21 June - 28 August 2016

# BLACK is BELTZA

# santamònica







# BLACK IS BELTZA

Arts Santa Mònica presents *Black is Beltza*, a draft of Azkuna Zentroa and Fermin Muguruza around the eponymous graphic novel created by the own Muguruza, created in conjunction with the writer Harkaitz Cano and the illustrator Jorge Alderete. The project takes as its starting point the presence of Pamplona's giants at the New York World's Fair in 1965. *Black is Beltza* builds up a story of action and espionage that blends together music, love and revolution.

The exhibition displays part of the material used to put together the story and its most significant images. During the months the exhibition is running, the space will house different activities related to comics, music, film and literature.

Fermin Muguruza's motivation for this project arose when the author discovered a photograph in a newspaper related to a conflict that, paradoxically, resonated with him as both foreign and familiar:

> As soon as I saw the picture taken in New York in 1965, where you can see the Pamplona giants and their entourage, a typical image from the festival of San Fermín, parading down 5th Avenue in New York, and in the caption it says that, because of the race riots, the black giants had been banned from the parade, I knew there was a story there.

Based on that historic fact. Muguruza built up the narrative of Manex Unanue, the main character in our story. Through the eyes of this young man of French Basque origins, we hear the story of the events that left their mark on the tumultuous society of the mid-60s: the racial disturbances after the death of Malcom X. the eccentricities of the personalities who hung out at the legendary Factory, the alliances between the Cuban intelligence apparatus and the Black Panthers in the US, the proto-hippy psychedelia that inundated music festivals at the time, the interplay of interests among spies from both sides during the Cold War, the spirit of Che in the Congo, Algeria and his death in Bolivia, and in our own backvard: the decrepit and drab Francoist dictatorship. An intriguing story that combines fiction and reality; it talks about love, revolution and espionage. Always accompanied by a soundtrack as a backdrop that shows up in a graphic way and transports us to the period.

The exhibition invites viewers on a trip that takes place in parallel to Manex's adventure, through the different countries our main character visited 50 years in earlier. It also compiles material that, directly or indirectly, nourished the different phases of the project: from the photographic archives that helped the author put together the story to the original drawings from the graphic novel or the audiovisual materials that render an account of the sociopolitical and cultural panorama of the time.

There will also be a busy agenda of parallel activities that will be held in the exhibition space, which will help redefine the project in its entirety. They will include talks set to music, led by Muguruza himself, master classes given by different artists, food-related sessions, lectures, etc.

# **Biographies**



### **Harkaitz Cano**

Harkaitz Cano is one of the foremost figures in contemporary Basque literature. His work extends to nearly all genres: short stories, novels, poetry, essays. His most recent publications include the novel *Twist* (2013), the collection of short stories *Circo de invierno* 

(2013), and the book of poems *Compro oro* (2011). He is a regular collaborator with musicians and artists in different disciplines. As a comic book scriptwriter, he has published two books with the illustrator lñaki G. Holgado. His work has been translated into English, Dutch, Italian and Russian, among other languages. www.haritzcano.com



# Fermin Muguruza

Known especially for his extensive musical career: Kortatu in the 80s, Negu Gorriak in the 90s, and then his solo work, over the last 8 years he has also done considerable work in the audiovisual field. In addition to the full-length films *Bass-que* 

Culture, Checkpoint Rock: Songs from Palestina, Zuloak and No More Tour, he also directed the series of eleven documentaries on Arab music, Next Music Station, for the network Al Jazeera. He is currently also the programmer for the music documentary sections of the DocsDF festival in Mexico and the Cine Migrante festival in Argentina. www.muguruzafm.eus



# Jorge Alderete

Jorge Alderete is a designer and illustrator born in Argentine Patagonia, who currently resides in Mexico. His work has been published in different design and illustration anthologies around the world. Affiliated with the rock scene, he has created artwork for more than 100

album covers for bands from different places, including Lost Acapulco, Sonido Gallo Negro and Twin Tones (Mexico), Los Fabulosos Cadillacs and Andrés Calamaro (Argentina), and Los Straitjackets (USA), among many others. He is cofounder and owner of the recording label Isotonic Records, founding partner of Vértigo Galería and author of the books *Yo soy un Don Nadie* (2008), *Sonorama* (2012), and *Otro Yo* (2012). www.jorgealderete.com



