



# SOLO Contemporary Profile

**Mission:** SOLO Contemporary is an international arts project based in Madrid (Spain) that aims to foster, support, and share the artwork of today. SOLO Contemporary seeks to generate dialogue and experimentation in the field of art.

## About SOLO Contemporary

SOLO Contemporary is an international art experimental initiative in which more than 50 people are involved. The project, among many other activities, houses a contemporary art collection of more than 1,000 pieces including painting, sculptures, digital art, sound art, and AI art, and over 270 artists such as Neo Rauch, Keiichi Tanaami, Miriam Cahn, KAWS, Amoako Boafo, Kenny Scharf, and Murakami, among others.

SOLO Contemporary is located at Espacio SOLO, a private museum in Madrid, Spain. SOLO opened in 2022 another space, called LeCluf, an exhibition and artistic residence in the north coast of Spain. In 2024 SOLO Contemporary will open a new artistic center of 4,000 sqm dedicated to promoting dialogue, experimentation and innovation in different fields of arts.

SOLO Project is based on our interest in reflecting a hyper-informed and hyperconnected world, where cultural boundaries are blurred, either in terms of their popular or established expression, classic and contemporary, multicultural and local, human and artificial. Our goal is to generate an ecosystem that spreads an artistic conversation to a global and diverse audience, both physical and digital.

Espacio SOLO museum has been awarded the Madrid College of Architects Award in 2018.

## We collaborated with:

UNTITLED,  
ART.

AR  
CO



Sotheby's

NG  
A



SuperRare

MATADERO  
MADRID

Centre  
Pompidou



barbican

## Colección SOLO Press Room

Find out [here](#) SOLO's media impact on our **press room**.



*A wide-ranging creative environment  
based in Espacio SOLO Museum Madrid (Spain)*



**SOLO Contemporary** is an international art experimental initiative in which more than 50 people are involved. The project, among many other activities, houses a **contemporary art collection** of more than 1,000 pieces including painting, sculptures, digital art, sound art, and AI art, and 270 artists (Neo Rauch, Keiichi Tanaami, Miriam Cahn, KAWS, Amoako Boafo, Kenny Scharf, and Murakami, among others). **SOLO Contemporary** is located at **Espacio SOLO**, a private museum in Madrid, Spain; **LeCluf**, another exhibition space at **Cantabria**, the north of Spain, that also functions as an artists' residency; and next year a new venue spreading over more than 4,000sqm will be added to the project **to host new initiatives** besides displaying artworks.

**SOLO Contemporary** is based on our interest in reflecting a hyper-informed and hyper-connected world, where cultural borders are blurred, either in terms of their popular or institutional expression (high and low), classic, and contemporary, multicultural, and local, human, and artificial. Through addressing these themes we can generate **an ecosystem that spreads the artistic conversation to a global and diverse audience**, both physical and digital.

**Website & Social Media links:**

Colección SOLO web: <https://coleccionso.com/>

Colección SOLO Instagram account: [@coleccion\\_solo](https://www.instagram.com/coleccion_solo)

Espacio SOLO Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/espaciosolo>

## SOLO COLLECTION

The collection, which currently holds almost 900 works, and the Espacio SOLO Museum form the pillars of this creative endeavor begun in 2014 by the Spanish entrepreneurs Ana Gervás and David Cantolla.

Colección SOLO, with over 900 works, spotlights the wealth of connections that exist through time and across geographies between different creative, cultural and aesthetic trends.

With holdings that range from figurative painting to kinetic sculpture, from sound art to new media and AI-art, Colección SOLO brings together over 270 artists from an ever-growing diversity of countries and artistic backgrounds.



Established figures are joined by up and coming talents, reflecting the collection's commitment to emerging artists and innovative approaches. AI-art creators such as Mario Klingemann or Egor Kraft, for example, are featured alongside renowned new media artists including Wu Tien-Chang, Lee Nam Lee and Nam June Paik. Figurative paintings by Neo Rauch, Miriam Cahn, Amoako Bofofo, Kenny

Scharf and Danny Fox form part of a dynamic collection which also embraces contemporary sculptures and object art by David Altmejd, Glenda Leon or Nina Saunders, and post-pop creations by international artists including KAWS or Keiichi Tanaami, among others.

[Find out more](#) about Colección SOLO artists.



## SOLO SPACES 1

The collection is based at Espacio SOLO, a museum in Puerta de Alcalá, Madrid, designed by the renowned architect Juan Herreros and winner of the Madrid College of Architects Award in 2018. Labyrinth-like in structure, Espacio SOLO invites visitors to be carried away by their surroundings and the artworks featured in the collection's exhibition programme.

