includes works by artists who have received one of the Foundation's Visual Arts Grants.

Visual Arts Grants and Grants for Exhibition Curating and Museum Management

The Fundación Botín has been awarding grants to visual artists since the 1990s. **The Itinerarios series of exhibitions presents the work carried out by creative talents from Spain and beyond during the period of their Fundación Botín Visual Arts Grant,** which is published each year in a special catalogue showcasing the projects.

In addition, each year two Exhibition Curating and Museum Management grants are awarded to Spanish professionals in the field of contemporary art who wish to pursue specialist study abroad.

Over the last 26 years the Fundación Botín has been an active participant in the growth of Spain's artistic community, providing support and learning opportunities by means of workshops and grants, in addition to its ambitious exhibition programme. We are pleased to see how artists we have supported in the past have risen to prominence in their field, and we are especially proud that artists who were awarded Fundación Botín grants have represented Spain at the Venice Biennale: Lara Almarcegui in 2013, Cabello/Carceller and Francesc Ruiz in 2015, and Jordi Colomer in 2017.

With the opening of the Centro Botín the Foundation is continuing and expanding its commitment to providing young artists with the maximum support and visibility; to participating more efficiently in the development of an established artistic community, and to offering visitors from Spain and beyond still more opportunities to enjoy the very best international art in a setting we believe inspires artists and the general public alike.

Benjamin Weil · Artistic Director of the Centro Botín

VISUAL ARTS RESEARCH

In 2006, the Fundación Botín initiated a major research project on the drawing in Spanish art, which also involves the publication of catalogues raisonnés and the exhibition of selected works, all **guided by the conviction that drawing is one of the truly outstanding facets of Spanish art.**

As a result of this research programme, in 2018 the Fundación Botín, with the support of the Prado Museum in Madrid, published the first volume of the *Catálogo razonado de los dibujos de Francisco de Goya* [Catalogue raisonné of the Drawings of Francisco de Goya] and in 2019 will publish the rest of the 5 volumes, thereby concluding the in-depth study of the great Spanish artists (17th–20th c.). Compiled with the active involvement of leading experts and a large research team, this masterpiece will join our previous publications, which include the catalogues raisonnés of such major Spanish artists as Eduardo Rosales (1836–1873), Antonio del Castillo (1616–1668), Pablo Gargallo (1881–1934), Alonso Cano (1601–1667), Mariano Salvador Maella (1739–1819), José Gutiérrez Solana (1886–1945) and Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (1617–1682). The Centro Botín is committed to continuing and consolidating this priority line of research into drawing.

Our Goya exhibition, together with the completion of the catalogue raisonné of his drawings, marks the end of a lengthy period of work centred on the drawings of great artists of the past. While it would obviously not be possible to compile a catalogue raisonné of the drawings of a living artist, we regard drawing as a highly important aspect of an artist's practice, and believe that it does not receive the attention it deserves. We therefore intend to promote this line of work with exhibitions of drawings by the leading contemporary artists.

Vicente Todolí · Chair of the Fundación Botín Visual Arts Advisory Committee

PROMOTING ARTISTIC AWARENESS

As part of the Centro Botín's promotion of artistic awareness, two of its floors are exclusively given over to the showing of artworks. **These rooms house solo exhibitions of work by twentieth-century artists and collective exhibitions addressing important themes in the history of art.** In the course of the year this exhibition space also hosts several shows of works from the Fundación Botín collection, which includes works by both emerging new talents and established artists who have run one of the Foundation's visual arts workshop, as well as by artists who have received one of its grants.

Carsten Höller, Julie Mehretu, and Cristina Iglesias, to mention the most recent, have led one of our master class workshops linked to the exhibition of their work. In this respect, the ongoing tradition of putting on shows by the artists who run our workshops benefits from the added opportunities provided by the Centro Botín's exhibition spaces, at the same time as world-class exhibitions of major contemporary artists, produced in the light of the latest research into their work.

Vicente Todolí · Chair of the Fundación Botín Visual Arts Advisory Committee

THE CENTRO BOTÍN EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMME 2020

The Centro Botín opened its doors on June 23, 2017, and that year put on three major exhibitions: Carsten Höller; *Agility and Audacity*, Goya's *Drawings*, and Julie Mehretu. In 2018, the Fundación Botín's arts centre in Santander continued the consolidation of its vocation as a first-order centre of excellence with a programme of exhibitions of artists of the highest calibre such as Cristina Iglesias and Joan Miró. In 2018 the Centro Botín also received disinterested support from some of those who believe in this project. Jaime Botín, patron of the Fundación Botín, ceded eight 20th-century masterpieces from his personal collection, works of great value which are already on display in the 'Portraits: Essence and Expression' room on the first floor of the exhibitions wing.