# **Muthor's Statement**

As soon as I saw the picture taken in New York in 1965, where you can see the Pamplona giants and their entourage, a typical image from the festival of San Fermín, parading down 5th Avenue in New York, and in the caption it says that, because of the race riots, the black giants had been banned from the parade, I knew there was a story there.

Later, during one of my visits to Cuba, I enjoyed the tale of a secret mission, one of many, told by one of the people involved, about how the Cuban intelligence apparatus at the end of the 1960s, at the height of the Cold War, was ordered on a covert operation to help one of the movements that had gained Cuban support and sympathy: the Black Panthers in the United States. This man told me that, to save an African American militant who, according to counterintelligence reports, was going to be executed by the CIA, they had to enter the country via Mexico, contact him in the US, and to get him back to Cuba where he would be given political



refugee status. On the way back, they had to go through Canada, Algeria, Spain and, once they made it to Madrid, finally to Havana. A typical manoeuver of the era to create confusion and disorientation, so that the different secrete services operating internationally couldn't confirm suspicions of Cuban involvement in the different resistance groups emerging in foreign countries.

The parade in New York, the secret operation originating in Cuba, and the cities that appear in the story with their atmospheres from 1967, all start to twirl and dance around our narrative like the giants and their entourage in Pamplona for the festival of San Fermín: New York and the Velvet Underground, Harlem, Malcolm X, James Brown and Muhammad Ali, Cuba, Fidel, the Orguesta Revé y su Charangón, Mexico and Juan Rulfo, Los Angeles, the Chicano Power movement and Tin Tan, the Monterrey festival, the Montreal Expo and Charles de Gaulle, Algeria and Cheika Rimitti, Madrid and Che, always Che, and hanging over it all, the Vietnam War, the Six-Day War in Israel, the KGB, the CIA and Mossad, the Bolivian guerilla, liberation movements all over the world, psychedelic drugs, sexual liberation and the orgasmic revolution, and above it all, the Otis Redding song: "Respect".



# Arts Santa Mònica

# 21/6/2016 — 7 p.m.

## **Opening of the exhibition** *Black is Beltza* Opening reception with Roc Blackblock and Blackcelona Sound Selectors



**Roc Blackblock:** Roc Blackblock defines himself as an all-terrain illustrator: walls, skin, paper, fabric, digital formats. His background in the different graphic disciplines has been honed and consolidated through urban art. His work is closely linked to social movements

and new ways of understanding the city and its public space. Some of his most notable pieces include the façades of the Youth Center in Roquetes, the Social Center Can Vies, and the Youth Center in Ripollet.



#### Blackcelona Sound Selectors:

Representatives of the Blackcelona collective, for the promotion and performance of the city's black music bands, offer a musical tour

through the best and brightest of black music, on a journey where soul, funk and R&B are the stars in the history of African American music, with a selection of the most important singers and bands who made a name for those musical styles. A musical session presenting the best of black music, intended for the most discerning music fans with an impeccable ear.

# 22/06/2016 — 5 p.m.

# Screening of Invisible Heroes: African Americans in the Spanish Civil War

Presented by Mireia Sentís

Invisible Heroes: African Americans in the Spanish Civil War Director: Alfonso Domingo i Jordi Torrent Year: 2014



The heroic deeds of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade are well known. Made up of 2,800 North Americans, the Lincoln brigade arrived to defend the Spanish Republic in 1936, along with nearly 50,000 volunteer soldiers from 54 countries. Less well known is that 85 of them were African Americans who joined the battle to combat racism and fight for the civil rights denied to them by their own country. This is their story, an unknown page in the history of the United States and Spain. The adventures of a group of invisible heroes who joined a war in a far-off place to fight for their own freedom

**Mireia Sentís:** Writer and journalist. She has written (for a long time, as a New York correspondent) for the most important newspapers in the Spanish state. She is the founder and director of BAAM (African American Library of Madrid), a project that encompasses a public library, and which publishes books by African American authors whose work has never before been translated into Spanish. Recently publications include a selection of texts by Angela Davis.

