

**On show from January 12 to February 11 in the BBVA Foundation's MULTIVERSO space**

## Isaías Griñolo presents 'La España profunda', an essay film on memory, explored through popular song, poetry and audiovisual archives

- Isaías Griñolo employs the iconography of Juan de Ávalos, sculptor of El Valle de los Caídos, to reflect on history, femaleness, religion and the artistic expression of the "intrahistoric" spirit
- This is the seventh instalment of the exhibition series held in Sala MULTIVERSO, a permanent space within the BBVA Foundation's Madrid headquarters dedicated to one of the artistic languages most distinctly of our time
- All these artworks have been created with the aid of Multiverse Grants, established by the BBVA Foundation to provide a wider platform for video art creation

**Madrid, January 11, 2018.-** The BBVA Foundation starts off a new year in its Culture program with the video artwork *La España profunda (de Ortega y Gasset a Rocío Jurado)*, open to the public from January 12; a work which author Isaías Griñolo hopes will "fix three questions on the spectator's retina about memory and the need to know what things we should consider when looking at a monument: namely, who should we remember?, what should we remember?, and how should we remember?"

*La España profunda* revolves around the works of Juan de Ávalos, the sculpture of El Valle de los Caídos, a symbolic site that gives Griñolo a handle with which to analyze Spain's recent history. Starting from this and other Ávalos sculptures, he creates an essay film examining four concepts: history, femaleness, religion and the artistic expression of the "intrahistoric" spirit. He also invites a number of poets – Begoña Abad and Niño de Elche, Antonio Orihuela, Ana Pérez Cañamares, Isabel Pérez Montalbán, David Pielfort, Manuel Vilas and Felipe Zapico – to offer their thoughts on the distance between Ortega y Gasset and Rocío Jurado. The exhibition, as such, charts an exploratory course through memory, territory, tradition, folklore, anthropology and poetry.

"At its heart is a contradiction that captured my imagination," Griñolo relates. "How a sculptor who was a card-carrying member of the socialist party (earning him reprisals for being 'hostile to the regime') ended up as the sculptor

of El Valle de los Caídos." For this piece, he uses a methodology already employed with success in other productions: the film diary and audiovisual remix, or as he describes it, "my own filmed material together with open-access stock collected from the great garbage skip that is Internet." Combining them with the poetry readings and songs of the other artists participating in the project, "I have tried to construct a hybrid narrative that shows how our most recent history is not yet fixed. Something that mixes past and present in a process of re-writing that remains open-ended. Events of the past that intrude on the present. Set into monumental stone, they become alien artifacts that yesterday served to condense history for a moment... and that now, as a rule, have either lost their intended connotations or mean absolutely nothing."

Popular song, poetry and audiovisual archives come together in *La España profunda* in order to "sing, tell and show the popular disaffection and spasms of power invading the streets both yesterday and today," the author explains

The video will be on show to the public, free of charge, in Sala MULTIVERSO, in the Marques de Salamanca Palace, Madrid headquarters of the BBVA Foundation, where it will be screened every day between 10:00 and 21.00 until February 11. Laura Baigorri, exhibition curator and an associate professor specializing in art and new media in the Fine Arts School at the University of Barcelona, remarks that with *La España profunda* "Isaías Griñolo proposes a critical, political reflection on the ways of representing, recording and documenting history and memory. This project, mixing documentary, essay and poetry, is the result of exhaustive fieldwork involving the search for and recovery of materials (text, audio, video, images) and visits to numerous archives, museums and monumental environments. Its journey, which addresses the representation of power by reference to the sculptural output of Juan de Ávalos, is accompanied by the voices of six poets whose verses form a counterpoint to both the historical events and the space where they unfolded."

*La España profunda* was funded under the Multiverse Grants for Video Art Creation, the BBVA Foundation's support scheme for one of the artistic languages most distinctly of our time. "The Multiverse Grant has given me access to technical and production facilities for the journeys I wanted to make and the recordings I wanted to make there," says Isaías Griñolo, "and allowed me to invite the poets I wanted to participate. Since completing the video, I have been delving into other aspects of the original proposal. I am currently working on a (still untitled) project that follows the methodology applied in *La España profunda*. And it seems the body of work arising from the idea will eventually comprise three films: one finished, another in progress and a third to come."