In 2019 the Centro Botín presented three major exhibitions by internationally acclaimed artists: Martin Creed, who won the Turner Prize in 2001; Alexander Calder, one of the most influential and transcendental creative talents of the last century; and the Albanian artist Anri Sala, whose first solo exhibition in Spain continues until May 2020. In addition, the *Itinerarios XXV* show presented a new selection from the Fundación Botín collection to mark its 25th anniversary, and a special exhibition celebrating the work of Manolo Millares.

This year, 2020, the Centro Botín is presenting the work of two internationally renowned artists – Ellen Gallagher and Thomas Demand – each of whom will have their first large-scale solo show in Spain.

Another outstanding individual exhibition, featuring the work of Anri Sala, is open to visitors until 3 May. In addition, the Fundación Botín art centre in Santander will present the 26th iteration of its *Itinerarios* series, and will continue the exhibition *Collecting Processes: 25 years of Itinerarios*, inaugurated in 2019, until November.

ANRI SALA. AS YOU GO (CHÂTEAUX EN ESPAGNE)

From 14 December 2019 to 3 May 2020. **Room 2**

Curator: Benjamin Weil, Artistic Director of the Centro Botín

Based in Berlin, Anri Sala (Tirana, Albania, 1974) is capable of opening up the deepest nonverbal modes of communication thanks to his exceptional narrative technique. Music and movement are key elements of his work and the theme of many of his sound and video installations and his sculptural works, which often take the form of self-playing musical instruments.

In this new project for the Centro Botín, Sala invites us to reflect on how we relate to images in an era of unprecedented media saturation. The show revolves around a dual notion of movement: the movement inherent in a work based on time, which relies on music and moving images; and the movement of the visitors, who create their own experience when they enter the exhibition space.

ITINERARIOS XXVI

From 11 July to 8 November 2020. **Room 2**

Curator: Benjamin Weil, Artistic Director of the Centro Botín

This exhibition, the latest in the *Itinerarios* series, is a not-to-be-missed date with the most recent art, a showcase of the current state of visual creation that will bring together the projects elaborated by the recipients of the Fundación Botín's 26th annual Visual Arts Grants: **Olga Balema** (Lviv, Ukraine, 1984), **Eli Cortiñas** (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, 1976), **June Crespo** (Pamplona, 1982), **Mario Espliego** (Guadalajara, 1983), **Antonio Hervás** (Barcelona, 1981), **Salomé Lamas** (Lisbon, 1987), **Anna Moreno** (Sant Feliu de Llobregat, 1984) and **Bruno Pacheco** (Lisbon, 1974).

COLLECTING PROCESSES: 25 YEARS OF ITINERARIOS

Until November 8, 2020. **Room 1**

Curator: Benjamin Weil, Artistic Director of the Centro Botín.

In October 2019 the Centro Botín inaugurated this exhibition commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Itinerarios series, a careful selection of outstanding works by twenty-five past beneficiaries of the Fundación Botín Grants in the first quarter century of their existence, as a clear reflection of the institution's commitment to the most current art and testimony to the history of contemporary art across the turn of the century.

The show includes works by **Lara Almarcegui, Basma Alsharif, Leonor Antunes, Javier Arce, Erick Beltrán, David Bestué, Bleda y Rosa, Nuno Cera, Patricia Dauder, Patricia Esquivias, Karlos Gil, Carlos Irijalba, Adrià Julià, Juan López, Rogelio López Cuenca, Renata Lucas, Mateo Maté, Jorge Méndez Blake, Regina de Miguel, Leticia Ramos, Fernando Sánchez Castillo, Teresa Solar Abboud, Leonor Serrano Rivas, Jorge Yergui and David Zink Yi.**

PERMANENT EXHIBITIONS

PORTRAITS: ESSENCE AND EXPRESSION

Permanent exhibition. **Room 1.**

A selection of eight works from the art collection of Jaime Botín, patron of the Fundación Botín, permanently on show at the Centro Botín. Chronologically, these pictures reflect almost the whole course of 20th-century art, beginning with *Half-length Figure*, painted by Isidre Nonell in 1907, and concluding with Francis Bacon's *Self-Portrait with Injured Eye*, painted in 1972. The other works exhibited in this room are *Femme espagnole* (1917) by Henri Matisse; *Harlequin* (1918) by Juan Gris; *Beach at Valencia* (1908) by Joaquín Sorolla; *Woman in Red* (1931) by Daniel Vázquez Díaz; *The Constructor of Masks* (1944) by José Gutiérrez Solana and *Portrait of My Mother* (1942) by Pancho Cossío.