# 22/06/2016 — 7 p.m.

### **"Black is Beltza", the origin** Conversation with the creators of the graphic novel:

Fermin Muguruza, Dr. Alderete and Harkaitz Cano

# 23/06/2016 — 4:30 p.m.

# Akelarre rap. Dance, Black is Negre Afro-funk dance master class with Makady Jammeh



**Makady Jammeh:** Makady Jammeh is a dancer of African descent, born in Girona. She got involved in breakdancing and dancehall at 16, but was not widely recognized until she was 19, when she was crowned BCN Dancehall Queen 2010. From that time, she has continued to train with master dancers nationally and internationally, while working at festivals and teaching workshops in more than 10 cities

around the country. She is the dancehall champion of the Iberian peninsula and has created her first dance project, called K-Free.

# 23/06/2016 — 7 p.m.

## Akelarre rap. Hip hop is woman

A conversation in song with the rappers Maysa Daw (Palestine), La Basu (EH), Aneguria (EH), BOCAdeBABA (CAT) and Ches (CAT) Moderator: Consol Sàenz



**Maysa Daw:** Maysa Daw is a Palestinian singer-songwriter. She is a member of DAM and Ministry of dub-key. She is currently working on her first solo album. Genres: pop-rock, hip-hop, soul.



**La Basu:** La Basu is the foremost figure in rap in Euskal Herria, with a 20-year career in the hip hop movement. She was the first to found an all-woman band and, together with Aneguria, heads up Eskina Femenina, a project that highlights women's work in order to create new

cultural models. With a successful album called "Aire es vida", she is about to release the first rap album in Euskara recorded by a woman: "Izotz Erregina".



**Aneguria:** Aneguria, alias La Kieta, is a singer from Bilbao whose work branches into different musical styles: rap, ragamuffin, and freestyle, among others, in Euskara, English and Spanish. She is one of the creators of the Eskina Femenina project, which provides visibility for work by women in hip hop culture.







**BOCAdeBABA:** We are Atina and Arid. A pea and a panda who met one day by chance. We rap out of love and agitation, because we needed to at some point – and then our fingers, our voices, and our pencils got used to it.

**Ches:** Remixer, turntabler, DJ. Born in Madrid, of Guinean origins, living in Barcelona. She is able to create energetic hybrid mixtures that combine to perfection hip hop with electronic dance music. Some of her songs and remixes have been played on BBC Radio 1Xtra and EMS Radio.

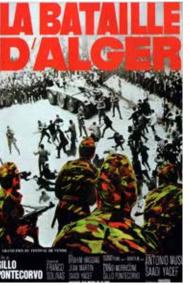
**Consol Sàenz:** She is a journalist specializing in culture, music. After working at a number of municipal free radio stations, such as Radio PICA, she joined RNE Catalunya, where she has directed and presented programs such as *La Taverna del Llop, Pachamama*,

and *Territori Clandesti* on Radio 4. For Radio 3, she has collaborated on *El Ciempiés*, *Diario Pop* and *Desde la Bahía*, among others. She currently directs and presents *El Gran Quilombo*.

# 25/06/2016 — 4:30 p.m.

# The Algerian connection Screening of The Battle of Algiers

*The Battle of Algiers* Director: Gillo Pontecorvo Year: 1966



The Battle of Algiers is one of the most emblematic films in the history of cinema. No doubt. its value is derived from its exceptional quality, but also from the fact that it is the best (the most direct and accessible) testimony of a chapter that played a key role in the history of the Algerian revolution. The film is also one of the most representative testimonies of an anti-colonial revolution, a historic event that has rarely been expressed through cinema – an expression that was, without exception. borrowed, since the emerging nations in the

Third World only had a few cameras among the guerrilla. It is a unique film, shot from above, but also from below.