Located in the heart of Madrid, part of the city's "art mile," which takes in the Prado, Reina Sofia and Thyssen-Bornemisza museums, the space was developed in parallel with the collection itself, conceived from the outset as a dynamic and versatile environment.

In addition to the exhibition and activities program, Espacio SOLO also hosts special events with institutions and corporations



## SOLO SPACES 2

In 2024 Colección SOLO will open a new exhibition and creation space in Madrid called CSV, designed by Juan Herreros. 4,000 square metres, the space will be an unprecedented cultural space in the city.

The 4,500 m<sup>2</sup> space will house exhibitions, creation and experimentation spaces, and all kinds of cultural activities that awaken creative dialogue and innovation.





## SOLO ARTISTS PROGRAMM

The SOLO patronage project encompasses numerous initiatives to support artistic and cultural fields. These include commissioned works, international awards, annual grants, publications and tailored artist support programmes.

SOLO backs new media creation through an initiative called Onkaos, offering practical, hands-on assistance to artists such as Mario Klingemann, a global pioneer in the field of AI-art, or the Dutch collective, SMACK.

Among our patronage projects Colección SOLO supports international artists such as Filip Fustic, Koka Nicoladze, Ryan Heshka, Raymond Lemstra, Juan Díaz-Faes, Grip Face, Bnomio or Alex Hug among others.

Colección SOLO constantly pushes experimentation initiatives aiming to generate dialogue and experimentation in the field of art and humanities.

As part of the support for contemporary artists, SOLO also runs two artists residencies; one is in Madrid and the other in the town of Somo, on Spain's northern coast.



## ONKAOS

Onkaos is a contemporary art platform dedicated to the support and development of new media artists. Our main purpose is to understand the needs of both artists and the contemporary art world in order to open new paths, opportunities, and dialogues in traditional spaces alongside emerging digital ones.

Therefore, we embrace a wide variety of roles, including the curation of exhibitions, representation of our artists at international festivals and consolidated institutions, their public communication, the connection with collectors, the creation of awards, the commission of works, and also backing for artistic experimentation.

Since 2018 we have backed artists such as Mario Klingemann, Filip Fustic, Smack, Chino Moya, Koka Nikoladze, Alex Hug, and Juan Diaz-Faes.

Website & Social Media links:

Onkaos web: <https://onkaos.com/>

Onkaos Instagram account: [@onkaos\\_](https://www.instagram.com/onkaos_)

Onkaos Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/onkaos>

## LE CLUF

LeCluf, another exhibition space at Cantabria, the north of Spain, that also functions as an artists' residency and in a cultural spot and a cultural boost for rural areas.

Website & Social Media links:

[@lecluf\\_castanedo](https://www.instagram.com/lecluf_castanedo)



## SOLO PATRONAGE PROJECT

### 1) AWARDS

Furthermore, we decided to take the initiative to create our own international awards in order to encourage and support new artists:

In 2020, we launched '[PowSOLO Awards](#)' in collaboration with **Powland Network Powcademy**, an Amsterdam-based collective dedicated to the promotion of sound art. We aimed to acknowledge and support the best international sound artworks through a first prize and three runners-up. A first prize to '**Best Sound Art**' with a €10.000 cash prize and the opportunity to exhibit the winning artwork at **Espacio SOLO**.

[Enrique del Castillo](#) won the prize with '*Phonotics Readers*'.

In 2023 we launched '[SOLO AI '23 AWARDS](#)', an international contest intended for any type of digital artwork that includes AI as part of the creative process. We'll give the winner €10.000 and the 10 finalists will be eligible to take part in our next group exhibition.

Also, we have collaborated with other institutions to feature **acquisition prizes**:

At **UVNT Art Fair**, an **International New Contemporary Art Fair** based in Madrid, Spain we have given two **Acquisition Awards**, both in 2021 and 2022 to the pieces '[Feiticeira II](#)' by Richard Burton and '15.01.2021' by Iván Forcadel, respectively.

We are providing a '**Colección SOLO Acquisition Prize**' at **Untitled Art** as part of the

**Miami Art Week** during the 11<sup>th</sup> edition December 202.

In 2023 SOLO celebrated an '**Acquisition Prize**' at **ARCO, Spain's International Contemporary Art Fair**, the main contemporary art market in Spain.

## 2) PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

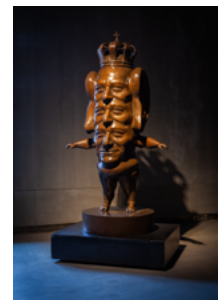
One of the most important and outstanding roles we carry out has to do with ensuring that our artists develop a **consolidated artistic career**. For this reason, we help them to build media presence in traditional international media such as **The New York Times**, the **BBC**, **The Times**, **The Guardian** and **MIT News**, among others. In this way, we manage to give voice to artists and generate conversations about contemporary art among a wider audience.