JOAN MIRÓ SCULPTURES

Permanent exhibition. **Gallery E, Room 1.**

Following the success of the exhibition *Joan Miró: Sculptures 1928-1982*, on show at the Centro Botín from March 20 to September 2, 2018, the renowned artist returns to the arts centre in Santander thanks to the cession by Successió Miró to the Fundación Botín of two major sculptures: *Femme Monument* (1970) and *Souvenir de la Tour Eiffel* (1977), a three-metre-high sculpture made at the Fundició Parellada foundry in Barcelona. These two pieces, installed in gallery E on the first floor of the exhibition wing of the Centro Botín in Santander, can be enjoyed from the exterior walkways of the building. In this way, the centre is helping to fulfil Joan Miró's express wish that his large-scale works should be shown in public places and accessible to as many people as possible.

THE CENTRO BOTÍN IN SOCIETY: ARTS, EMOTIONS AND CREATIVITY

The Centro Botín has a clear social mission: to generate social wealth and development by making the most of the potential of the arts to awaken creativity, based on an understanding of art as a vital contribution to enhancing our well-being at the personal level, in the family, in society and at work. The Fundación Botín has been researching and working in this direction for several years, in collaboration with the Center for Emotional Intelligence at Yale University, and the Centro Botín now opens up new possibilities for development, **both locally and internationally.**

In fact, the Centro Botín enables the Fundación Botín to expand and develop the important programme it launched in 2003 with input from international experts. What is more, since 2013, the Foundation has been working with the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, examining the role that emotions play in the creative process, and investigating the role and potential of the arts and the emotions they generate in the development of creativity.

With its wide-ranging commitment to promoting the enormous educational potential of the arts to enhancing our emotional intelligence and creativity, the Fundación Botín is actively involved in improving the quality of life of the people of Cantabria and generating social wealth. **Slowly but surely, this commitment will help us achieve a more open, creative and proactive society capable of generating progress for all. In fact, the Centro Botín, in collaboration with the IE Foundation and Yale University, is developing a system for evaluating how the Fundación Botín's art centre in Santander contributes to economic development and creativity in the region.**

Internationally, leading journals are already taking note of the research in creativity, emotions and the arts promoted and developed by the Fundación Botín. This clearly establishes the Centro Botín as a pioneer art centre in the integration of the arts and social development, and a key point of encounter for researchers.

As a new high point in this endeavour, **the Centro Botín organized and hosted in October 2019 the International Conference on Creativity, Emotions and the Arts. The first of its kind anywhere in the world, the event brought together leading authorities on creativity, emotions and the arts and the interconnections between them, to present their research, latest findings and results. They also shared and discussed the importance of creativity in many different areas, personal, educational, professional and health, among others. The International Conference on Creativity, Emotions and the Arts marked the attainment of one of the Centro Botín's key objectives: to provide a point of reference for experts from around the world in the field of arts, emotions and creativity, with a highly innovative programme as a pioneer among art centres.**

The Centro Botín also embodies the Foundation's commitment to making art accessible to everyone, helping all of us to engage in harmony with the creative spirit. The coordinated actions of the Fundación Botín seek to stimulate the creativity of those who visit the Centro Botín and take part in its activities, improving their quality of life and their environment. **To this end, the arts centre offers a wide-ranging programme of activities for children, adolescents, families and adults; activities that arouse curiosity and fire the imagination while encouraging learning through play.**

At the Centro Botín not a day goes by without one or more of the programmed educational and artistic activities bringing the arts to everyone– the visitors who come from afar and may have only an hour or two, or the people of Cantabria and Santander, who can enjoy the Centro Botín on a regular basis, and of course Friends of the Centro Botín and volunteers, who are the people most actively involved in the project.