### **Sala MULTIVERSO: a dedicated video exhibition space in Madrid's 'Art Walk'**

This is the seventh instalment in the MULTIVERSE exhibition series launched by the BBVA Foundation on May 12 this year in the room of the same name. Preceding

it in the series were *Expediente: Túnel de la Engaña* by Txuspo Poyo; *PIRI REIS. La continuación de un mito* by Rosana Antolí; *Sincronías 2016* by Marc Larré; *The Wolf Motives/Los motivos del lobo* by Carles Congost; *Mater Amatísima* by María Ruido and *El Accidente Vollard* by Pedro Luis Cembranos. The Sala MULTIVERSO will next host *Global Windshield, The Musical* by Momu & No Es; and *Shelter* by Lúa Coderch (see calendar at the end of this press release). All products of the second edition of the BBVA Foundation's MULTIVERSE Grants for Video Art Creation.

With the MULTIVERSE Exhibition, the grant scheme of the same name and the MULTIVERSO Space, the BBVA Foundation has expanded its focus to video art creation, with the dual aim of fostering the development of a language that is richly expressive of today's culture, and encouraging public interest in this artistic discipline through the display of new works.

The nine projects featured in the MULTIVERSE Exhibition were independently appraised by an evaluation committee who made their selection based on the artist's track record and the originality of the submitted project. The committee was formed by **Juan Antonio Álvarez Reyes**, Director of the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo; **Eugeni Bonet**, artist and exhibition curator; **Javier Díaz-Guardiola**, coordinator of the Art, Architecture and Design sections of supplement *ABC Cultural*; **Nuria Enguita**, exhibition curator; **Chus Martínez Pérez**, head of the Art Institute of the Academy of Arts and Design, Basel; **Mariano Navarro**, critic for *El Cultural*; **María Pallier**, director of the arts program *Metrópolis*, TVE; **Blanca de la Torre**, exhibition curator and art historian; and **Elena Vozmediano**, art critic for *El Cultural*.

The awardee projects, in the opinion of Laura Baigorri, have materialized into "rich, thoughtful pieces of considerable aesthetic and conceptual complexity," because the Multiverse Grants have given their authors "the time and resources to delve deep in their research, plan ahead, travel to the locations where they wanted to shoot, and employ the most sophisticated production techniques."

<b>MULTIVERSE Exhibition</b>
<b>Venue:</b> Fundación BBVA. Palacio del Marqués de Salamanca. Paseo de Recoletos 10, 28001 Madrid
<b>Opening times:</b> Monday to Sunday and public holidays, 10:00 to 21:00
<b>Free admission</b>
<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.multiverso-fbbva.es">www.multiverso-fbbva.es</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· <b>Txuspo Poyo</b>, <i>Expediente: Túnel de la Engaña</i> (12/05/2017 – 11/06/2017)</li><li>· <b>Rosana Antolí</b>, <i>PIRI REIS. La continuación de un mito</i> (23/06/2017 - 20/07/2017)</li><li>· <b>Marc Larré</b>, <i>Sincronías 2016</i> (28/07/2017 - 27/08/2017)</li><li>· <b>Carles Congost</b>, <i>The Wolf Motives/Los motivos del lobo</i> (08/09/2017 - 08/10/2017)</li></ul>

- **María Ruido**, *MATER AMATÍSIMA. Imaginarios y discursos sobre la maternidad en tiempo de cambio* (20/10/2017 – 19/11/2017)
- **Pedro Luis Cembranos**, *El accidente de Vollard* (01/12/2017 – 31/12/2017)
- **Isaías Griñolo**, *La España profunda (de Ortega y Gasset a Rocío Jurado)* (12/01/2018 – 11/02/2018)
- **Lucía Moreno**, *Global Windshield, The Musical* (23/02/2018 – 25/03/2018)
- **Lúa Coderch**, *[Shelter]* (06/04/2018 – 06/05/2018)

Fundación **BBVA**

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