# 25/06/2016 — 7 p.m.

**The Algerian connection** A musical conversation with Amel Zen, Yacine Belahcene, Madjid Fahem and Joan Garriga





**Amel Zen:** The ethnic pop singer and composer Amel Zen has been universalizing North African music by incorporating modern sounds into its traditional heritage. Her latest song, "Tlata" has spent 10 weeks at number one on the charts of the top radio stations in Algeria.

Yacine Belahcene: Yacine Belahcene is a singer, born of an Algerian father and a Catalan mother. He is currently the singer for Yacine & The Oriental Groove and Rumbamazigha. Previously, he worked with Nour and Cheb Balowski. Born in Padua (Italy), he has always lived between two cultures, connected

by the Mediterranean: the Amazigh and Catalan cultures. From Cheb Balowski to Oriental Groove, he has toured throughout Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, North America and South America. He has also been a collaborator for the RNE program *Músiques clandestines.* 



**Madjid Fahem:** Madjid Fahem came into the public eye as a guitarist for Manu Chao's Radio Bemba and La Ventura, but he has a long musical biography, which began in the Parisian suburbs. Paris was where he grew up and began playing music. At 16 he picked up his dad's old acoustic guitar and began playing with his uncles. He played in different neighborhood bands and later

joined La Kinky Beat and then Manu Chao, with whom he continues to collaborate both on stage and in the recording studio.



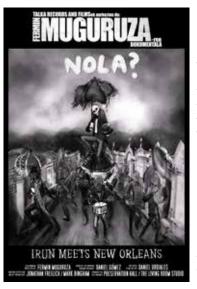
Joan Garriga: In the mid-90s, Joan Garriga founded the band Dusminguet, pioneers in the fusion of rhythms and genres. After its breakup in 2004, he began playing with other musicians and bands, including Amparo Sánchez and Marià Roch. His encounters with the latter led to the creation of La

Troba Kung-Fú. That band marked a turning point in the history of Catalan rumba, because it revealed the permeability of a very local genre, infused with a global vision, highlighting the potential complicities that exist between American and African rhythms.

29/06/2016 — 14:30 p.m.

# *New Orleans is Beltza* Screening of *NOLA*?

NOLA? Director: Fermin Muguruza Year: 2015



Drawn by its charm. Fermin Muguruza went to The Big Easy to record an album, Irun Meets New Orleans and to make a documentary. NOLA?. about the situation 10 vears post-Katrina, All while in the company of the crème de la crème of the local scene: from the historic Preservation Hall Jazz Band to the bounce rapper Katey Red, along with collaborations from Galactic. Dr. John and Trombone Shorty, NOLA? shares some similarities with an episode of Treme: the songs are well integrated, related to what is going on with the main characters. The music

becomes another character in the story. The common thread is WWOZ radio announcer George Ingmire, also a documentary film maker and author of different radio essays on the impact of the hurricane. With his critical and ironic discourse, he alternates the story of recording the album with observations on the status of the situation.

# 29/06/2016 —— 17 p.m.

# New Orleans is Beltza. The Music of New Orleans: From Slavery to OffBeat

A musical conversation with Chrishira Perrier, Jonathan Freilich, Paul Thibodeaux, Ashlin Parker, Robert Walker and Devon Taylor Moderator: Miguel Botella



**Chrishira Perrier**: Chrishira Perrier (Simon) is an artist from New Orleans. She has recently been seen on the Oxygen Network reality show *Fix My Choir*, starring Michelle Williams from Destiny's Child and Deitrick Haddon from Preachers of L.A. She has played the role of Effie White in *Dreamgirls* 

twice and was honored to work with Jennifer Holiday and Jennifer Hudson.



