

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CERAMIC TILE TRIENNIAL (elit-tile 2009/10)

Ceramic art is the technical formulation created by the ancient peoples over six thousand years ago, providing them with a medium to express themselves throughout the ages. The history of ceramics is bound to the history of the peoples who have developed it and its study is linked to the relationships among those who have enabled the advancement of this art form.

In the Dominican Republic the Igeneri Foundation/Art and Archeology has established a broad spectrum of attention, exposure, research, recovery and projection of ceramic art in the world, basically in what pertains to the production of Tile, a small piece/slab of ceramic in which the artist, through both modern and traditional methods and techniques, allows his creativity and sensitivity to flow

The Igeneri Foundation has been organizing the International Ceramic Tile Triennial in the Dominican Republic since 1999, with the aim of encouraging the manufacturing, knowledge (and learning), research and use of ceramic tile as collectable art and to promote its conceptual design among its different and varied uses.

The Fourth International Ceramic Tile Triennial that began in 2009 will conclude in April 2010 with the presentation of awards to the prize-winning works and the *elit-tile 2010* exhibit at the Centro Cultural Eduardo León Jimenes, Centro León, Santiago de los Caballeros.

Collaboration between these two institutions results from a shared approach to the recovery of this technique and its profound cultural and identity content, reflected in the pieces from each of more than 70 participating countries. Centro León will house this great exhibition, made up by works from different countries in Latin America, Europe, Asia and other parts of the world; parallel activities have been scheduled throughout the three months of the exhibition, in connection with this very important artistic and cultural expression.

The *Fourth International Ceramic Tile Triennial elit-tile 2009/2010* is supported by Centro Cultural Eduardo León Jimenes, Fundación Cultural Altos de Chavón, The Tile Heritage Foundation, The Susana de Moya Foundation, Acromax Dominicana and Industrias Aguayo.

CENTRO CULTURAL EDUCARDO LEÓN JIMENES

Located in Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic, Centro León has strived to diffuse and make the best footprints of the past--as well as contemporary--from Dominican Republic, Latin America and the Caribbean known in the country as well as internationally. Under the slogan *a place for encounter, where people come together*, Centro León opened to the public on October 3, 2003. Ever since it has provided visitors a unique and innovative coming together experience, as well as coming together with oneself, which added to its open and participatory nature has turned it into one of the most important cultural centers in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The vision to create this cultural center dates back to 1964, to the first *Eduardo León Jimenes Juried Art Exhibition*. Its promoter, distinguished Dominican entrepreneur Eduardo León Asensio, envisioned the creation of an institution for the conservation and exhibition of the prize-winning works, to be enjoyed by the public at large. The idea was brought to fruition under the leadership of José León Asensio, President of Grupo León Jimenes and CEO of Fundación Eduardo León Jimenes, and a team of experts who undertook project implementation from the drawing board to its realization in a period of almost five years.

The mission of Centro León is to contribute to raising awareness on the character of Dominican identity and the projection of this image abroad, by developing and implementing cultural and educational programs that make use of creativity, identity and the environment as fundamental tools for community development.

Infrastructure

The infrastructure of Centro León has been conceived to provide for spacious areas that will favor an enabling environment to creative, participatory and dynamic activities which in turn will elicit discerning dialogue among interlocutors. The building that houses Centro León is one of great architectural value, surrounded by gardens that are home to a diversity of indigenous plant and bird species, all of which are part of the live collections that belong to its cultural and environmental heritage.

The building's two stories comprise three halls exhibiting the permanent and temporary exhibitions that are described ahead. The gift shop and cafeteria, located on the first floor, are places of frequent encounters; they both open to the Caribbean Patio, from where visitors can access a replica of the La Aurora tobacco factory, founded by Eduardo León Jimenes over 100 years ago. The factory, where visitors can watch the artisanal manufacturing of cigars, houses in its second floor the permanent exhibition *Huella y Memoria*, dedicated to the history of the León Jimenes family.

The building has other spaces that can be used for multiple activities, such as the Activities Room, Creative Workshop and Classrooms for holding seminars, workshops and meetings; in addition there is an Auditorium equipped with a multimedia digital network seating 200 attendees where congresses, conferences and special presentations are held. These spaces are also available for private events.

