

**Vitoria-Gasteiz, 2012/1202/12**

**Rodríguez Foundation collective announces the definitive cease of its cultural activities.**

The Fundación Rodríguez collective wishes to communicate to the public through this action (this action-communicé) that it is bringing its cultural and artistic project to an end after 18 years of working together.

**“From the top”**

From the Top is an action mounted by Fundación Rodríguez as part of its project Actions for the CMVAC, which the collective has organised for the exhibition Stanzas. Restitutive Practices on the ARTIUM Collection (ARTIUM 2011–2012).

1.

Fundación Rodríguez has worked as a collective since 1994, during its early days until 1998 as part of the SEAC collective and later as a group open to collaborative ventures. Since then, we have organised and co-ordinated projects, in the main to do with contemporary culture and the new media, and have always regarded our activities as an extension of our artistic practice. Our initiative has endeavoured to intermesh the collective project, the socio-cultural context and creative freedom through the production of theory that reflects on the current conditions of art to enable us to bring to our practice new approaches to producing, raising awareness of and disseminating the contemporary artistic deed.

Our work has come over time to be founded on concepts such as the dissolution of formats and the transmission of free knowledge, as well as on our commitment to horizontal and collaborative processes that might have a real impact on cultural policies, such as the Asamblea Amarika in Álava.

During these 18 years we have been together, we have maintained an active presence in the artistic activity in our local environment, but we have also participated in events of an international nature, among them:

ISEA 2002 (Nagoya, Japan), ISEA 2004 (Stockholm, Tallinn, Helsinki), Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art (Shanghai, China), International Festival of Computer Arts (Maribor, Slovenia), Transitio\_MX (Mexico), No Space is Innocent, (Graz, Austria), CaixaForum-Barcelona, E.A.C.C. (Castelló), etc.

We have recently presented the project *That Was Video* at the Reina Sofía Museum in Madrid, seminars on artistic creation on video in Spain over the last 30 years, as well as *On Video* (UPV/EHU, Bilbao, 2011), and *On “On Video”* (Montehermoso C.C., Vitoria-Gasteiz City Council, 2011)

Other projects and publications promoted by Fundación Rodríguez that must be mentioned include: *Estructuras – redes – colectivos* (QUAM 2007), *Panel de Control; Interruptores críticos para una sociedad vigilada* (Seville Art Centre, 2007), the double DVD and book *Tester-Trabajo de nodos / Nodos at work / Adabegiak lanean* (San Sebastián, 2004) and the double CD *Arte y Electricidad* (San Sebastian, 2002), both published by Arteleku.

2.

We are participating under the name of Fundación Rodríguez for the last time, and we are doing so in the *Stanzas* exhibition because this project provides us with the perfect framework for making and implementing this decision.

Throughout all this time together, we have attempted to think, act, do and convey as a collective, working with our people and taking the echo of their work with us everywhere we

have been. We have tried to look beyond what we understood at any given time as the limits to artistic practice, surging past preconceived ideas and leaping from puddle to puddle, leaving a splash wherever possible.

We believe the time has come to bring this stage to a close. We have come to the top of the Basque Museum and Centre of Contemporary Art: to its rooftop;-) And we have come, invited to an event in which the ideas of the 'collection', 'heritage' and the 'museum' are being rethought. In other words, we are in the right place at the right time.

We wish to take the opportunity provided by this symbolic circumstance to thank all our friends and everyone who has supported us over the years, trusting in our quest. We wish to express our gratitude for all the time we have shared, everything we have attempted, everything we have learned. Our thanks go to a long list of individuals, collectives, groups, teams, associations, initiatives, institutions and companies, a wide circle that has at the same time been our circle of friendships, experiences and work.

3.

We believe a change is urgently needed in the internal structures of the mechanisms of culture. We believe that what we now intuit as a new phase in the relations between art and politics, between art and culture, between politics and art calls for a new commitment that goes far beyond what is expected of our collective or of what can be expected of us individually.

As a consequence, we have decided to confine our work to short-lived, ephemeral actions that are not necessarily classifiable as artistic. It is our view that our project, our stamp, the form we have taken thus far, needs to change. This is why we are presenting this collection of white heads which we believe represents the strength of anonymity.

We want to be part of a crowd of white heads that is capable of undertaking deeds and actions without an author, without a common sense of belonging but with a common presence, thereby situating our gesture and connecting it with the potential of the popular cultural heritage of our territory, represented by the historic heads of Cachán, Celedón, the Painter of Vitoria, Ojobiriqui and Escachapobres.

In short, we wish to form part of something that defies classification, that is unidentified, but which is connected to the civic debate by means of these white, large-headed effigies in which our initiative will in some way continue to live on.

We also believe that this press release should not be a pamphlet or a declaration, so we wish to bid you all farewell quickly, without allowing time for self-criticism to contaminate the melancholy, causing an uproar, left, right and centre, as we always have done...

Good luck and good health!  
**fundacionrdz.com**