
Artist group A Kassen to unveil *Window to the World* at MUSAC's Laboratorio 987, a site-specific project focusing on the relationship between Tuñón and Mansilla's prize-winning museum design and the exhibition hall itself, with a number of pieces that alter the viewer's perception

This shall be the first ever visible external intervention on the outer shell of the museum venue, which was awarded the 2007 Mies van der Rohe European Architecture Award (2007).



Exhibition title: *Window to the World*

Artists: A Kassen

Curator: Tania Pardo

Venue: Laboratorio 987, MUSAC

Dates: 24 October 2009 – 10 January 2010

[Download press release and images in hi-res](#)

On 24 October Laboratorio 987 is to unveil the first solo exhibition in Spain by Danish art collective A Kassen, curated by Tania Pardo. The group was established in 2004 in Copenhagen by four young artists: Christian Bretton-Meyer (1976), Morten Steen Hebsgaard (1977), Søren Petersen (1977) and Tommy Petersen (1975).

A Kassen are always keen to engage with the space they use and with the viewers themselves. Their works often rely on performance, installation and sculpture. Their disconcerting interventions, often imperceptible at a first glance, eventually succeed in altering the viewer's perception, with a healthy dose of intelligent humour. A Kassen apply a critical perspective to the absurdities that often arise in specific contexts, both in the art world and in everyday life.

***Window to the World*, site-specific project for Laboratorio 987**

For Laboratorio 987 the group has developed a site-specific project that delves into the relationship between Tuñón and Mansilla's stained-glass building and the exhibition hall itself. The exhibition takes its title, *Window to the World*, from one of the works developed for the show. Both the title and the piece itself refer in a literal sense to an architectural element, but also to a broader social concept. Viewers are called upon to fill in the metaphorical and conceptual gaps, playing a key role within the show. This shall be the first time in MUSAC's history that the outer shell of the Mies Van der Rohe European Architecture Award-winning building is visibly modified. A Kassen shall use panes of glass taken from the outside of the building to construct the *Window to the World* sculpture within the Laboratorio 987 exhibition hall, thus establishing a connection between the building's interior and exterior.

Another of the works developed for the show is *Permanent reflection*, where the artists apply a range of visual tricks to blur the boundaries between various art genres: photography, installation and performance overlap in the viewer's altered perception. This is a highly conceptual piece that combines a work of art (photography) with performance and installation (involving the viewer).

"Mural (striped)" references the history of Laboratorio 987 itself. In this piece, the artists take on the role of archaeologists and remove the many layers of paint applied to one of the

exhibition hall walls for the successive exhibitions held since MUSAC's inauguration on 1 April 2005. The piece is a tribute to all the shows previously housed in the room and a recovery of the space's memory. The exhibition closes with a piece installed in an annex to Laboratorio 987.

About A Kassen

A Kassen have displayed a sustained interest in the viewer's interaction with his or her architectural surroundings. Their work probes the limits of what is and isn't art, with frequent conceptual references to the 1960s. An example of this approach can be found in *Concrete Floor*, one of the collective's most renowned pieces, where a young man sits through the entire duration of the exhibition, unable to move because his sneakers are stuck in the gallery floor. The action challenges us to discover the reason behind this random viewer's immobility. In their action *Endless Döner*, cooks from a number of döner kebab restaurants in Copenhagen carved their skewered lamb meat in the style of Brancusi, with the food becoming a sculpture that was then served up to the restaurant customers, who were unaware of the fact they were taking part in an art performance. Precisely that imperceptible boundary between art, the decontextualisation of everyday situations and irony is A Kassen's focal point.

Laboratorio 987, MUSAC's project space

Laboratorio 987, MUSAC's project space, is an annexed venue that develops its own independent programme. The first artist to show in here was **Silvia Prada** (Ponferrada, 1969), with her site-specific project *Hot or Not*, between April and May 2005. Next came a video project by **Fikret Atay** (Batman, Turkey, 1976) under the title *Sonidos Lejanos / Distant Sounds*. In September and October 2005 **Abigail Lazkoz** (Bilbao, 1972) developed her project *Esconde la mano (Hide your hand)*. **Ryan McGinley** (New Jersey, USA, 1978), held a photo exhibition *Between us / Entre nosotros*, in November and December 2005 while **Wilfredo Prieto** (Santi Spiritus, Cuba, 1977) projected his installation *Mucho ruido y pocas nueces II (Much ado about Nothing II)* between December 2005 and March 2006. **Monika Sosnoswka** (Ryki, Poland, 1972) took over in March 2006 with her installation *Untitled*. **Philipp Fröhlich** (Schweinfurt, Germany, 1975) authored a painting exhibition *Exvoto. Where is Nikki Black?* from September to November 2006. **Pauline Fondevila** (Le Havre, France, 1972) showed her installation *November Song* between November 2006 and January 2007. **Clare E. Rojas** (Ohio, USA, 1976) exhibited *Sympathetic Magic* from January to March 2007. Later, **Marc Vives** (Barcelona, 1978) + **David Bestué** (Barcelona, 1980) carried out their *Imágenes del Fin del Mundo (Images from the End of the World)* from March to May 2007. In May 2007 **Joao Maria Gusmao** (Lisbon, 1979) + **Pedro Paiva** (Lisbon, 1977) carried out a site-specific project. In July 2007, **Matías Duville** (Buenos Aires, 1974) set up his picture installation *Cover*, which remained on show until September 2007. **Ivan Grubanov** (Serbia, 1976) and **Ángel de la Rubia** (Oviedo, 1979) opened the new season in March 2008 with *Después de todo / Afterall*. In May 2008 US artist **Dan Attoe** (Bremerton, Washington, 1975) took over with *American Dreams*. **Nicolás París** (Bogotá, Colombia, 1977) and **Ignacio Uriarte** (Krefeld, Germany, 1973) held *Tan sencillo como una línea o un círculo / As simple as a Line or a Circle* from July to September 2008. By the title of *Gallo rojo, gallo negro / Red Cock, Black Cock*, **Antonio Ballester** held a compelling exhibition of drawings from 27 September to 16 November 2008 and **Regina de Miguel** showed her models between 21 November 2008 and 11 January 2009 under the title *El aire aún no respirado / The air not yet breathed*. Between January and April 2009, Laboratorio 987 hosted *Deriva*, by Colombian artist **Mateo López** (Bogotá, 1978). The most recent project displayed was *Un NO por respuesta (NO for an answer)*, including works by **Javier Arce**, **Menchina Ayuso**, **Josechu Dávila**, **Joan Morey**, **Tere Recarens**, **Antonio de la Rosa**, **Riiko Sakkinen**, **Miguel Ángel Tornero**, **Un Mundo Feliz** and a performance by **Aitor Saraiba**. July 2009 will see the opening of the first solo exhibition in Spain by French artist Cyprien Gaillard (Paris, 1980).

With the support of:

Statens Kunstråd Danish Arts Council

Embajada de Dinamarca



STATENS
KUNSTRÅD
DANISH ARTS COUNCIL



FUNDACIÓN
REINA ISABEL
DE DINAMARCA

**MUSEO DE ARTE CONTEMPORÁNEO
DE CASTILLA Y LEÓN**

Press & Communications Dept.

Avda. de los Reyes Leoneses, 24

24008 León - Spain

T. +34 987 09 00 00

F. +34 987 09 11 11

www.musac.es

prensa@musac.es