

Press release

10 febrero 2009

**Ivorypress launches Art + Books in Madrid**

Art + Books in Madrid is an interdisciplinary arts venue and headquarters for Ivorypress, founded by Dr Elena Ochoa Foster, which unites the traditionally separate worlds of art and books within a series of gallery spaces linked to a specialist bookshop. Housed within a former printing house and garage, the industrial-scaled building has been reinvented by architect Norman Foster with Foster + Partners, as the face of the distinguished publishing house and a unique forum for creative exchange.

Located on the lively Comandante Zorita in central Madrid, the buildings double frontage has been completely glazed, with direct access to the light-filled bookshop at ground level. Devised to create a sense of intimacy and exclusivity, the bookshop interior comprises a warm natural Sevilla stone floor, timber shelving and a slatted timber ceiling. A grand staircase adjacent to the bookshop provides a dramatic entrance to the main exhibition and event spaces below.

The large multifunctional space is designed for exhibitions, conferences and events, with adjacent catering and cloakroom facilities. Leading off the main space is a sequence of rooms, suitable for display, presentation or storage, with generous access facilitating the movement of large objects and sculptures. Conceived to be highly flexible, both display rooms and back of house areas can be used in conjunction with or independently from other areas of the building, with individual entrances. The main exhibition space has an industrial resonance a hard-wearing resin floor is punctuated by the existing concrete columns, which are stripped back to their original finish. Three existing light wells and a new skylight allow natural light to permeate deep into the space.

Notes to editors:

Since 1996, Ivorypress has produced an original series of artists books in close collaboration with leading artists. These have included works by Eduardo Chillida, Richard Long, Anthony Caro, Anish Kapoor, Francis Bacon, Isamu Noguchi, Richard Tuttle, Cai Guo-Quiang. The scale of the books and materials used differ greatly from the conventional book they are exhibited as works of art and published in limited editions using techniques ranging from re-discovered medieval processes to advanced technology.

Ivory Press has also developed and staged a number of exhibitions, including C on Cities for the 2006 Venice Biennial and Blood on Paper at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. In addition to the permanent exhibition of artists books, the gallery plans to stage three main exhibitions a year of work by leading international artists, previously unseen in Spain.

The gallery will launch with a retrospective of the work of Miroslav Tichy, entitled The Essence of Forbidden Photography.

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The bookshop, which opened to the public in December, stocks rare and specialist books, limited editions and out-of-print catalogues alongside Ivorypress publications.

[www.ivorypress.com](http://www.ivorypress.com) for further information

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