

25 June 2021

Artium Museoa  
Museum of Contemporary Art of the Basque Country  
Vitoria-Gasteiz • Alava  
[www.artium.eus](http://www.artium.eus)

**Antonio Ballester Moreno**  
**Self-construction. Loose Parts. Play and Experience**



A3 Gallery, from 25 June to 1 November 2021

**Curator:** Ángel Calvo Ulloa

**Publication** with essay by Ángel Calvo Ulloa

**Conversation** with the artist: Friday 25 June at 6pm

**Special opening hours:** open continuously from 11am to 8pm

This exhibition has been made possible thanks to the collaboration of Barrutia Ikastola in Vitoria-Gasteiz and Dinamoia Sormen Gunea in Azpeitia

More information at [www.artium.eus](http://www.artium.eus)

**ARTIUM  
MUSEOA**

## ARTIUM MUSEUM PRESENTS THE EXHIBITION *SELF-CONSTRUCTION. LOOSE PARTS. PLAY AND EXPERIENCE* BY ANTONIO BALLESTER MORENO

The exhibition reviews a series of historical pedagogical practices based on self-construction and play to create a space for meeting and learning.

The exhibition also includes works by artists such as Carme Nogueira, Raphael Escobar and Abraham Cruzvillegas

Artium, Museum of Contemporary Art of the Basque Country presents the exhibition *Self-construction. Loose Parts. Play and Experience. Antonio Ballester Moreno* (A3 Gallery, until 1 November 2021). The project stems from Artium's process of reflecting on its relationship with its urban and social context and specifically on the potential of its inner courtyard as a meeting point for its surrounding area. Ballester, an artist with whom Artium has discussed this issue, reviews a series of historical pedagogical practices based on self-construction and play to create in this project, which has been designed not to be an exhibition in the usual sense, a space for meeting and learning. The exhibition, which also includes works by Carme Nogueira, Raphael Escobar and Abraham Cruzvillegas, is curated by Ángel Calvo Ulloa and has been produced in collaboration with Dinamo Sormen Gunea in Azpeitia and the students and teaching staff of Barrutia Ikastola in Vitoria-Gasteiz.

Antonio Ballester Moreno's exhibition *Self-construction. Loose Parts. Play and Experience* is the result of various collaborative processes that were begun as part of *Plazaratu*, the reflection process on Artium's connection as an institution and architectural structure with its surroundings and its ability to become a meeting point and centre for social relations.

Ballester Moreno uses methods tied to pedagogy in his artistic practice and in several projects involves groups of schoolchildren and occasionally adults to shape an initial idea. In his proposal for Artium Museum, the artist has referred to a series of pedagogical practices developed in the 20th century that were based on self-construction as play as well as to transforming action – building, rebuilding, repairing, remodelling – into a way of learning, education and living. The English architect Lady Allen of Hurtwood, the Danish activist Palle Nielsen, the Italian architect Enzo Mari and the English artist Simon Nicholson are some of the figures that inspired these experiences, as the curator Ángel Calvo Ulloa explains at length in the publication accompanying this exhibition.

Artium's A3 Gallery is therefore housing objects produced in the workshops conducted in spring by Antonio Ballester Moreno in an educational centre such as Barrutia Ikastola in Vitoria-Gasteiz and in a creative space such as Dinamo Sormen Gunea in Azpeitia.

In the case of Barrutia Ikastola, following the practice of Enzo Mari and his *autoprogettazione?* manual, as well as Simon Nicholson's *Theory of Loose Parts*, the artist invited students, families and teachers to participate in a workshop to construct furniture. Created using basic pieces and tools and following plans and instructions produced for that purpose, these objects – tables, benches, platforms, cabins – have converted the A3 Gallery into a square, a park that also opens up to Artium's outdoor area, to its urban garden.

The exhibition also includes the installation of a large mural measuring 30 metres long by 4 metres high that features a set of 164 silkscreen prints produced in the workshop that Ballester Moreno directed at Dinamo Sormen Gunea based on the designs proposed by the artist.

This tendency of Ballester Moreno “to work on projects that are diluted in the collective”, as the curator points out, is underlined by the invitation to other artists to participate in *Self-construction...: Carme Nogueira* and the workshops she developed based on Buñuel's documentary *Las Hurdes, Tierra Sin Pan* and the innovative pedagogical experiences developed in that region of Extremadura in the 1930s, Raphael Escobar and Os Cupins das Artes and the workshops conducted with homeless people in São Paulo, and Abraham Cruzvillegas and the processes of self-construction rooted in the working-class neighbourhoods of Mexico City that can be traced back in his artistic practice.

Ballester Moreno has staged solo exhibitions at Museo Patio Herreriano in Valladolid; La Casa Encendida in Madrid; MAZ in Guadalajara, Mexico; MUSAC in León; Galería Maisterra-Valbuena in Madrid; Pedro Cera in Lisbon; Christopher Grimes in Santa Monica, and Peres Projects in Berlin and Los Angeles. He has also participated in group exhibitions, such as at the 33rd Sao Paulo Biennial, as artist and curator, MSU Broad Museum in Michigan and CA2M in Madrid, as well as in galleries in New York, Berlin and Los Angeles, among others. His work can be found in the collections of the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, MUSAC in León, CA2M in Madrid, Colección Iberdrola and Fundación Helga de Alvear.

## Conversation with the artist

Friday 25 June at 6pm

## Upcoming guided tours of *Self-construction. Loose Parts. Play and Experience*

Sunday 27 June at 5.30pm

Sunday 4 July at 5.30pm

Sunday 11 July at 12.30pm

Saturday 24 July at 12.30pm

## Exhibitions in Artium

*Zeru bat, hamaika bide. Artistic Practices in the Basque Country in the Period 1977-2002*: Artium Museum Collection

*Katinka Bock. Logbook*: Until 12 September 2021

*Xabier Salaberria. An Exhibition without Architecture*: Until 3 October 2021

*Self-construction. Loose Parts. Play and Experience. Antonio Ballester Moreno*: Until 1 November 2021

*Patricia Esquivias. Cardón cardinal. Z Gallery*: Until 27 June 2021

*Nadia Barkate. Contexts from a Collection*: Until 5 September 2021

*Bigarren bidea (Zeru bat, hamaika bide)*: Artium Museum Collection

*Gerardo Armesto. Restless Point of View*: Until 5 September 2021

## Coming soon

*Paraíso. Maddi Barber, Marina Lameiro. Z Gallery*: From 2 July to 12 September 2021