The very full programme of exhibitions, concerts, plays, dance and film seasons is complemented by workshops and courses on a wide variety of topics related to the Centro Botín's six core disciplines: visual arts, music, literature, film, theatre and dance.

The **cultural programme of the Centro Botín** includes a diverse offering of quality activities to suit all tastes and interests. The Centro Botín team, with the support of a Culture Advisory Group composed of professionals from different fields with a thorough knowledge of the international, national and local panorama, is responsible for designing this programme, which contributes to the effective integration of the arts centre into the cultural and social fabric of the city. In addition, **the building's huge outdoor screen, showing films and videos of activities inside the building, accentuates the Centro Botín's open and inclusive nature** by opening a window on the interior.

The Centro Botín's educational proposal for the fostering of creativity through the arts ranges from workshops for school-children and adults to professional or university-level courses, such as those in its collaborative ventures with Yale University and with the Master in Emotional Education, Social Education and Education for Creativity run by the University of Cantabria's Faculty of Education.

THE ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN OF THE CENTRO BOTÍN

THE BUILDING: THE CENTRO BOTÍN PROJECT, 2010-2017

The Centro Botín has effectively and attractively reconnected the centre of the city with the bay thanks to the remodelling of an extraordinary public space: the hundred-year-old Pereda Gardens. **By tunnelling below ground the busy road that once divided the gardens and cut them off from the sea, the project has not only unified the green space** but also doubled its area to almost four hectares while restoring unimpeded pedestrian access to the sea.

This building assumes the important social and cultural function of revitalizing the city's public spaces, thus confirming the primacy of the urban as the site of civilization. That is why the Centro Botín is located in the heart of the city, because cultural enclaves of this kind, when they are open and close at hand, are loved by the people and become symbols of communal life and civic pride.

Renzo Piano · Architect

Between the gardens and the Bay of Santander, the Centro Botín cantilevers out over the sea and the land, allowing the people strolling through the gardens to enjoy a magnificent view of the bay spread out before them. Indeed, the building seems almost to float weightlessly at the height of the treetops through whose branches it can be glimpsed. **An elegant lightweight Pachinko structure of steel and glass catwalks connects the two volumes of the Centro Botín and creates a completely public new square, raised above ground level, on the north side of the building**, with stairs and elevators giving access to the two volumes of the arts centre, which cantilevers out 20 metres over the sea.

The lobular form of the Centro Botín is the outcome of the series of models through which the design was perfected. This evolutive process made it clear that a rounded structure would allow the ground floor to enjoy more daylight while also affording the best possible views from the gardens towards the sea. **The façades of the building's two volumes are covered with 270,000 mother-of-pearl ceramic discs, which reflect the sun, the sparkling surface of the water and the special light of the Cantabrian coast.**

The larger volume to the west is devoted to art. With galleries laid out on two levels offering spectacular views of the sea and the gardens. The 1400 m² exhibition space on the top floor is lit from above, with daylight entering through a translucent three-layer roof: an outer skin of small sand-blasted glass slats prevents glare in the interior, the double-glazed second skin acts as a climatic envelope, and the third skin of sensor-controlled aluminium slats allows the lighting to be precisely regulated, completely darkening the interior if so desired. The first floor is occupied by a 1200 m² exhibition space, and the ground floor, with its completely transparent façade, houses the restaurant, the shop, a lounge area and visitor services.

On the outside of the building a new amphitheatre adjoins the west façade, on which a 12 x 6 m LED screen shows videos of the activities taking place inside the building and serves as an open-air cinema for the centre's film season.

With a double-height auditorium that cantilevers out over the sea on its south-east side, **the smaller volume to the east contains the educational and cultural activities.** Conceived as a multifunctional space for concerts, lectures, conferences, festivals and ceremonial occasions, this wing also has a roof terrace from which visitors can enjoy spectacular views of Santander and its bay.

The educational area on the north side of this volume has adaptable spaces whose exceptional versatility makes them ideal for a great variety of uses. Configured in rooms of different sizes, the educational area regularly hosts courses and workshops on the visual arts, music, film, theatre, dance and literature, for children and young people as well as adults and families.

