



**Competition** **Joya: arte + ecología**

**AGUAZERO** aguacero Esp. (downpour) aguazero (no water)

**Theme:**

We are inviting submissions in water-based medium on or with paper.

The competition has an environmental agenda requesting submissions to reference the contrary character of climate change. For example, increased desertification and the escalating effects of weather events such as flooding and soil erosion.

The work should be based on observation, experience and invention. It must be as involved with the process and materials of painting/drawing etc. as with the response to climate change.

We are interested in works that invite close scrutiny and, like environmental events in the world around us, reveal themselves gradually and steadily over time, prompting reaction and renewed contemplation of the ecological challenges the world faces.

## **Prize:**

A two week residency at Cortijada Los Gázquez / Joya: arte + ecología, Andalucía, Spain including travel costs within Europe (not accommodation while in transit). Winners from outside of Europe can have their travel expenses paid once they are within the EU.

The winner will have sole use of a thirty square meter studio and 20 hectares of land for the period. Accommodation and meals are included as is collection and return to the nearest public transport system. Resident artists will be featured on the **Joya: arte + ecología** web page, which will include biographical information and images. The work undertaken during the residency will also be documented and entered into our archive.

## **Selectors:**

Ana García López (Vice Dean for Institutional Relations and Professor at the Drawing Department. Faculty of Fine Arts. University of Granada. Spain)

Rebecca Fortnum (Artist, Reader in Fine Art, University of the Arts, London. UK)

Louise Short (Artist. Bristol. UK)

David Crawforth (Artist. Director at Beaconsfield. London. UK)

Molly Hogg (Collector. London. UK)

Melissa Marks (Artist. NYC. USA)

Angie Lewin (Artist. Norfolk and Scotland. UK)

Simon Lewin (Proprietor St Jude's. Norfolk. UK)

Gonzaga Gómez-Cortázar Romero (Communications co-ordinator for Joya: arte + ecología. Spain)

Simon and Donna Beckmann (Founders of Joya: arte + ecología. Spain)

## **Application:**

There is an administration fee of 15€ per application allowing submission of up to three images.

Applicants should e-mail **info@losgazquez.com** with their name, address and passport number/ID (Spanish legal requirement) stating their intent to enter whereupon they will receive instructions on paying the entry fee via PayPal.

Once the administration fee is paid applicants are invited to submit up to three images at 300dpi and a maximum dimension of 1000 pixels on the longest side. Please do not send individual e-mails exceeding 1mb. Several e-mails will suffice.

We will also require a statement contextualising the submission of no more than 250 words in English or Spanish.

The application should include up to 1 link, where images etc. of their work can be found as well as the name and contact of someone who can act as a referee.

## **Closing Date:**

31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

The winner will be announced by the end of January 2012.

Aguazero is supported by...

# **St Jude's**



## **About Joya: arte + ecología at Cortijada Los Gázquez:**

Joya: arte + ecología is in it's relative infancy being only two years old, however we have had nearly fifty artists through our doors in that time. We call ourselves 'art and ecology' because we have an environmental agenda. We live sustainably which is the first step in our ecological pilgrimage for 'we need to be the change we wish to see in the world'. It seems a logical starting point...

Cortijada Los Gázquez, the home of Joya: arte + ecología, is on fifty acres of mountain inside the Parque Natural Sierra María-Los Vélez in northern Almería and has been built on entirely sustainable principles. Sun and wind provide ample electricity and hot water for the house and wood collected from our land and the forest heats the house through radiant floors in winter. We also harvest rainwater from the roof for use throughout the house. Our waste is recycled by grey water

systems, which irrigate fruit trees, reed beds that clean black water and irrigate trees for 'bio-mass' and utilising public recovery systems.



We describe the architecture of the building through its three-year renovation as 'new vernacular'. We were fanatically keen to keep the building traditional down to the smallest detail. It was important to us that the building continued to relate to its environmental context and available materials. We didn't want to undo the unconscious work of craftsmen whose construction knowledge was accumulated over many generations. Nevertheless new 'clean' technologies and principals had to be employed to

make this building the comfortable place it is today. But through this process we have maintained a kind of 'analogous inspiration' keeping the interior under furnished, bright and minimal.

The location for us was also important. We are completely 'off-grid', which fosters a keen sense of self-reliance. We are also remote being 14km from our village, Vélez Blanco. When we made the choice of where this project was going to be the choice was between mountains or sea, wilderness or culture. Well we chose them all. We are 1000m up in the mountains but 80km from the 'Cabo de Gata' national park, one of the few remaining unspoilt coastlines on the Mediterranean. We live in the semi-wilderness and yet within two hours we can be in Granada where we have an affiliation with the Facultad de Bellas Artes at the university there.

Our location, inside the Parque Natural Sierra María-Los Vélez, is essential for the aspirations of our residency/opportunity. The natural park (founded in 1987) covers 22,500 hectares of sedimentary limestone leaching pockets of red sandstone and domes of white clay cut through by erosional 'barrancos' and dry fluvial systems. We are in a 'summer dry' climate, which switches winters from warm Mediterranean to cold continental. North facing slopes are forested with Aleppo pine; southerly slopes and cliffs are populated with Ibex and Griffon vultures. We have a good range of birds of prey too.

Why do we consider this location so important? We are on the edge of the only designated European desert so the effects of climate change are more keenly felt. The consequent decline in agriculture through changing rainfall patterns and inappropriate subsidies has led to monocultured farming practice, which is unsustainable resulting in population decline and ultimately to the neglect of cultural history.

Our aim is to be a 'cultural' and 'sustainable' destination, so where more appropriately could we invite artists to explore, interpret and explain such abstract concepts as global warming or climate change or merely establish an understanding with nature? We believe above other things creativity is the process of having original ideas that have value through the interaction of different disciplines and different ways of doing things. Joya: arte + ecología is designed to do just this. Our exploration is to build a new notion of human ecology, one in which we seek to re-

establish our conception of the richness of human capacity in the face of the challenges we face with the future environment.

So, this is Cortijada Los Gázquez and the Joya: arte + ecología agenda. It can appear political but its intension is not particularly overt. First and foremost our enthusiasm is for the creative arts. Joya is our opportunity to curate art here in the mountains either permanently or ephemerally. It's our opportunity to facilitate artists, whose work we admire, with time and space for their own development and it's also our opportunity to facilitate and promote the work of emerging artists. It is these activities (along with other initiatives in the area), which will preserve human culture in this little known area, and as a consequence they will preserve the land and it's wildlife.

## **Joya: arte + ecología**

Fundadores: Simon y Donna Beckmann

Coordinador de comunicación: Gonzaga Gómez-Cortázar Romero

<http://www.losgazquez.com/en/joya/>

<http://www.facebook.com/joya.arte.ecologia>