

# EMCMP COLLECTION

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## Art and nature



As heir to the collecting tradition of the Masaveu family, the Fundación María Cristina Masaveu Peterson has assembled an art collection of more than five hundred works, focused primarily on contemporary art and alternating iconic pieces by grand masters of the twentieth century with more recent works by artists of the twenty-first century. While photography makes up a large proportion of the collection, over the last few years the Foundation has acquired a growing number of paintings and sculptures by established authors as part of its patronage and support for emerging art.

This exhibition at the Foundation's Morasverdes Centre, featuring works from the collection, explores the relationship between art and nature through different media and formats. Based on the unique quality of the selected works and designed to facilitate shared experiences and intergenerational encounters, the exhibition adopts a didactic approach, suggesting itineraries with the following points in common: landscape, memory, action, matter and a particular way of viewing territory.



Land art has been establishing dialogues between the materials of the plastic language, landscape and environment since the 1960s, prompting artists from different parts of the world to develop an ephemeral, site-specific form of expression. With its roots in conceptual art, the movement first emerged in the United States with artists like Robert Smithson and Richard Long, both represented in the FMCMP Collection. It has since extended to the international scene alongside other trends such as the actions and performances practised by iconic figures like Marina Abramović, another artist featured in our collection. These international movements do not merely constitute aesthetic categories but speak to social and artistic phenomena associated with public spaces. Of particular relevance to our case, they also highlight close relationships with nature based on multiple registers.

The idea of the road as a metaphor for life is the central theme of all the works on display: travelling the road to grow and learn, remembering the road to keep on creating, living in the essence of things and establishing a dialogue with the road to form one's own footprints. Each piece in the exhibition is assigned to one of the five thematic sections (Landscape and territory;



Symbol and memory; Spaces for action; Living matter; Our footprints) to facilitate its appreciation and the distribution of the visual relationships. However, there are no strict boundaries; the works speak for themselves and interact with the exhibition discourse.

Both the structure of the exhibition and the resources offer places that lend themselves to shared social experiences, encourage encounters between viewers of different ages and promote a dynamic aesthetic universe with connectors such as territory, identity and poetic reflection. The texts of the explanatory labels and the introductory panels are colour coded for each section so that less experienced audiences can establish relationships between the works and their authors.



Ellen Kooi  
*Spaarndam-wolken*, 2011  
FMCMP Collection





## LANDSCAPE AND TERRITORY

A large proportion of the Fundación Maria Cristina Masaveu Collection is made up of photographs by celebrated national and international artists. This section includes five photographers who adopt a mystical, post-Romantic approach to their work, producing stunning compositions that nevertheless conceal deeper dialogues, with frequent interactions between artist, landscape and territory. We can travel through the poetic gaze of Elger Esser and Axel Hütte to magical, timeless places, examine the social metaphors and contemporary tragedies exposed in the work of Richard Mosse, and witness sisters Jane and Louise Wilson's explorations of the mind and human psychology through seemingly serene images that mask very different emotions: anxieties and phobias that we all have felt at one time or another.



Acclaimed on the international scene, in their prolific careers all of these authors have used nature to conceive contemplative experiences that revolve around the notion of landscape. Beyond their seductive appearance, these powerful projects seek a meaningful engagement with the audience.



Elger Esser  
*La Grande Be (France), 2009*  
FMCMP Collection





## SYMBOL AND MEMORY

Nature contains all the mysteries of the world, whether in the tiniest details of the smallest corners or in the majestic panoramas of large open spaces. Some artists explore these places to convey symbolic messages and allude to history, memory and the passage of time, as we see here in the works of various photographers who focus their gaze on specific moments of human evolution. In certain cases they refer to historic events, like Bleda and Rosa who recall the Battle of Covadonga, the legendary cradle of the Reconquest; others simulate hours passing and the importance of fate in the development of life on earth, like Maria Laet who reinterprets ordinary images and carefully filters them through her camera.



Yet others, like Reynier Levya, reconstruct the absence of historical figures and capture the true energy of the universe: bare nature in all its glory, unspoiled by human presence. We can also trace symbol and memory in powerful volumes and sculptures that alternate natural and industrial materials to convey specific cultural environments and question certain aesthetics, as in the works of Eva Lootz and Remigio Mendiburu, or that blend eastern with western culture to formulate quasi-sacred allusions, as we find with Anish Kapoor.



Maria Laet  
*Untitled (Sand, London)*, 2008  
FMCMP Collection





## SPACES FOR ACTION

In the 1960s the capacity of contemporary art to develop new languages in the framework of actions in nature gave rise to art movements characterised by direct intervention in open spaces. Related to the spread of conceptual art, these movements attach more importance to the idea of the process—the pleasure of the experience and the creative moment—than to the end result. This cornerstone of American land art was subsequently adopted by other international experiences. Some of the works included in this section are Christo's famous large-scale installations in Valley Ford, documented with drawings; the monumental coil on one of the shores of the Great Salt Lake, Utah, which Robert Smithson made with several tonnes of earth; and the small piece by Dennis Oppenheim that highlights humanity's connections with matter and its evolution.



Also included here are examples of great European artists influenced by these movements, such as Hannah Collins, Barbara and Michael Leisgen, and Gerry Schum, with works that also embrace social activism and ethical commitment. Lastly, we propose a series of generational connections between Spanish artists: for example, between the veteran Agustín Ibarrola, one of our country's greatest advocates of the integration of art and nature, and the much younger Irene Grau, whose works establish a parallel with the idiosyncrasy of the Basque master by creating direct relationships between colours and objects and their dialogues with nature.