THE SETTING: THE REMODELLING OF THE PEREDA GARDENS

The creation of a pedestrian route from the city centre to the sea by way of the Pereda Gardens involved rerouting traffic from the busy road that previously bisected the gardens through a newly-built tunnel. The new tunnel, used by some 13 million vehicles a year, has significantly **improved safety and reduced the levels of noise and air pollution in the area.**

Construction of the tunnel made it possible to extend and improve the Pereda Gardens. Led by landscape designer Fernando Caruncho, in collaboration with the Renzo Piano studio, this historic park has more than doubled in size, from 20,000 m² to 48,000 m², and tripled its green space from 7,003 m² to 20,056 m².

The remodelling has conserved the park's original features, respecting and recapturing its essential character while adapting to the change in scale. **The Pereda Gardens were laid out on land originally reclaimed from the sea in 1805 for use as a quay,** and were officially opened in 1905, coinciding with the Exhibition of Arts and Industries. The extension transforms Plaza de Alfonso XIII, to the west, as part of a large urban space leading in to the gardens proper, whose walks, lawns and rest areas offer both sun and shade in a continual play of light and colour that is a central feature of the design. **Walks and squares have been paved with blue concrete mixed with copper and ferrous sulfate, in harmony with the blue tones of the bay.** Specimen trees include magnolia, holly, palm, cedar, horse chestnut, pine, box, yew, linden and apple.

This project is an expression of the history of this Cantabrian region's moments of splendour. Old public gardens should always preserve and make the most of the landmarks of collective and individual memory that connect the past and the present. That was the aim here: to combine the present and the past with the aesthetic codes and forms of the 21st century, so as to open up the Pereda Gardens to the future. To this end we have established a correspondence between the city and garden, and with Renzo's marvellous building, the whole in harmony with the landscape thanks to the blue of the paths, which tie in with the blue of the bay and the blue-green of the hills around it. That was our goal and we can now say it is an objective and a dream accomplished by all of us.

Fernando Caruncho · Landscape designer

The Centro Botín project has preserved several historic landmarks in and around the Pereda Gardens, such as the Concha Espina Fountain, the José María de Pereda memorial sculpture, and the Monument to the Fire of Santander and Reconstruction. **Special mention should also be given to the old petrol station, which has a special place in local memory.** Although its canopy has been slightly updated, its original Fifties design has been respected, and it has been converted for use as the park's new café. The Renzo Piano Building Workshop has also designed a new Tourist Information Office as part of the remodelling scheme.

Last but not least, **the project included the extension and renovation of the Pereda Gardens children's playground, which has been enlarged from 320 m² to almost 800 m²** in an innovative collaborative design centred on children's physical, emotional, cognitive, and social development. In line with one of the Centro Botín's key strategic objectives, the playground was designed to stimulate the imagination and creativity. One of the new play areas in this unique innovative space, inspired by the sea and the importance of renewable energy, is The Wave, a 20-metre-long climbing net for kids and the only one of its kind in Spain. **The Pereda Gardens children's playground was developed in conjunction with the electric utility company E.ON, one of the Centro Botín's strategic partners.**

CRISTINA IGLESIAS: SCULPTURAL INTERVENTION IN THE PEREDA GARDENS

Cristina Iglesias, 1999 winner of Spain's National Prize for Visual Arts and one of the country's most internationally acclaimed artists, **created a site-specific sculptural installation for the Centro Botín and the Pereda Gardens in the form of four wells and a pool, entitled *From the Underground***. The work consists of five constructions in grey stone, each containing overlapping cast steel forms which engender cavities, wells that engage the underground, that which lies beneath the surface. In the artist's words: 'Phreatic zones, underground zones saturated with water. Pockets of water full of vegetation and molluscs, life that speaks of the origin, the immense sea that formed the earth.' The subterranean is represented by an abstract mass, built up in layers; strata reminiscent of certain algae that might exist in some underwater garden, welling up to the surface.

With her installation, Iglesias invites the visitor to observe the regular to and fro of the water and listen to its murmur, a movement with different rhythms composing different sequences, encouraging us to go from one point to another, from one well to another, and to perceive the sequence of abstract forms as a kind of dialogue between the organic and the mechanical.

