



**MEADOWS MUSEUM ANNOUNCES IGNASI ABALLÍ AS
FIRST VISITING ARTIST IN *MAS: MEADOWS/ARCO ARTIST SPOTLIGHT*
PARTNERSHIP**

**Aballí, Who is Representing Spain in the 2022 Venice Biennale,
Will Visit Dallas and Present Work at the Meadows Museum in Early 2022**

DALLAS (SMU)— February 17, 2021— The Meadows Museum, SMU, announced today that Ignasi Aballí (b. 1958) will be the first Spanish artist to visit Dallas and exhibit work at the museum through the *MAS: Meadows/ARCO Artist Spotlight* program.

Established in 2019, *MAS* is a six-year partnership between the Meadows Museum and Fundación ARCO, the guiding organization behind Spain’s premier contemporary art fair, ARCOmadrid. *MAS* selects one contemporary Spanish artist with limited recognition in the U.S. biennially to present his or her work at the Meadows Museum for approximately four months. Aballí, who was recently chosen to represent Spain at the 59th Venice Biennale in 2022, is a conceptual artist whose multimedia work often incorporates unusual materials to challenge the viewer’s perception of reality and poses questions about transience versus permanence. The artist will visit Dallas in early 2022 and present works from his recent series *Palabras Vacías (Empty Words)* (2020) at the Meadows Museum.

“We’re honored to welcome Ignasi Aballí to Dallas and the Meadows Museum, especially as the installation will coincide with the exhibition of his work at the Venice Biennale,” said Mark A. Roglán, the Linda P. and William A. Custard Director of the Meadows Museum. “While Aballí’s visual language is widely recognized and highly lauded in his native country, he has had limited exposure in the United States. We’re thrilled to continue our commitment to bringing Spanish art to audiences in the U.S. by providing a much overdue introduction to Aballí’s work at the Meadows Museum.” He added, “I would also like to thank the members of our selection committee, which included Meadows Museum Advisory Council members Stacey McCord, Jenny Mullen, and Susan Albritton, for their time and efforts.”

The Barcelona-based artist, whose work was the focus of a survey exhibition at Madrid’s Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in 2015–16, uses a wide range of media including painting, photography, video, and installation to visualize the passage of time and question our understanding of permanence. Aballí often uses overlooked or obsolete materials in his work, such as banknotes that have been removed from circulation, dried leaves, or dust. In one of his most famous series, *Luz (Light)* (1993–94), Aballí used sunlight coming into his Barcelona studio to “paint” patterns on cardboard, with the light leaving discolored marks in geometric patterns on the

cardboard over time. In another series, *Listado (Lists)* (1998–2015), the artist cut out words and figures from the newspaper and grouped them into themes, such as death tolls or units of measure, and arranged them into columns, using the text to create images he then photographed. Aballí's work makes the viewer consider these overlooked materials and the questions they can raise about time, perception, and value.

“Fundacion ARCO is really proud to be able to contribute to the international visibility of Spanish artists and is looking forward to developing this project for a long time and with a growing number of artists,” said Maribel López Zambrana, director of Fundación ARCO.

Aballí was chosen for *MAS* after an extensive selection process involving representatives from both Fundación ARCO and the Meadows Museum. Fundación ARCO assembled a Nominating Committee, comprised of two collectors and two directors of institutions dedicated to contemporary art in Spain, who proposed four Spanish contemporary artists as potential participants in the program, and presented a portfolio of the artists' works to the Meadows Museum's Selection Committee. The Meadows Museum's Selection Committee—which included members of the museum's curatorial staff, three collectors from the Meadows Museum Advisory Council, and an esteemed curator from a peer museum—then reviewed the portfolio and selected Aballí as the inaugural artist to participate in the program. The next *MAS* artist will be selected in 2022.

Following the opening his exhibition at the Meadows Museum, Aballí's work will be featured in the Spanish Pavilion at the 59th Venice Biennale, where the artist will present an immersive site-specific installation titled *Corrección (Correction)*. Aballí's architectural intervention will create new spaces within the Spanish Pavilion, transforming the existing space with new rooms, doors, and corridors, some of which will lead to nowhere. The Biennale is currently scheduled to take place in Venice from April 23 to November 28, 2022.