You can read some of our press releases on our [press room](#) and on our artists' websites.

## 3) PRODUCTION SUPPORT

An integral part of our work in supporting artists has to do with assisting the production of artworks. In line with our interest in contemporary art and its dissemination, we think new opportunities and paths should work alongside an interesting and careful artistic production. Based on our interest in mixing disciplines, **we invite artists to experiment with different media**.

Together with **Smack, Onkaos** has produced not only two panels of **Speculum's** Triptych, '**Eden**', and '**Hell**', but also a bronze statue of Tribe's **King**, one of the characters from their imaginary. We've also put the collective in contact with other artists such as Bnomio, Sergio Mora, and Juan Díaz-Faes to redesign different '**Rock'nRollas**', seductive serpents that initially appeared in the digital artwork '**Speculum**'.



We supported **flip castic** with the creation of artistic wearables, like his '**bolso de pantalla transparente 23:45** [transparent screen bag 23:45]', and '**facemapping**', a piece that allows the use of facial filters in real life.



**Juan Díaz-Faes**, a contemporary artist who usually works with murals, canvas, and ceramics, has developed digital art with us, among which it is worth noting his 'OVO series'. OVOs are characters that result from mixed basic forms, which show the duality of a whole. Díaz-Faes has also enjoyed an **artistic residency**, with our support, in **Castanedo, Cantabria**.



#### 4) LIMITED BY SOLO

Limited by SOLO is a commercial project working with selected ateliers and in close collaboration with our artists. This branch of SOLO looks to benefit creative talents and encourage collecting through the sale of limited editions and exclusive one-off works.

## RESEARCH & CONTENT

As part of our main interest in the professional development of our artists, we strive to generate all kinds of initiatives. This, not only ensures that we reach a multitude of channels but also **deepens the artists' discourse, generating thought** around it. Our research, publication, and content creation work includes all sorts of formats:

### 1) PODCAST

The *Certeza* podcast, by El Extraordinario, aims to examine **the idea of certainty through the voices of the artists themselves, immersed in a sound experience**. Throughout the episodes, we delve into the reflections, personalities, and projects of the artists involved in the exhibition. You can listen to it [here](#).

### 2) TALKS

We've also launched the **SOLO talks**, a series based on themes that call for further examination. During this year, we **invited interesting voices to enrich our space and think about innovative topics** within the contemporary art field:

In May 2022 we held 'SOLO Talks: NFT Collecting'. Hosted by Oscar Hormigos, Manager Director of **ONKAOS**, we invited Ina Hirzel, Senior Product Manager from **SuperRare**; Alexandra Schader, Senior Director of **Sotheby's Spain**, and Raúl Marcos, from **Carbono** to talk about the new opportunities and possible uncertainties that emerge within the NFT art world.

In June 2022, we invited the artistic collective **SMACK**. In 'SOLO Talks: Tribe. Everyone is right'. We reflect on **mass culture, politics, and certainty** by examining the two works of the artists featured in the exhibition: '**Tribe City**' and '**Tribe War**'. Valerio Rocco Lozano, a philosopher and Director of **CBA (Círculo de Bellas Artes de Madrid)**, and Rebekah Rhodes, **Researcher and Publications Director of SOLO Contemporary** talked about truth, the art of being right, and the unique aspects of these pieces of generative digital art including contributions from the artists themselves.



### 3) PUBLICATIONS

As part of '*The Garden of Earthly Delights through the artworks of Colección SOLO*' exhibition, we have published a book that examines the imprint of Bosch throughout the history of art. The pieces in the exhibition become guides for a didactic itinerary on the influence of this masterpiece on contemporary art.

We've also co-published a book on the multidisciplinary artist **Grip Face**: '*Diario Visual Volumen Uno*' with **Cerquone Gallery**. In the intimacy of his mental laboratory, the artist captures the latent images of his time and shapes them under the tutelage of the aesthetic education he has received, generally setting his artistic practice in the public space.



### 4) AUDIOVISUAL CONTENT

In addition, we have also created audiovisual content to enhance and expand the work of our artists. One of our most impressive project involves a **feature-length movie**: '*Todos quieren ser el próximo Weissman*', where an art collector, Martín Solo, prepares a retrospective of his latest discovery: **Mu Pan**, a Taiwanese, Brooklyn-based artist whose fantastical work criticises and reflects on the violence and brutality of society. The film has been selected in many film festivals including **Slamdance Film Festival 2021**, **dart Festival 2021**, and **DocFest 2021**, among others.

We also produce **documentaries** and **interviews** to encourage discussion on artworks like '*Deemona*', by **Chino Moya**; '*pi(x)el*' by Filip Cusic; '*Tribe*' and '*Speculum*' by Smack and several pieces from Mario Klingemann.