**Jonathan Freilich:** Guitarist and composer, he has been an active part of the New Orleans music scene since his arrival there in 1989. Almost immediately, he found himself as sideman for notable locals. In 1992 he co-founded the New Orleans Klezmer All-Stars, a pioneering klezmer ensemble that infused that music

with the vibrancy and energy of the funk, jazz and brass music of New Orleans. He has had opportunity to play with most of New Orleans' greatest musicians from across all genres. He produced the album by Fermin Muguruza: *Irun meets New Orleans*.



**Paul Thibodeaux:** Paul grew up on the north shore of New Orleans and has been performing regularly around the city since his teens. He has studied with Alvin Batiste, among others. Paul Thibodeaux is not only a performing musician, he is also the owner of the

Thibodeaux School of Music. He has always been innovating with percussion sounds, and he is a blast to watch.



**Ashlin Parker:** Ashlin was born in Charlotte, North Carolina. He started playing trumpet at 10 years old and went on to attend the University of North Carolina School for the Arts as a senior in high school. Ashlin Parker came to New Orleans in 2006. As a member of the New Orleans Jazz

Orchestra, he shared in the 2009 Grammy Award for Best Large Jazz Ensemble for NOJO's album, *Book One*.





**Robert Walker:** He was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana and plays the trombone. He lives in New Orleans and plays in three different bands: Free Spirit Brass Band, Lagniappe Brass Brass, and his own band Street Legends Brass Band.

**Devon Taylor:** DDevon is a really talented young tuba player. He came from Los Angeles to New Orleans and is already playing with Preservation Hall Jazz Band at Preservation Hall.



**Miquel Botella:** As a specialist in North American music, Miquel Botella has collaborated on television programs such as *Sputnik* and *Jazz&Co* for TV3 and is co-author of the book *Antología del country*. He has been managing editor for the magazine *Rockdelux* since 2008. Between 2014 and 2016 he ran the radio show *Ciudad Criolla* for Radio Gladys Palmera.

dedicated to music from New Orleans and Louisiana. It was then transformed into the website ciudadcriolla.com.

# 07/07/2016 — 7 p.m.

# Gora Black Fermin

Parade through the streets of the Gothic town with Maqui the giant and Xaranga Màgic



**Maqui the giant:** Maqui is a giant, created to promote popular culture in Sallent, through an initiative made possible by the general public, as opposed to the public administration. Maqui participates in different nonofficial parades, and anyone can carry him. Sponsored by the Ateneu Popular Rocaus, La Llançadora and El Carrilet, the project was financed entirely by individuals and organizations from Sallent, without any public subsidies. The giant represents the figure of a maqui, in the interest of familiarizing people with the maquis through popular culture.



Xaranga Màgic: Madness, chaos, good humor and non-stop music! Born from the insanity of the Sallent Carnaval, and with five years of experience making people dance through the streets of Catalonia, in the company of Maqui the giant, they shake the ground beneath their feet with wild rhythms and no room for silence.



# **Related activities**

26/05/2016 — 5 p.m.

Sala Casino (Berga)

# Presentation of the graphic novel *Black is Beltza*, the story of some other black giants

Conversation with Fermin Muguruza, Mònica Garcia and Pere Gendrau

**Mònica Garcia:** 30 years old, she is a music teacher and music therapist. After spending years living in Portugal and Argentina, she is now back in Berga where she is a council member for the CUP party on the Berga City Council. She is in charge of the areas of education, sports, ICT, culture, celebrations and Patum. She has been a member of Casal Panxo for 15 years.

**Pere Gendrau:** Pere Gendrau is a journalist from Berga. He is head of the politics section for the e-newspaper *NacióDigital* and author of *L'Estatut: Km 0* and *Carles Campuzano: El patriotisme a peu de carrer.* 

# 17/06/2016 — 7 p.m.

C. S. Can Batlló (Barcelona)

# Talk about Che through the Comic Format: The Construction of a Hero

Opening reception with Fermin Muguruza, Camille Pouzol and Anna Pujol. Co-organized by: La Directa

Che in the Comic Format: The Construction of a Hero. The exhibition is intended to present the construction of a hero and the biography of Ernesto Che Guevara through the study of comic panels from 28 comic strips that form the research corpus for the PhD dissertation by Camille Pouzol: Charisma and the Ninth Art: Ernesto Che Guevara in Drawings, A New Perspective on History. Through the selection of comic panels that represent the major stages in the life of Ernesto Che Guevara, we hope to show the public the heroic dimension of the figure and how comic strips, as an art form, participate in the construction and dissemination of his image and of history.

