

INAUGURATION THIS THURSDAY OF LABORAL'S
DONKIJOTE.ORG, A PROJECT TO BE CARRIED
OUT IN EL CENTRO DE ARTE AND ON THE
INTERNET AT THE SAME TIME, INCLUDING A
PERFORMATIVE ACTION THROUGHOUT
ASTURIAS

THE WINNING PROJECT OF THE *DIGITAL_LAB* COMPETITION FEATURES THE ITALIAN ARTIST CRISTIAN BETTINI AND THE DONKEY MINUTO WHO WILL DRAW UP A DIGITAL MAP OF ASTURIAS

An Asturian donkey named *Minuto*, an Italian artist based in Barcelona - *Cristian Bettini*, a small group of collaborators and a load of technological equipment including a computer with an internet connection, navigating tools, GPS, solar panels and webcams, amongst other devices: these are the components that make up the *Donkijote.org* project that opens at LABoral Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial this Thursday, September 24. The exhibition will be at the Gallery Platform 1 until January 11, 2010. It is the winning project submitted to the 2009 edition of the *Digital_LAB* competition, an initiative by El Centro de Arte in Gijón aiming to extend and strengthen its presence on the internet and bring its presential and virtual activities closer together.

Roberta Bosco and Stefano Caldana are the curators of *Donkijote.org* which will take place simultaneously in El Centro and on the internet. se desarrollará simultáneamente en el espacio físico del Centro y en Internet. It is a project with both an analogue and digital dimension. During the four journeys that the artist Cristian Bettini a.k.a. Pankh and the donkey Minuto will take through Asturias, carrying out a *performative action* in our region, innovative techniques will be used to compile and distribute information, much of it previously unknown.

The donkey will operate as a living interface equipped with digital hardware such as a GPS, a mobile internet connection, a computer, a camera and a video camera with which it will create a memory of Asturias, producing and collecting information, re-mapping the territory and geo-categorising knowledge. The steps taken along the way are defined by the natural rhythm of the donkey's pace, giving everything that enters into our perception a measure of human attention.

The people that cross their paths during their travels, as well as surfers on the web, will participate in the project with their advice and suggestions, contributing as much to the evolution of the project as to the audiovisual and anthropological patrimony of Asturias. The travelers will return to LABoral after each journey where they will carry out activities using the material they have collected. In this way the exhibition, located in gallery

Platform 1 at LABoral, will evolve and grow at the rate at which the journey and its digital representation progress, connecting virtuality to reality in an indissoluble way.

INFORMATION

DATES: 24.09.2009-11.01.2010

VENUE: LABoral Platform 1, paths through Asturias and www.donkijote.org

OPENING HOURS: from Wed. To Mon., from 12:00 to 8:00 PM

PRODUCED BY: LABoral's Projects Office

CURATORS: Roberta Bosco and Stefano Caldana

THE ARTIST

The interests of **Cristian Bettini a.k.a. Pankh** (Brescia, Italy, 1973), have taken him in different directions including art and culture, new media and the environment, the food chain and the conscious approach to nature. All these are brought together in his creative activity, enriched by his experiences with activism, travel and his studies in Philosophy.

In 2005, he began working on *Proyecto de camino*, travelling across France and Spain, gathering his sensations and experiences in an online bulletin. In 2006, he was selected in two master classes for independent producers and interactive narration organized by Sagasnet as part of the *Media Europa* project in Germany.

For three months in 2007 he crossed Italy, comprising the experience recorded as *Lasino* (<http://www.lasino.org>), which constitutes a sort of conceptual prologue to *donkijote.org*.

He repeated a journey of similar characteristics across Holland in 2008, adding an educational component, featured in the project *Donkeypedia* (<http://www.donkeypedia.nl>), which was presented in *Ovni Rizomas* in the Centro de Cultura Contemporánea in Barcelona, in the MIPTV in Cannes (France), in the *Picnic Festival* and in *CineKid 2008*, both in Amsterdam (The Netherlands).

THE GROUP

Minuto: Asturian donkey

Cristian Bettini a.k.a. Pankh, author

Martin Ruano, photographer and companion

Simona Marchesi, production assistant

Donkijote.org collaborates with the GreenMap project and supports the Charter for Walking and the Digital Geography Manifesto.

THE CURATORS

Roberta Bosco, journalist specialising in contemporary art and new media.

Stefano Caldana, journalist specialising in digital culture.

Together, they write on the subjects of art and digital culture for *CiberP@is*, the supplement of *El País*, as well as for other sections of the newspaper. They give classes in different Master's courses, conferences and artist presentations. They participate in debates and jury panels and write texts for catalogues dealing with the development of digital art and new contemporary artistic expressions. Amongst other projects, they have been the curators for *Conexión remota*, a selection of net.art for the *Antagonismos* exhibition, *Casos de Estudio* in the Museum of Contemporary Art in Barcelona (MACBA) and the exhibitions *London Calling* for the Sonar

Festival, *Digital Jam* and *Web as Canvas* for the Art Futura Festival in El Centro de Cultura Contemporánea in Barcelona (CCCB) and the monograph *Roberto Aguirrezabala. Net.art 1998 – 2008* in the Huarte Contemporary Art Centre. They were behind the concept and structure of the MACBA web page and are the authors of *Arte.red*, a subjective navigable history of artistic creation on the internet. <http://www.arte-red.net>

SOFTWARE

Donkijote.org was carried out with the following programmes: NeoOffice, TextEdit, TextWrangler, Firefox, Cyberduck, MPEGStremclip, Audacity, ProjectPier, WikkaWiki, ImageBrowser, EasyBatchPhoto, GPSBabel, GPSPhotolinker, Skype and Adium.

