

Briefing (EN) | Concomitentes

Concomitentes is the Spanish version of the French initiative Nouveaux Commanditaires, which follows the artist François Hers protocol to create artwork. This initiative also resumes and scales up to a national level the discontinued Nuevos Comanditarios Euskadi project, which was run by Artehasia (Association for Cultural Innovation, Arts, and Society) and gave rise to four projects in the Basque Country between 2011 and 2017.

Currently, Felipe G. Gil, Fran Quiroga, Julia Morandeira and Veronica Valentini are the mediators and also ambassadors of the programme in their regions -Tenerife (Canary Islands), Madrid (Community of Madrid), Betanzos (Galicia) and Barcelona (Catalonia)-, and Sören Meschede is the general coordinator. Thanks to the support of the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation –the main sponsors of Nouveaux Commanditaires and promotor of the project in Spain– a solid pilot project started (2018-2021), guaranteeing core funding for the four Concomitancias as the administrative structure.

The purpose is to disseminate the model for the production of artworks among possible citizen-commissioners, sponsors, and cultural agents, and gradually open up to new commissions to all over Spain.

Briefing (EN) | Concomitancias (Projects)

Fine Arts Library at UCM | *“The library as a space of seduction and possibility”*

This project stems from the desire of the user community of the Library in the Faculty of Fine Arts at the Complutense University of Madrid to update ways of doing, using and being in this space, based on the premise that the library has become obsolete for the current processes of learning, work, research, reflection, creation and simple enjoyment from a perspective of diversity and well-being. While analysing how the library works, the team has identified several points for intervention, including rethinking the current signage and architectural design, which makes it difficult to see or access much of the collections; continuing to expand its activities and programming beyond those of a reference centre; and establishing a research station focusing on its own history and operations. In short, the concomitancia pretends to accommodate new (current and future) forms of reading, studying, researching, being and creating in an universitarian library environment.

Mediator: Julia Morandeira

Patrons: Library staff and users lead by the library director Javier Pérez Iglesias

Location: Madrid (Community of Madrid)

Duration: 2019 – 2021

Pediatric ICU | *“Generate a cultural product that improves the emotional care of patients in the paediatric intensive care unit”*

The work of the nursing staff who looks after the children in the pediatric ICU extends the strictly nursing work. Without any specific education in this field, they have to play the role of child and family psychologists, of teachers who help the children learn about their bodies and health,

of clowns who entertain them and make them laugh when they are going through hard times and even of mothers and fathers when their parents are absent. This situation of emotional stress in a hospitalised child could be solved with additional resources, but unfortunately the crisis or the path taken by medical institutions has not managed to prioritize this issue. In practice, and in absence of specialized psychological staff, the mental health aspects and emotional care of the ill children and their families are managed by the nursing staff. This *concomitancia* explores how a cultural product can help dealing with this situation. The nurses, the patrons of the *concomitancia* have already identified the need for a narrative-based physical object that helps them manage the emotions and feelings of hospitalised children.

Mediator: Felipe G. Gil

Patrons: Nursing staff at the paediatric ICU at Nuestra Señora de Candelaria University Hospital

Location: Tenerife (Canary Islands)

Duration: 2019 – 2021

The "indiano" legacy I *“How can we enter into dialogue with historical philanthropic work”*

Between the late 19th and the first third of the 20th century, some returned *indianos* (Spanish emigrants who became rich in Latin America) financed the building of the public encyclopedic **Pasatiempo** park as well as other facilities in their hometown of Betanzos (A Coruña, Galicia). The emigrants' social commitment has left a legacy that speaks to us of heritage, learning, leisure, freemasonry and philanthropy. To consider this history and the eventual artistic production, the *Concomitancia* begins with an initial participatory research-action exercise that explores the community's desires regarding the production of an artwork. The entire mediation process is based on an open call for participation through constant listening. A series of activities are being developed to generate an ecosystem which is also an open discussion forum on the *Pasatiempo* park, philanthropy, migrations. A project which is interested in the resignification of the present through memory, looking after a legacy that addresses us and is in constant dialogue with the contemporary world.

Mediator: Fran Quiroga

Patrons: Amigas Parque do Pasatiempo Association, Casco histórico de la Comarca Municipal de Betanzos

Association and Betanzos community (Lara Dopazo Ruibal, Jesús Castro y Óscar Gorriz)

Location: Betanzos (Canary Islands)

Duration: 2019 – 2021

Diversorium I *“Live arts and space for coexistence”*

This project explores the desire of two functional diversity activists for a communal space that should serve to come and celebrate together: to "dance with" the various affective, invisibilized communities in the city and to "move" the discriminations that separate the society. A desire that is also a necessity, because despite advances we are still nowhere near social equality. Taking into account the important audiovisual projects linked to functional diversity that these activists have already produced, the mediation project aims to reactivate a celebratory event (through a series of public shows combining *performance*, music and dance with moments of attention and pleasure in which to learn and unlearn the multiple possibilities of being and being-able-to-be) and resignify it with the current objectives to explore the cultural and social meaning of difference by developing new forms of cooperation, interaction and connection between the people who make up society.

Mediator: Veronica Valentini

Patrons: María Oliver y Antonio Centeno

Location: Barcelona (Catalonia)

Duration: 2019 – 2021
