

# LOURDES FERNÁNDEZ

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## Founder and Director

Lourdes Fernández has been involved in the area of contemporary art throughout her career—in Paris at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris; in Madrid at the Galería Marlborough; in Donostia/San Sebastian at Galería DV and the Manifesta 5 biennial; and more recently at ArcoMadrid. She is also a member of the board of trustees of the Fundación Museo Reina Sofía.

Lourdes Fernández was born in Donostia/San Sebastián in 1961. She holds a primary degree in Art History from the Universidad de Barcelona (UB) and a Master's Degree in Museology and Art Criticism from the Università Internazionale dell'Arte (UIA) in Florence.

It would be too long to list the specialized courses, conferences, congresses and specialized meetings in which she has participated, as a listener and as a teacher, throughout all these years.

In a career spanning over 30 years, she has held a number of key posts related to contemporary art and culture, including:

Managing Director of the **Azkuna Zentroa/Alhóndiga Bilbao** contemporary art and culture centre in Bilbao (2012-2018). Opened in 2010, under her leadership the centre achieved wide international projection and major recognition on the local (Basque) cultural and artistic scene, with a high degree of citizen involvement.

Managing Director of **ARCOMadrid**, the international contemporary art fair in Madrid (2005-2010). Under her management, substantial changes were made to the structure of the fair. The introduction of a more rigorous selection of participating galleries led to a notable improvement in the overall quality of the event.

Director of **Manifesta 5** (2002-2004), the fifth edition of Manifesta, the European contemporary art biennial, staged every two years in a European city. In 2004 it was hosted by the city of Donostia-San Sebastián, under the curatorship of Massimiliano Gioni and Marta Kuzma. The twelfth and most recent edition of Manifesta was staged in Palermo in 2018.

**GALERIA DV.** Director of Galeria DV (Donostia/San Sebastian) from 1994 to 2002. Founded by the El Diario Vasco newspaper, the aim of gallery was to provide a launchpad for young artists and to promote international art in the city.

In her extensive career in the field of contemporary art, Lourdes Fernández has coordinated different forums, participated in discussion panels, delivered lectures, and sat on numerous juries, and organisations. She has held the following posts:

Member of the **Board of Trustees of the Fundación Museo Reina Sofía**; member of **ICOM** (International Council of Museums. UNESCO); **Member of the jury of the Prince/Princess of Asturias Art Awards.**