

The *post-industrial* landscape of the Gijón region as starting point for a research-based residency at PACA_Proyectos Artísticos Casa Antonino

We, as a jury, were positively surprised by the engaged proposals we received in our inbox. From young, energetic, barely graduated and still studying artists, to more seasoned makers with lived-through formats and methods. Men, women, non-binary makers, many of which have bi-cultural backgrounds.

The complex reality of the central Asturias region, with its – extractivist – industrial scars of coal mining and steel production and a fragile small scale agricultural lay-out underneath clearly speaks to the imagination. Probably not only to the artists and designers who responded to this call, but also to a broader audience. The direct surroundings of the PACA casería house-residency embody the challenges we as humans are confronted with everywhere else today, and can thereby serve as a metaphor for the state we are in as an interdependent system of living species, and as a planet.

How to approach such a complex situation as an artist/researcher?

The proposals varied from a theatre script, a steel sculpture to be activated in a performance, an atmospheric video poem, an iteration of a ‘growing-over-time portrait with metaphoric tree artifact’ [our interpretation], an audio-visual story told through one plant, a multimedia installation and anthology focusing on the Asturian’s relationship to soil, a documentary highlighting the difficulties we as

humans encounter in bridging binaries, a collaborative embodied film asking us to reconnect with nature inside our selves and bodies, a capsule fashion collection using remnants of post-industrialisation, textile used as a mediator in activating the relationship between what is left of industry and nature, visualising the immaterial needs of a community in search of its identity....

Decisive in selecting the laureate for this research residency at PACA was the perceived coherence between the candidate's biography, voice, existing body of work and presentation, and research proposal. We are happy to announce that Dutch-Colombian architect/artist Roberto Uribe-Castro is our candidate of choice for this call. Borrowing Eduardo Chillida's notion of the horizon as a common homeland, Roberto will delve into the moving history and present significance of the industrial port of El Musel and its open air coal storage, as well as different forms of resilience that have emerged here, especially during the military Franco dictatorship and in the formation of labor movements.

Virginia, Erik & Sophie

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Virginia Lopez, artist and founder PACA_Proyectos Artísticos Casa Antonino

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“What about post-industrial? The future of nature in co-existence with post-industrialized landscapes”.
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