**Camille Pouzol:** Camille Pouzol is a Spanish professor, currently writing his PhD dissertation at the Sorbonne, University of Paris IV, with the title *Charisma and the Ninth Art: Ernesto Che Guevara in Drawings, A New Perspective on History.* She is a member of the Centre de Recherches Interdisciplinaires sur les Mondes Ibériques Contemporains (CRIMIC). She also wrote the texts and compiled of the drawings for the exhibition, *Che in the Comic Format: The Construction of a Hero.* 

**Anna Pujol**: Born in Berga in 1982, she got involved with social movements at the age of 16 when she discovered the Ateneu Llibertari del Berguedà. There, she realized that there were alternatives to the current social model. Since 2010, she has coordinated the "Expressions" section (cultural content) for *La Directa* and is a member of its collective. She continues to work toward recovering culture's role as, in the words of the great Montserrat Roig: "the most revolutionary political option in the long term".

# 17/06/2016 — 9 p.m.

C. S. Can Batlló (Barcelona)

Opening of the exhibition *Che through the Comic Format: The Construction of a Hero* Music by Say It Loud BCN **Say it Loud BCN:** This project, focused on black music and the entire range of African American culture, was born in 2008. The main activity is a cycle that takes place in the fall, with the presence of international artists, exhibitions, music forums, and the recovery of community events like Reggae Yards or Block Parties... Cultural events are always addressed within their political and social context. The project also dedicates part of its efforts to reclaiming different figures and movements from African American culture.

# 19/06/2016 — 12 p.m.

Ateneu Popular Sa Fera Ferotge (Blanes)

# Situationist conversations, Mediterranean-Atlantiko beltza style

Conversation with Fermin Muguruza, David Fernández and Joni D.

**David Fernández:** He is a social activist, a journalist for *La Directa* and an anarcho-communist. Convicted of refusing military service, he is a member of the cooperative Coop57, a member of Ateneu La Torna, and a supporter of solidarity with the Basque Country. He is the author of *Cròniques del 6* and *Cop de CUP*, among others. Member of the Organization for the Prevention of Torture and Entrepobles, he is also affiliated with the Alternative Inter-Syndicate of Catalonia. From 2012 to 2015 he had a biopolitical episode and, against all odds, became a member of parliament for the CUP party.

**Joni D:** From 1982 to 1996 he worked as a musician, singer, journalist, phonographic editor and promotor (in 1985, at 17, he brought Kortatu to Barcelona for the first time). He founded the promotion company Hace Color in 1997 and

the label Kasba Music in 2004. In late 2010 he published his first book, *Que pagui Pujol! Una crònica punk de la Barcelona dels 80*. He later published a history book, *Grups Autònoms: Una crònica armada de la Transacció democràtica*, and then his first novel, *La Torre de la Serra*.

# **05/07/2016** — 7 p.m. Euskal Etxea (Barcelona)



# 50th anniversary of the Black Panthers Screening of The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution

The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution Director: Stanley Nelson Year: 2015

A documentary written and directed by Stanley Nelson Jr. in 2015. The documentary tells the story of the Black Panthers, combining interviews with living members and FBI agents. The documentary was presented at the Sundance Film Festival and is a

fascinating introduction to the Black Panther movement and to an entire period in history that is still highly relevant.

**09/07/2016** — **11:30 p.m.** Festival Cruïlla (Barcelona)

Concert by Fermin Muguruza & New Orleans Basque Orkestra

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Free entry Tuesday to Saturday, from 11 to 21 h  $\mid$  Sundays and holidays from 11 to 17 h  $\mid$  Closed Monday

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# Arts Santa Mònica

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**Director Jaume Reus** 

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# santamònica