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Tested successfully with Firefox.

THE COMPETITION

Digital_LAB is an open competition organised by LABoral, intended for creators from Spain and abroad. The curators of the first edition of this initiative are the art critics and experts in new technologies, Roberta Bosco and Stefano Caldana. The installation part of the winning project – which is awarded a prize of 20,000 Euros – will be displayed in the Gallery Platform 1 of LABoral. The virtual part will be featured on a web page created expressly for the project (www.donkijote.org), linked to LABoral's web page (www.laboralcentrodearte.org). *Digital_LAB* is part of LABoral's Projects Office programme, a permanent space at the disposal of the cultural sector, created with the intention of facilitating the production of artistic projects and promoting them on the professional circuit. That ninety-five artists or collectives from nineteen different countries submitted their projects for production at our Centro de Arte testifies to the competition's remarkable success.

ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

24.09.2009

DIÁLOGOS [DIALOGUES]

The *DIÁLOGOS* programme brings people closer to the art object by meeting the people that make them: the artists and curators participating in the exhibitions. In celebration of the opening day, Cristiane Bettini, Roberta Bosco and Stefano Caldana will answer questions from the audience before the inauguration of *Donkijote.org* about the creative process surrounding the creation of the art work and will discuss the different ways to participate in the project, both presentially and virtually.

TIME: 8:00 PM

VENUE: LABoral Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial

WORKSHOPS IN LABORAL

¿DÓNDE ESTÁ DONKIJOTE? [WHERE IS DONKIJOTE?]

Donkijote.org were here, but now they are gone. Where can they be found now? Where will they go? What did they discover?

Participants in the workshop will enjoy a guided tour of the exhibition during which they will be introduced to the basic notions of cartography, personalised regional "mapping," collection and registry of data and internet languages and circuits.

At the end of the visit, participants will be given the opportunity to speak with the artist via a telematic connection using Skype.

DATES: Monday, September 28, Saturday, October 3, Monday, October 19, Saturday, October 24, Monday, November 9, Saturday, November 14.

TIMES: Mondays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and Saturdays from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

INTENDED FOR: On Mondays, the content will be directed towards educational centres; on Saturdays, the intended audiences is a public of all ages.

DONKIJOTE ESTÁ EN LA CIUDAD [DONKIJOTE IS IN TOWN]

Cristian Bettini and his donkey, *Minuto*, will return to LABoral, their centre of operations, to update the installation and direct workshops. The artist will make use of his stay to not only communicate his experiences to the public but to explain his use of technology. Participants will have the chance to become familiar with the project through conversation with the artist and his collaborators and to participate in the development of the installation, incorporating their knowledge of Asturias. The information exchanged will be added to the project and will be able to be viewed on the web page.

DATES: October 14 and 15, November 4, 5, 23 and 25.

TIME: two workshops a day. During the mornings from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM; during the afternoons from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

INTENDED FOR: the mornings are reserved for primary and secondary school and university students; the afternoon is open to a public of all ages and Professional Education students.

THE LAST DAY AT LABORAL

DonKijote.org brings his travels through Asturias to an end, but before he goes, he calls upon everyone he has met during these three months and all those who have followed and shared in his physical and virtual journey to participate in a meeting at LABoral. This will be the moment for a final evaluation, an opportunity to share anecdotes and information, to tie together loose ends left over from the journey and to make plans for the future.

DATE: December 12.

TIME: 12:00 noon.

INTENDED FOR: a general audience.

TRAVELING WORKSHOPS

DONKIJOTE.ORG ON THE ROAD...

During their travels, *Donkijote.org* – that is, the artist, the donkey, their collaborators and the technology accompanying them – will stop to give



workshops in primary and secondary schools and cultural centres that they pass along the way. There they will not only explain their project but the artist will introduce those in attendance to the ins and outs of data transmission, familiarising them with alternative and artistic uses of technology.

Pay attention! Keep a watchful eye upon the roads and pathways near to your homes because, any day, *DonKijote.org* may appear on the horizon. You may also follow their adventures on their web page (www.donkijote.org) on a daily basis and find out when they are coming to your home town.

DATES: To be determined

TIME: To be determined

INTENDED FOR: schools and educational or cultural centres in rural Asturias.



PHOTO: Martin Ruano Prieto
Cristian Bettini and Minuto, with their technological equipment



PHOTO: Martin Ruano Prieto
An image of the preparatory journey of *Donkijote.org* taken by Cristian Bettini and the donkey Minuto at the end of August through the Picos de Europa