
Patronage





Focus-Abengoa Foundation

The origins of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation are tied to the cultural activities begun by Abengoa in 1972, with the publication of works and the creation of a collection of documents, books and engravings related to Seville. This was the starting point that led to the creation of a Library of Sevillian Themes, the core around which the Foundation was built. The venture was originated by Abengoa, which made a commitment to exceed the boundaries of its essential technological undertakings using an instrument capable of channelling the principle of people putting back into society what they take out.

The Foundation was built up around these elements, with the addition of scholarships, grants and awards for painting, dissertations and theses. In 1991, it established its headquarters at the Hospital de los Venerables Sacerdotes, a building made over to the Foundation by the brotherhood and the archbishop of Seville. Focus-Abengoa made a considerable effort to restore the building to the highest standards and adapt it to its new cultural purpose. The Foundation was able to expand its activities as it now possessed ideal spaces to house the already extensive collections of documents, books and iconography, exhibition halls and an auditorium, the church, which has been graced with a unique organ among the finest in the world.

The purpose of the Foundation is to carry out transcendent activities, contribute to preserving, disseminating and developing the historical and cultural heritage of Seville and publicise this heritage in Latin America. The Foundation has steadfastly pursued these objectives this year, firstly through the widely renowned, extensive programme of scholarships, prizes and grants awarded with a view to stimulating educational and training activities among young people. In accordance with the Foundation's bylaws, they are awarded only to employees of Abengoa and other companies belonging to the Group and to employees' sons, daughters, orphans and other relatives. The Foundation also awarded a prize for the best doctoral



thesis on a subject relating to Seville and held its painting competition, which has been extended to include entrants from the European Union and Latin American countries.

Two new books were also published in 2001: the work entitled *Sevillanos* by the Sevillian photographer Atín Aya, the first of our publications addressing artistic contemporary photography; and a monographic work on the chemical and physical speciation of metals in atmospheric particulate matter and its application to the study of environmental pollution in the city of Seville, the author of which, Antonio José Fernández Espinosa, was awarded the prize for the best doctoral thesis on a subject relating to Seville in 1999.

The musical agenda revolved around the organ, featuring three kinds of concerts aimed at different audiences: magisterial concerts by prominent organists, such as Jacques Taddei, the titular organist of Sainte Clothilde Cathedral in Paris, Erwan Le Prado, winner of the Grand Prix d'Interprétation at the Chartres International Organ Competition in 2000, Bernhard Haas, organ professor at the Stuttgart Conservatory of Music in Germany, and José Enrique Ayarra, the titular organist of Los Venerables

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and Seville Cathedral, who gave a concert with the Chamber Orchestra of the Royal Symphonic Orchestra of Seville; recitals by newcomers to the organ music scene, this year under the title "Women and Spanish organ music in the 20th century"; and, lastly, the educational recitals for secondary-school students, designed to promote the musical training of young people. As in previous years, the musical programme was broadcast by Spanish National Radio on its classical music radio station.

One of the most noteworthy events on the Foundation's agenda of exhibitions was the "The Manila Galleon" opened by His Majesty the King Juan Carlos I. When the exhibition closed, it was taken to Mexico City to be displayed at the Franz Mayer Museum. This ambitious project, which aims to tell the story of the first commercial and cultural route linking Spain, Mexico and the Philippines, was organised by the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport and the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, with the support of authorities and public and private institutions from both countries. Carrying out this cross-border, international project marked a landmark advance in the trajectory of the Foundation.

On the same principle, but in the opposite direction, the exhibition "From Goya to Zuloaga" on Spanish 19th and 20th century painting in the Hispanic Society of America, was staged at our headquarters, co-organised by Focus Abengoa and the BBVA Foundation. Thanks to this joint effort, an exceptional collection of masterpieces was shown for the first time outside New York. The exhibition, which traces the development of Spanish art from a mature Goya to the 1930s, included portraits, landscapes, historical compositions and genre painting, reflecting the main movements in Spanish art from Romanticism to Post-Modernism. The exhibits included paintings by Madrazo, Pérez Villaamil, Fortuny, Pinazo, Álvarez de Sotomayor, Zuloaga, Casas, Rusiñol and Sorolla, amongst others.



Another item on the agenda in 2001 was the exhibition showing the paintings shortlisted for the Focus-Abengoa 2001 Painting Prize, which serves to publicise and promote the work of the competing artists. The competition was entered by a large number of already successful artists and promising new artists from Seville, other parts of Spain, the European Union and Latin America, who all contributed both in terms of technique and theme to the excellent level of a prize with a long tradition and renowned prestige. The artists who received honourable mentions were Germán Bandera Pardo for *Pedro Pablo en Oriente* and Manuel Saro Romero-Girón for *Ciudadela II*.

Lastly, the Foundation held various conferences in 2001 at its headquarters. Particularly outstanding events included the conference given by Sheldon Lee Glashow, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1979, entitled "The big and the small in the Universe" and the presentation by Santiago Grisóla of the "Rey Jaime I" awards.