PROJECT FACTS AND FIGURES

THE BUILDING

- 10,285.24 m² of total floor area, 8,756.07 m² on the ground floor, first floor and second floor
- 7,112 m³ of concrete for foundations and in-situ cast concrete walls
- 1,059,283 kg of corrugated steel rebar reinforcement for foundations and in-situ cast concrete walls
- 2,323 m³ of concrete for the structure of the building
- 379,262 kg of corrugated steel for the structure of the building
- 1,316,000 kg of steel for the structure of the building
- 3,708 m² of flooring with 8 mm veneer of French oak
- 270,000 ceramic discs with a standard diameter of 156 mm, although other diameters were used for the trims and the curved corners of the building
- 307 sheets of glass for the north and south façades of both wings. The standard size on the west wing is 5.040 x 1.831 m, with a weight of approximately 500 kg
- 6 stairways, two in the east wing and four in the west wing, of which only one in each wing is in regular use, the others being for use in the event of an emergency
- 970 m² of glass flooring with a steel structure for the stairs and the Pachinko, the glass floored carbon steel structure which connects the two wings of the building at level one, seven metres above the ground
- 305 is the estimated seating capacity of the auditorium
- 771 m² of skylight on the roof of the west wing to provide natural light to the second floor exhibition space

THE TUNNEL

- 219 m long
- 60,000 m³ of earth moved in excavation and foundations
- 9,000 m² of in-situ cast concrete walls
- 25,000 m³ of concrete
- 2,400,000 kg of corrugated steel for reinforcing
- 450 lights
- 11,000 m² of asphalt for road surfaces and pavements

THE GARDENS

- 48,257.65 m² of gardens, now almost two and a half times larger than before
- 146 new trees planted, including magnolia, linden, camellias, vinca, plane, gingko, ash, wisteria and yew, as well as various types of palm trees and vines
- 11,088 m³ of topsoil
- 17,568 m² of polished coloured concrete for paths and interior squares
- 11,579 m² of grass
- 475 m² of shock-absorbent playground flooring

THE ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Centro Botín Project, Santander, 2010–2017

Renzo Piano Building Workshop
in collaboration with Luis Vidal + Architects (Madrid)

| | |
|---|--|
| Design team | E. Baglietto, M. Carroll (partners in charge), F. Becchi (associate in charge), S. Lafranconi, M. Monti, R. Parodi, L. Simonelli with M. Cagnazzo, P. Carrera, S. Ishida (partner), M. Menardo, A. Morselli, S. Polotti and I. Coseriu, P. Fiserova, V. Gareri, S. Malosikova, T. Wozniak, A. Zambrano; F. Terranova, F. Cappellini, I. Corsaro (models) |
| Project management | BOVIS PROJECT MANAGEMENT |
| Design team | RPBW / LVA ARQUITECTOS |
| PM building and landscaping | LVA ARQUITECTOS |
| CM building and health & safety coordination | BOVIS PROJECT MANAGEMENT |
| Landscape design | FERNANDO CARUNCHO |
| Building and underpass engineering | DYNAMIS |
| Façades, services, lighting and fire protection systems consulting | ARUP |
| Environmental and urban planning consulting | PRADO Y SOMOSIERRA |
| Acoustics consulting | MÜLLER-BBM |
| Lighting consulting | ARTEC3 |
| LEED consulting | BOVIS PROJECT MANAGEMENT |
| Contracting | UTE OHL/ASCAN |
| Cost consulting | GLEEDS |
| Graphic design | 2x4 |

FACILITIES

EL MUELLE RESTAURANT

El Muelle del Centro Botín is a culinary space in a uniquely privileged setting in the heart of the Cantabrian capital, with superb views of the Pereda Gardens and Santander Bay, which is considered one of the most beautiful in the world. This is a place where excellence is available to all and where authentic Cantabrian produce, avant-garde creativity and sustainability go hand in hand.

Under the direction of highly acclaimed chef Jesús Sánchez, El Muelle offers a congenial, contemporary, versatile experience of exceptional quality, a true reflection of the Centro Botín's values of excellence, proximity and innovation. Sánchez is regarded by the specialist food critics as one of the outstanding exponents of Spanish haute cuisine: his Cenador de Amós restaurant in nearby Villaverde de Pontones has two Michelin stars as well as three suns, the highest accolade accorded by the Repsol Guide.

The menu at El Muelle is full and varied, and in constant evolution, embracing the latest culinary trends and inviting you to enjoy a gastronomic occasion as surprising as it is rewarding, a wonderfully creative approach to a healthy balanced diet with a delightful take on fresh vegetables.