Agustín Ibarrola  
*Untitled, 2009*  
FMCMP Collection





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## LIVING MATTER

One of the key characteristics of artists who create work in contact with nature is the close dialogue they establish with the materials they find there. Two elements are paramount for these creators: exploring the forms, textures and volumes of the matter, and building lasting works that combine strength with fragility. Many contemporary sculptors share this passion, expressing it through a variety of techniques and construction methods: by carving wood in the case of Mitsuo Miura and Tadanori Yamaguchi, or by creating organic structures out of handmade fabrics in the case of Aurèlia Muñoz.

Meanwhile, the curious experiments of Claudia Comte, Aitor Ortiz and Perejaume use matter as a vehicle to explain socio-cultural episodes and demonstrate the balance between tradition and innovation.



Some advocates of the dialogue with matter explore it in two dimensions and create works that offer vivid allegories about life; such is the case of Ana Teresa Barboza, Carla Cascales, María Luisa Fernández and Julia Huete. Others construct immersive volumes in the form of large-scale installations that require the intellectual engagement of the viewer, as we find in the works of Cristina Iglesias and Adolfo Schlosser, which offer points of contact to be admired from multiple perspectives.



Ana Teresa Barboza  
*Vilcanota*, 2019  
FMCMP Collection





## OUR FOOTPRINTS

Nature is a powerful scenographic device and therefore an ideal setting for artists who carry out performative actions in the landscape, blending into its contours and exploring their own and others' footprints. The FMCMP Collection features major pieces by Marina Abramović, whose fascination with mysticism is clearly exemplified in the photograph on display here. This same communion between body and territory, as the base and repository for our footsteps, is also evident in the photographic series of younger artists like Soledad Córdoba, Guibert Rosales and Glenda León. Footprints are often indictments, calls to defend life, sustainable ecology, identity or territory, as we find in the sculptures of Francisco Leiro. The works of Daniel Canogar, Cristina García Roderó and Ellen Kooi remind us of the urgent need to protect the environment, while Olafur Eliasson's immersive installation invites quiet reflection, meditation and introspective consideration of the intimate landscapes of the soul's light.



This section also highlights the mark left by other authors who revisit and offer profound reflections on the whole concept of art, like Irma Álvarez-Laviada, whose recent works explore the boundaries between painting, sculpture and modes of representation. From her deliberate position between necessity and possibility, the artist confirms that there are no dogmas, that freedom is the true essence of the contemporary artist.



Daniel Canogar  
*Tide*, 2011  
FMCMP Collection





**LANDSCAPE AND TERRITORY**

Elger ESSER  
Axel HÜTTE  
Richard MOSSE  
Jane y Louise WILSON

**SYMBOL AND MEMORY**

BLEDA Y ROSA  
Anish KAPOOR  
Maria LAET  
Reynier LEIVA NOVO  
Eva LOOTZ  
Remigio MENDIBURU  
Óscar MUÑOZ  
David NASH

**SPACES FOR ACTION**

CHRISTO  
Hannah COLLINS  
Irene GRAU  
Agustín IBARROLA  
Barbara y Michael LEISGEN  
Richard LONG  
Walter de MARIA  
Dennis OPPENHEIM  
Adolfo SCHLOSSER  
Gerry SCHUM  
Robert SMITHSON

**LIVING MATTER**

Ana Teresa BARBOZA  
Carla CASCALES  
Claudia COMTE  
María Luisa FERNÁNDEZ  
Julia HUETE  
Cristina IGLESIAS  
Mitsuo MIURA  
Aurèlia MUÑOZ  
Aitor ORTIZ  
PEREJAUME  
Tadanori YAMAGUCHI

**OUR FOOTPRINTS**

Marina ABRAMOVIĆ  
Irma ÁLVAREZ-LAVIADA  
Daniel CANOGAR  
Soledad CÓRDOBA  
Olafur ELIASSON  
Cristina GARCÍA RODERO  
Ellen KOOI  
Francisco LEIRO  
Glenda LEÓN  
Guibert ROSALES



**FMCMP. Collection.  
Art and Nature  
Footprints are the road**

ORGANISED BY

Fundación María Cristina Masaveu Peterson

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Fundación María Cristina Masaveu Peterson



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Soledad Córdoba  
*Pilgrim VI*, 2019  
FMCMP Collection





## **WINTER OPENING TIMES**

1 October–19 March

Thursday and Friday: 11 am to 5 pm

Saturday, Sunday and public holidays:  
10 am to 7 pm

Closed: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday  
(except public holidays), 24, 25 and  
31 December, and 1 and 6 January

## **SUMMER OPENING TIMES**

20 March–30 September

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday:

11 am to 7 pm

Saturday, Sunday and public holidays:  
10 am to 8 pm

Closed: Monday and Tuesday  
(except public holidays)

## **Free admission**

More information about the programme  
of guided tours and cultural activities  
can be found on our website:  
[fundacioncristinamasaveu.com](http://fundacioncristinamasaveu.com)

Before visiting us please check  
the availability of services and the centre's  
regulations on our website.  
Photography and filming are not permitted.





# FUNDACIÓN MARÍA CRISTINA MASAVEU PETERSON

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COVER

Axel Hütte

*Sandia Mountains 1, 2008*

(detail)

FMCMP Collection



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**MARÍA CRISTINA  
MASAVEU  
PETERSON**

**MORASVERDES**

ARTE y  
NATURALEZA

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