Centro León has a Mediatheque for consultation and research from a diversity of sources, which houses, among other unique and original pieces, a collection of maps of the island of Hispaniola dating from the 14th Century.

Visual Arts Room

Containing the exhibit *Génesis y Trayectoria* showcasing the most relevant aspects from the last five decades of visual arts history in the Dominican Republic. This exhibit comprises part of the prize-winning works from the Eduardo León Jimenes Juried Art Exhibition as well as other

works of art by Dominican masters.

Anthropology Room

The exhibit *Signos de Identidad* is a fascinating multisensorial tour of Dominican culture and each of its variants, showing the tangible and intangible richness of our national heritage. It is a collection of different moments in time that begins with the origins of the island, following with the evolution of its society and concluding with the confrontation of a present that highlights our *mestizo* heritage and our cultural diversity. Thus, the island and the contrasts that characterize the Caribbean, the biodiversity, the Creole nature and the predominance of present urban culture strongly influenced by migration is represented in the language required by the new museography.

Footprints and Memories: One Century of National Journey (1903-2003) Room

This exhibit commemorates the centennial of the foundation, in 1903, of the La Aurora cigar factory by Eduardo León Jimenes. The pioneering industry gave rise to the great entrepreneurial family of the León Jimenes Conglomerate; for over five consecutive years Grupo León Jimenes has been recognized as the “most admired corporation” not only because it is a leader in the manufacturing and marketing of cigar and beer products and financial services but more important due to its corporate social responsibility programs that promote and advance cultural, educational, artistic, environmental, health and community development projects, with a view to enhancing the quality of life of Dominicans; in other words, it lives up to its slogan: “for a better and greater nation”.

Cultural Offer

Centro León is home to one of the most important biennales in the Dominican Republic for the last 45 years: the Eduardo León Jimenes Juried Art Exhibition. This competition aims at being the driving force for the development of contemporary visual arts, to stimulate Dominican creativity and to make it visible outside of the country. In its 2010 edition, the competition introduces a new format that involves accompanying those creators who have been selected by a jury of renowned experts and curators in the development of their artistic projects.

Centro León holds important exhibits of prominent national and international artists of all times. This production, meeting the highest international standards, has been accomplished thanks to an intensive effort of inter-institutional collaboration with other sister organizations, such as the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection, the Louvre Museum, the Igneri Foundation, the Valencian Institute of Modern Art, MoMA, etc.

The offer of Centro León is innovative and varied, ranging from the biannual international congress *Music, Identity and Culture in the Caribbean*, or the panel *Cross Currents: Modernist Architecture of the Caribbean*, organized jointly with the Museum of Modern Art of New York-MoMA, to the tactile exhibit *Feeling beauty: Beyond sight*, in collaboration with the Louvre Museum and the National Art Gallery of Santo Domingo, especially addressed at individuals with disabilities.

All exhibitions are supported by an extensive educational and sociocultural community development or sociocultural animation program resulting in meetings, both at the institution and elsewhere, that follow the thematic guidelines of habitability, creativity and identity. Such educational and sociocultural animation programs are realized and implemented by the institution, resulting in guided tours throughout the exhibition rooms, creative workshops, seminars, conferences, congresses, courses, get-togethers, debates, film societies, video-cafés, competitions, trips, etc.

Artists, students, families, teachers, researchers, tourists, professionals, community groups, public and private institutions all have the opportunity to interact with the different manners of dissemination and with the important patrimonial heritage that is the visual arts, anthropological and bibliographical collections of Centro León, thus perceiving and realizing their own cognitive and sensorial experience.

General Information

- Open to the public: Tuesday-Sunday from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
- Specialized museum guides in different languages: English, French, German, Creole and Catalan

- Admission: RD\$70 adults, RD\$30 children
- Guided tour, in Spanish (by appointment): RD\$130 p/p
- Guided tour, in other languages (by appointment): RD\$180 p/p
- For additional information please visit our webpage: www.centroleon.org.do

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