Our *pan de Amos* bread, made with long-fermented sourdough, is the star ingredient of a first-class breakfast with a marvellous view of the sea. Handmade focaccias, natural juices and superb savouries complete an all but unbeatable start to the day. A little later, El Muelle's fried calamari make the prelude to lunch a mouth-watering treat. Our selection of homemade cakes and pastries can be accompanied by an artisan ice cream or a gourmet coffee, just right for a between-meals snack. The afternoon apéritif is the perfect time to sample a great selection of tapas from our native *Tierruca*. At night, the magic of the setting is enhanced by a gastronomic approach which perfectly complements the cultural agenda of the Centro Botín, exemplified by its *Menús Sonoros*, a programme of dinner-concerts in which jazz, soul, folk or rock are paired with creative cuisine to create an enchanting atmosphere in which to enjoy a dinner inspired by the particular musical style that sets the tone for the night.

In similar fashion, the midday marriage of music and gastronomy is the essence of our Vermouth & DJ Sessions, an outstanding way to enjoy a different Sunday.

El Muelle del Centro Botín is a culinary space open to the city and to the exceptional building. We want each visitor to forge a link with the Centro Botín, with the option of enjoying our dishes both from the interior and from the exterior. With this in mind we have designed El Pícnic de Amós, to let the visitors take their food outside and combine the flavours of our creations with the views of the building itself and its delightful setting.

Jesús Sánchez · Director of the restaurant El Muelle del Centro Botín

In addition, the entrepreneurial flair of Jesús Sánchez also manifests itself in a new gastronomic experience, El Pícnic de Amos, a novel reinvention with which the chef has set out to democratize haute cuisine. This simple yet innovative and very affordable pleasure promises to bring happiness to your palate every time you visit El Muelle del Centro Botín: all you need is a picnic cloth, a good spot to spread it out and good company ... the rest is up to you. You can purchase your Amós Picnic online, every day from June to September.

THE SHOP

In the Centro Botín Shop you will find an attractive array of innovative articles to take home as a souvenir of your visit or as an original gift. Located next to the restaurant El Muelle del Centro Botín, this dynamic modern space has a carefully chosen selection of Spanish and international publications, inclusive an outstanding section of books on art, architecture and creativity and, of course, the catalogues of the Centro Botín's exhibitions. In the same way, it is easy to find other articles developed in close collaboration with artists belonging to the collection of the Fundación Botín.

The Centro Botín Shop also carries a line of nautical clothing and accessories, which evoke the salt tang of the bay, the sea breeze and the wet sand of Santander. In addition to apparel for the stylish sailor you can choose from other quality products such as mugs, T-shirts and notebooks inspired by Renzo Piano's iconic building, a collection whose principal motifs are the ceramic skin and steel and glass Pachinko.

The Shop also stocks toys, games and gift items for all ages, guaranteed to stir the senses and enhance creativity, such as cardboard boat construction kits, a set of stickers with the landmarks of the Santander skyline or a vinyl for colouring in.

VISITOR INFORMATION

OPENING HOURS

Centro Botín

Open

Autumn/Winter (October – May):

Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 20:00

Spring/Summer (June – September):

Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 21:00

Closed

January 1 and December 25

The Shop

Autumn/Winter (October – May):

Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 20:00

Spring/Summer (June – September):

Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 21:00

El Muelle Restaurant

Autumn/Winter/Spring (September 1 – July 14):

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 9:30 to 20:00; Friday & Saturday from 9:30 to 24:00; Sunday from 10:00 to 20:00

Summer (July 15 – August 31):

Monday to Sunday from 9:30 to 24:00

CHARGES FOR EXHIBITIONS AND CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Prices

General admission: €8

Includes access to the Centro Botín, the collection and temporary exhibitions

Free admission (with proof of eligibility): €4

Friends of the Centro Botín, Pass holders, under 16s, unemployed, sponsors, accredited journalists, members of ICOM (International Council of Museums), CIMAM, the IAC and Sotheby's Preferred and SOY de Mutua Madrileña cardholders.

Concessions (with proof of eligibility): €4

Seniors (65 and over), students aged 16 to 25, people with disabilities, and large families.

Groups: €6 per person.

If you plan to visit the Centro Botín with a group of between 8 and 30 people, book your tickets in advance, with a discount of €2 per person.