"I want to thank the Meadows Museum and the ARCO Foundation for selecting me to be the first artist in the *Meadows/ARCO Artist Spotlight* program. It will be great to be able to present my works at the Meadows Museum next year and personally meet all of the people linked to the Museum, the University, and the art world in Dallas," said Aballí on the occasion of his selection for *MAS*. "I have never been to Texas, and it will be very exciting for me to visit for the first time. I am looking forward to this adventure!" Funding for this initiative has been provided by the Meadows Museum thanks to a generous gift from The Meadows Foundation.

About the Meadows Museum

The Meadows Museum is the leading U.S. institution focused on the study and presentation of the art of Spain. In 1962, Dallas businessman and philanthropist Algur

H. Meadows donated his private collection of Spanish paintings, as well as funds to start a museum, to Southern Methodist University. The museum opened to the public in 1965, marking the first step in fulfilling Meadows's vision to create "a small Prado for Texas." Today, the Meadows is home to one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Spanish art outside of Spain. The collection spans from the 10th to the 21st centuries and includes medieval objects, Renaissance and Baroque sculptures, and major paintings by Golden Age and modern masters.

About Fundación ARCO

Fundación ARCO, established in 1987, aims to promote the collection, research and dissemination of contemporary art, as well as the publication, training and teaching of artistic trends and techniques, especially those relating to modern manifestations of contemporary art. The brainchild of IFEMA (Institución Ferial de Madrid) and made up of its consortium members— Madrid City Council, Madrid Regional Council, Fundación Montemadrid and the Madrid Chamber of Commerce—it is a structure that complements the informative nature of the International Contemporary Art Fair, ARCOMadrid.

Since its inception, Fundación ARCO has been actively involved in the development of collecting in Spain, modernizing it and opening it up to new possibilities beyond the traditional domestic market. Fundación ARCO has also played a role in the professionalization of collecting by emphasizing the importance of leveraging the knowledge of curators and experts in the collecting process. Under those same premises, its own Colección Fundación ARCO brings together works acquired at each presentation of ARCOMadrid, and has always benefited from the advice of professionals from the art world, including: Edy de Wilde; Gloria Moure; Jan Debbaut; Dan Cameron; Iwona Blazwick; María de Corral; Chus Martínez; Sabine Brietwieser; José Guirao; María Inés Rodríguez; Adriano Pedrosa; Ferrán Barenblit; Miguel von Hafe Pérez; Vincent Honoré; and Manuel Segade, director of the CA2M-Centro de Arte dos de Mayo de Móstoles (Comunidad de Madrid), where the Collection has been on loan since 2012. The Collection, with more than 300 pieces, is an active part of the CA2M program, with works present in different thematic exhibitions.

In addition, throughout the year Fundación ARCO carries out various activities and actions aimed at promoting and strengthening collecting and the local contemporary art market: ARCO Gallery Walks; #mecomprounaobra; First Collectors; Collecting Forum. For more information visit fundacionarco.com.

About Ignasi Aballí

Born in Barcelona in 1958, Aballí has had solo exhibitions of his work in galleries and public institutions, both national and international, since 1990, including shows at Espacio Uno, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (Madrid, 2002); Museu d'Art

Contemporàni de Barcelona (Macba, Barcelona 2005); Fundação Serralves (Porto, Portugal, 2006); IKON Gallery (Birmingham, United Kingdom, 2006), ZKM (Karlsruhe, Germany, 2006); Today Art Museum (Beijing, China, 2009); Artium Museum (Vitoria, Spain, 2012); Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (Madrid, Spain, 2015); Fundación Joan Miró (Barcelona, Spain, 2016); and the Museo de Arte de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Bogotá, Colombia, 2017). In addition to being chosen to represent Spain the 59th Venice Biennale in 2022 he has participated previously in the 52nd Venice Biennale (2007), as well as the Sharjah Biennial 8 (United Arab Emirates, 2007), the XI Sidney Biennial, (1998), the 4th Guangzhou Triennial (2012) and the 13th Cuenca Biennial (Ecuador, 2016). Aballí was awarded the Premio Nacional de Arte Gráfico in 2007 and the Premio Joan Miró in 2015. He continues to live and work in Barcelona and exhibits regularly at the galleries Estrany de la Mota (Barcelona), Elba Benítez (Madrid), Meessen de Clercq (Brussels), Proyecto Paralelo (Mexico City) and Nordenhake (Berlin). For more information visit ignasiaballi.net.

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