

LOURDES FERNÁNDEZ

Lourdes Fernández was born in Donostia/San Sebastián (Basque Country-Spain), in 1961. Throughout her career she has been closely linked to contemporary art and culture all throughout her career.

1984, degree in *Art History* from the University of Barcelona. Dissertation: *The San Telmo Museum: a museum of history*. Master degree in *Museology* and Master degree in *Art Criticism* at the Università Internazionale dell'Arte in Florence (Italy).

1986-87, chargée de mission at the *Musee d'Orsay* in París, with the support of a grant from the Basque Government. She acquired knowledge of the different areas and took part in the inauguration of the museum in December 1986.

1988, director of the Department of *Culture of Tolosa Town Council (Gipuzkoa)*, obtained by public tender.

1990, deputy director of *Marlborough Gallery in Madrid*, actively participating in the commissioning of the new headquarters designed by the architect Richard Gluckman. The gallery opened in 1992 with an exhibition of Francis Bacon.

1995, managing director of the *DV Gallery*, a space owned by the newspaper Diario Vasco. The aim of the gallery was to provide a launchpad for young basque artists and to promote international art in the city of San Sebastian.

2003, general director of the European International Biennale *Manifesta 5*, a nomadic biennial that came to the city of Donostia in 2004. The curators were *Marta Kuzma* and *Massimiliano Gioni*, with whom she produced one of the most successful editions in Manifesta's history, with 53 artists from all over Europe who developed various projects in the public space and exhibitions in the city and in the port of Pasaia. It was co-produced by the Donostia City Council, the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa and the Basque Government, through the CICC.

2005, director of *ArcoMadrid*, international contemporary art fair, one of the main platforms for the contemporary art market. Selection done by *Selliger y Conde*. More than 200 galleries from all over the world participate in each edition. She also organised a curatorial programme and a Forum of contemporary art experts, conceived as a space for debate on current creative issues, which is a meeting point for the international art community. This forum is one of the activities of the Arco Foundation.

2011, has collaborated from the outset in the design of the *Reina Sofia Museum Foundation in Madrid*, created in 2012. She participated in its start-up and in the creation of the organisational structure of the Foundation. She has been member of the Board of Trustees of the Fundación Museo Reina Sofía from 2012 until the end of 2018, and later she submitted her voluntary resignation complying with the requirements of the code of conduct that the Foundation itself drew up at its inception.

2012, general manager of *Azkuna Zentroa -Alhóndiga Bilbao*. Development of the artistic, cultural and leisure programmes. During this period, Azkuna Zentroa became a new driving force in the daily life of the city. Inaugurated in 2010, the centre achieved a wide international projection and an important recognition of the local (Basque) cultural and artistic scene, with a high degree of citizen involvement.

2018, managing director and founder of the consultancy *ARTINGENIUM*.

The most outstanding projects carried out are:

- *HONDALEA*: direction and coordination of the project - public installation - by the artist *Cristina Iglesias*, at the Santa Clara Island lighthouse in Donostia/San Sebastián. Carried out and financed by the Donostia/San Sebastián City Council.
- *ZABAL*: Artingenium provides technical support to Etxepare Euskal Institutoa (Etxepare Basque Institute) for Zabal, a programme designed to attract and host curators from the world's most prestigious Biennials, Triennials and museums. Its aim is to analyse and deepen the knowledge of the Basque cultural and artistic context in order to promote the art of the Basque Country in the international cultural and artistic events that these experts represent.

Thanks to this programme, *June Crespo* has participated in the Venice Biennale (2022); *the portrait of Catalina de Erauso* was present at the Sao Paulo Biennale (2023); *Itziar Barrio* and *Jorge Oteiza* at the Shanghai Biennale; *Iratxe Jaio* and *Klaas Van Gorkum* at the Sydney Biennale (2024)..

- *WWN* (World Weather Network): Created in response to the climate emergency, World Weather Network is a constellation of weather stations made up of 28 art agencies around the world and an invitation to observe, listen and act. Artists, writers and local communities share their observations, reflections and images of their local weather, creating an archipelago of voices and viewpoints. The World Weather Network programme also involves climatologists and environmental experts, bringing together diverse worldviews and different understandings of weather across multiple locations and languages. Artingenium has produced the reports with Basque artists and disseminated them in English as well as in Basque.
- *ART CONSULTANT for THE HOTEL DES ARTS* (Barcelona): Hired by Archer Hotel Capital, she is in charge of the selection of artists in all the spaces of the hotel, which is being renovated since July 2023 and will be completed in 2025. She commissions all the artworks in the public space and in the designated art areas (virtually the entire hotel). The hotel has its own collection of more than 500 pieces of art, which she is responsible for analysing and transforming. It also has an exhibition space, which confirms its vocation to support art and creativity as a transformer of the human being.

- **ART CONSULTANT for FORBES HOUSE** (Madrid): Forbes will open in November 2024, making it the world's first private club in Madrid. Lourdes Fernández has been entrusted with the entire art development, acquisitions, exhibitions, and the programme of activities around contemporary art.
- **MANAGEMENT, DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, and ACQUISITION CONSULTANCY for PRIVATE COLLECTIONS:** Artingenium deals with the management of important private collections, local, state and international collections.

COURSES, CONFERENCES; CONGRESSES; JURIES

It would be extensive (and impossible) to list the specialised courses, congresses and meetings in which he has participated, as a listener and lecturer, over the years. He has coordinated different forums, participated in round tables, given conferences and formed part of numerous juries and organisations.

The following can be highlighted:

FORUM D'AVIGNON-BILBAO. The city understood as a cultural ecosystem in which experts from all over the world were invited to debate the cultural challenges of the new generations.

INTENSIVE COURSE ON DONOR FOUNDATION MANAGEMENT. Held in 2014, actively participated in the training for non-profit-making organisations and philanthropy. Organised by WIS (advisors in philanthropy) in collaboration with The Graduate Institut of International and Development Studies (Geneva).

JURY in selection processes for museum management:

- C2M (Madrid, 2008)
- CGAC (Santiago de Compostela, 2015)
- ARTIUM (Vitoria-Gasteiz, 2018)

OTHER POSITIONS:

- 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. 2007-2010. [Richard Serra Award \(2010\)](#) [Norman Foster Award \(2009\)](#)

2024, she has been recognised by the FORBES magazine as [one of the 40 most influential women in the Spanish art world.](#)

LANGUAGES

Spanish (mother tongue); ***English***, C1 (accredited B2); ***Basque***, E.I.T (Euskeraz Irakasteko Trebetasunaren certificate); ***French***, C2; ***Italian***, C1.