The Centro Botín also offers three special deals for exhibition visits:

1. **Visit with your own guide (for groups 8 to 30 people).** €6 per person with free admission for official guides and adults in charge of school groups.
2. **Visits with a Centro Botín guide.** Bookable in advance with a guide fee of €75 (€105 for languages other than Spanish).
3. **Centro Botín Experiences.** Specifically designed for each exhibition and tailored to different types of participant (families, professionals, young people and adults). The charges range from six to twelve euros per person, depending on the type of experience (drama, culinary, sensory and others that incorporating various artforms).

The charges for Centro Botín cultural activities range from twelve to twenty-four euros. For example, the charge for cinema season is four euros per film (three euros if the full season is booked in advance). Tickets for concerts of classical music and 'open' music (jazz and other styles) are priced at ten euros, and concerts linked to exhibitions and dance or theatre performances at between ten and fourteen euros. Many but not all of the lectures are free.

There is also a programme of free cultural activities in El Muelle restaurant, in the outdoor amphitheatre and in the environs of the Centro Botín.

The Centro Botín pass

Anyone born in Cantabria or officially resident in the region is eligible for a pass, a permanent personal non-transferable pass giving **unlimited free admission to all Centro Botín exhibitions** on payment of a small issuing fee (€2).

The Friends Programme

The Friends of the Centro Botín Programme entitles members to a series of exclusive benefits and advantages, including exclusive activities, discounts on activities and in the restaurant and shop, special guided tours and priority ticket purchase.

The Friends Programme offers four types of membership: Individual, Joven, Familiar and Premium. The annual fee for enrolment in the Friends Programme is twenty euros for the Joven card (aged 16 to 25, or over 65), thirty euros for the Individual card (aged 26 to 64), and fifty five euros for the Familiar card (parents plus children aged 16 to 25), which covers two adults and up to four children. The Premium card, at 200 euros, entitles members to even greater benefits.

As well as unlimited access to the exhibitions, Friends of the Centro Botín have a 50% discount on cultural and educational activities, as well as priority access to tickets and discounts at El Muelle restaurant and the Centro Botín Shop.

WHERE WE ARE



Centro Botín

Muelle de Albareda, s/n
Jardines de Pereda
39004 Santander. España

GETTING TO THE CENTRO BOTÍN

The Fundación Botín and the Centro Botín have a number of special deals with major passenger transport operators, with a view to promoting Santander and Cantabria as destinations of choice – and benefitting discerning travellers into the bargain. Our agreement with Iberia, Spain's flag-carrier airline and No. 1 in flights between Europe and Latin America, will be of special interest to people coming to Santander by air to visit the Centro Botín, because a ticket to one of our exhibitions or activities will entitle you to a 10% discount when you book your flight to the Cantabrian capital. For more information, see the Centro Botín website.

The Fundación Botín also has special deals with Alsa and Renfe to promote the Centro Botín as an outstanding cultural destination, it intends to encourage people to use public transport.

These agreements consolidate the relationship between the Fundación Botín's art centre in Santander and Spain's leading passenger transport operators, both for road and rail, and an additional incentive to attract people from other parts of the country to Cantabria. Thanks to its strategic location in the centre of Santander, the Centro Botín enjoys excellent rail and road connections. In fact, the main stations for national and international trains and buses are just 900 metres away – about a ten-minute walk.

The Centro Botín website has additional information about special offers for people using Alsa and Renfe to visit its exhibitions or take part in the cultural activities.

Visitors coming to the Centro Botín by car have several public car parks to choose from: Alfonso XIII (240 metres on foot), Machichaco (260 metres on foot), Parking Pombo (400 metres on foot) and the car park by the Ayuntamiento/City Hall (600 metres on foot). There are also several taxi ranks in the vicinity of the Centro Botín, the nearest being at Paseo de Pereda No. 22 and at calle Calvo Sotelo No. 16, next to the main Post Office. To call a taxi: Tele Taxi (+34) 942 369 191) and Radio Taxi Santander (+34) 942 333 333.

Santander's 26 kilometres of bike lanes make cycling one of the best ways of getting around the city and discovering its out-of-the-way spots, monuments and cultural facilities such as the Centro Botín. For those who visit us by bike there are parking racks beside the Tourist Office on Paseo de Pereda and by the amphitheatre of the Centro Botín. What's more, the Centro Botín is a short walk from Santander's Estación Marítima ferry terminal, with regular sailings connecting Santander with Portsmouth and Plymouth. Detailed information about ferry services is available from Brittany Ferries (+34) 902 108 147.