
1

S

Eugènia
Agustí

2

C

Montse
Carreño

3

I

Raquel
Muñoz

4

E

Mercè
Casanovas

5

N

Borja Leonardo
Fermoselle

6

C

Sergi
Selvas

7

E

Aleix
Molet

8

O

Eloi
Puig

9

F

Cristina
Pastó

10

T

Anja
Steidinger

11

H

Alicia
Vela

12

E

Antònia
Vilà

13

C

A project by
La Mandarin de Newton

14

I

The Tech
Museum

15

T

Paris
Montagne

16

Y

FECYT and
Obra Social "la Caixa"

Arts Santa Mònica,
from May 8th to May 19th, 2012

Science of the City, the artistic look on urban everydayness

The exhibition *Science of the City* presents in Barcelona nine new artworks inspired by the scientific curiosity of people around the world.

50 videos have been the source of this co-creative process devised by la Mandarina de Newton in which experts and non-experts alike lead the exhibition process.

Barcelona, May 2nd, 2012. The artistic look acts as a tool for discovering hidden connections between science and the city. Taking these unusual visions of everyday life as a starting point, the exhibition *Science of the City* tries to awaken our capacity for surprise and invites us to ask our own questions about scientific facts.

Nine art pieces are shown in the exhibition. It will be open to the public from May 8th to May 19th at Arts Santa Mònica center in Barcelona. This proposal is, in fact, the result of a process of co-creation and collaborative learning designed and produced by la Mandarina de Newton, as a part of its project development area Co-Creating Cultures.

Artists of the imarte Research Group belonging to the School of Fine Arts of the University of Barcelona (UB) have developed their own art proposals from dozens of videos uploaded by citizens that showed their findings and reflections about science.

This project has been selected as an inspirational practice in science by the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness.

Science on the street

Far from the usual formats of science communication, *Science of the City* wants to show that scientific discovery is available to all of us and that it is born from our own curiosity. New technologies and practices make possible to start collaborative research initiatives outside the laboratory, by creating spaces where plain citizens and research professionals can work together.

In the *Science of the City* project, the first step was to ask people directly what drove their scientific curiosity. They were invited to participate in a video contest where they could send their own two-minute video clip in which they portrayed links between science and city.

For two months and focusing on a discovery, a question or an experiment, participants from around the world sent their creations to Scienceofthecity.net.

Among other things, the final result is a clear evidence of the different perceptions about science existing between popular and expert cultures.

Science and art, two parallel processes of research

In the exhibition, nine pieces of art speak to the visitor about fossils, lichens, DNA, the color of the walls, the constituents of matter, the scientific method, lights or pattern recognition. It is a creative look that reveals secrets in the everyday life of a city, and that started from what the citizens showed on their own videos.

La Mandarina de Newton studied the content of the uploaded videos. Transcription technologies were used to study the videos and analyze discourse. A document repository on issues of scientific interest in the city was built as a result.

The received videos, and the data resulting from their analysis were the basis for a dialogue between artists and the curators of the project. It became the starting point for experimenting with the creation of new images, of new interpretations of content or their transposition to other languages.

The collaboration with this group of artists has made possible to compare the research processes of Art and Science. In both cases, research starts from a feeling of curiosity. The comparison revealed surprising connections between the proposals of citizens, scientific principles and the artists' works.

Co-creation as a learning space

Science of the City was designed as a process of meta-design: the participants were invited to articulate their learning and to reflect on how to orient their research in the city, expressing their interests by using new media.

The promoters of this project intend to go well beyond the simple transmission or communication of scientific facts, unleashing collective processes of learning both by experts and novices. Co-Creation processes become a learning space.

In a similar sense, a relevant precedent can be found in a previous project by La Mandarina de Newton, the exhibition "*From contemplation, to participation and beyond*," done in collaboration with the Tech Museum in California. It also explored how to use co-creation to open up to the public processes of learning and collaboration usually reserved to experts. In that project, participants learned to co-curate a technoscientific exhibition, making possible a new relationship with museums and, at the same time, spawning an collaborative process of multidimensional learning. In that case, several prototyping workshops were a starting point to explore new ideas and concepts. Later, they evolved in online virtual collaborative spaces where the design of the modules for the final exhibition were collaboratively produced and refined.

Beyond their first impact on the audience, co-creation projects aim to create a space for reflection in which participants learn to ask their own questions and to guide the whole process towards finding their own answers. Co-Creation is, thus, a learning process.

The exhibition and the entire co-creative process of *Science of the City* is part of an experimental area led by La Mandarina de Newton on processes at the intersection of design, participation, art, science, technology and urban spaces, aimed at generating new actions and research programs.

Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, Obra Social "la Caixa", the Tech Museum of San Jose in California and Paris-Montagne in France, have collaborated on this project.

Science of the City

When: May 8th to May 19th, 2012

Schedule: from 9 am to 8 pm

Where: Centre d'Arts Santa Mònica. C/ Rambla, 7 – 08002 Barcelona

More information: Science of the City / Co-creating Cultures

Press contact

Jordi Carrasco / jordi.carrasco@gmail.com / 680 966 715

Irene Lapuente / ilamandarina@gmail.com / 669 837 586



About la Mandarina de Newton
www.lamandinadenewton.com

La Mandarina de Newton is a company focused on creating innovative cultures in different environments. It mixes disciplines, knowledge and people to promote learning, creativity and critical thinking. It designs and facilitates processes of transformation of individuals, groups, companies and institutions, helping them follow their own self-designed paths. La Mandarina de Newton organizes its activities into two work areas that mutually reinforce themselves: Co-Creating Cultures and Sharing Knowledge (www.co-creating-cultures.com, www.sharingknowledge.es).

About Co-Creating Cultures
www.co-creating-cultures.com

Co-Creating Cultures is a platform dedicated to design, curation, research and implementation of transformation processes in culture, education and organizations. It interconnects methodologies from design and complexity science to create new collaborative strategies, organizational arrangements, processes, services and products. This area focuses on the collective dimension of hybrid learning and organizational design.