3rd Call for Applications: Curatorial Programme. Bilbaoarte Bilduma Collection

Organised by: Fundación BilbaoArte Fundazioa

Submission deadline: **until 7 June**

The BilbaoArte Collection comprises over 600 works and spans a wide range of contemporary disciplines and practices. Its composition is closely linked to BilbaoArte's mission as a centre for professional artistic production. Since 1998, at the end of their residency at BilbaoArte, each artist has donated one or more works to the Collection in return for the support received.

Taken as a whole, the BA Collection today reflects the contemporary art scene of recent years and brings together a significant selection of high-quality works by artists of Basque, Spanish and international origin. This intrinsic nature of growing in tandem with the artists' creative output gives it a unique character as an expression of contemporary art.

Group exhibitions of the Collection are organised periodically in an effort to raise the profile of the artists featured within it and to offer new perspectives and interpretations of the imagery presented by the works and artists as a whole.

PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The purpose of this call for proposals is to select a proposal which, on the basis of its suitability, quality and feasibility, is deemed the most appropriate in accordance with the terms and conditions set out herein. Through this process, an individual or collective will be selected to curate an exhibition, choosing a proposal that places the works in the collection at the centre of the exhibition.

Objectives:

- To promote the BA Collection, its artists and the works it comprises.
- To develop an exhibition project and associated public programmes at the URIBITARTE40 Gallery at BilbaoArte between approximately November 2026 and February 2027.
- To create a support scheme for professionals in the arts and culture sector to facilitate the development of curatorial projects.

The exhibition will consist exclusively of works from the BA Collection and will be held in person at the URIBITARTE40 Gallery. Proposals for the exhibition to tour other venues locally, nationally and internationally will be considered.

Associated public programmes and complementary activities may take various forms (talks, meetings, conferences, visits, performances, presentations, etc.). Public programmes may involve the participation of external agents and professionals. Activities will be based on the content of the exhibition and/or carried out with the participation of artists represented in the collection.

Submitted projects must be original and respect the copyright of the participating artists and agents. Selected individuals or groups will be required to sign a sworn statement to this effect, with the Bilbaoarte Foundation being exempt from any resulting liability.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Visual artists, researchers and curators of any age and nationality, working individually or as a group, with links to contemporary art and culture, are eligible to apply.

Each individual or group may submit only one proposal per call for applications.

FINANCIAL AWARD FOR THE SELECTED PROJECT

- €4,000, including tax, for curatorial fees, to be paid as follows:

-60% upon the award of the grant.
-40% upon the closing of the exhibition.

- Up to a maximum of €4,000, including tax, to cover exhibition costs (special designs – furniture) and related activities (fees, subsistence and travel expenses for participating agents, spatial design, and other associated costs).

These expenses will be managed by the curator and paid by the Foundation, which reserves the right to adjust and amend the proposals received and/or the financial allocation among the participating parties.

Both amounts will be paid by bank transfer upon presentation of the relevant invoices and budget statement.

COMMITMENT BY THE COMMISSIONER:

- Implement the project as set out in the proposal, with any changes agreed upon and approved by the management of BilbaoArte.

- Adhere to the deadlines required to ensure the proposed programme is delivered on schedule.
- Provide the texts to be included in the catalogue and contribute to the design and production process.
- Coordinate the participation of third parties in the parallel activities.
- Draft specialist texts and press releases.
- Media relations.
- Grant permission for the use of images for the promotion of the project on social media and web channels.

BILBAOARTE'S COMMITMENT:

- Appoint a member of your team to assist with the development of the exhibition project, the associated public programmes and the publication.
- Oversee the design and visual identity of the exhibition.
- Cover the costs arising from the packing and transport of works between the venues (Urazurrutia 32 and URIBITARTE40), the installation and dismantling of the exhibition, translations, supervision of the design and production of graphics, guided tours, promotion and maintenance, and the design and printing of the publication.
- Approve, where appropriate, exceptional additional expenditure on an ad hoc basis (travelling exhibitions, venue adaptations, restoration or framing, etc.). Justification for such expenditure must be provided, with the final decision resting with the BilbaoArte Team.

DATES AND VENUES

The curatorial project for this call for proposals will take place at the URIBITARTE40 Gallery at BilbaoArte between approximately November 2026 and February 2027.

The selected curator or curatorial team will have a six-month working period: three months (June–August) to finalise the conceptualisation of the proposal; and three months, starting in September 2026, for the production and implementation of the project. Between November 2026 and February 2027, the selected curator or curatorial team will be present to support both the programme of activities and the events organised by the Foundation in connection with the exhibition.

BilbaoArte will appoint a member of its team to provide support and assistance in the development of the submitted project.

DEADLINES AND SUBMISSION PROCEDURES FOR PROJECTS

interested parties will have a period of FOUR weeks from the publication of this call to visit the URIBITARTE40 Gallery in person and make any enquiries they deem necessary.

Each individual or group may submit only one project per call.

Projects must be submitted in PDF format to the following email address: **bilbaoarte@bilbao.eus**, with the subject line "curatorial call" and the applicant's name.

The deadline for project submissions is 7 June; no additional documentation may be submitted after this deadline.

RESOLUTION

BilbaoArte will announce the selected project within 15 days. The selection will be made by the BilbaoArte team, who may seek advice from artists and art professionals outside the Foundation.

On 12 June, BilbaoArte will publish the results of this call for proposals on its website and in the 'Calls for Proposals' section.

The applicant(s) will also be notified by email and will have two working days, 15 and 16 June, to formally confirm their acceptance of the terms and conditions by emailing **bilbaoarte@bilbao.eus**. Should they decline the offer, BilbaoArte will select another project to replace it.

The decision regarding this call for proposals is final and cannot be appealed.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Originality and innovation of the conceptual approach and exhibition proposal.
- Quality and creativity.
- Financial and practical feasibility of the proposal in terms of deadlines, format and resources.
- Suitability and alignment of the ideas and lines of work presented with BilbaoArte's vision and mission.
- Integration into the local context and the fostering of links and relationships with local and national stakeholders.
- Previous experience in work related to contemporary art, and exhibition and research projects carried out.

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

- CVs of the individual applicants or applicant groups.
- A copy of their National Identity Card, Foreigner Identification Number or passport.
- Certificates confirming that they are up to date with their tax obligations (Tax and Social Security authorities).
- A portfolio of previous curatorial projects and art collection research.
- Exhibition proposal: conceptual approach, objectives and areas of work to be developed, list of works from the BA Collection.
- Public programmes: description of the 4–6 proposals to be developed, including a brief explanation justifying their relevance to BilbaoArte and its artists.
- Proposal and breakdown of a [provisional] budget.
- Floor plan and layout of the [provisional] exhibition.

DATA PROTECTION

The personal data provided and any other data generated during the relationship between the two parties will be processed by Fundación Bilbao Arte Fundazioa for the purposes of maintaining contact and managing programmes and projects. Photographs and videos may be taken at the activities and events organised by the Foundation.

You may access, rectify, erase, object to, request the portability of your data, restrict processing, and not be subject to decisions based solely on automated processing, as detailed in the privacy policy on the BilbaoArte website, www.bilbaoarte.eus

ACCEPTANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By submitting an application, applicants are deemed to have accepted these terms and conditions.