# TO KILL OR TO EMBRACE THE MONSTER?

V Open call for Artist Residencies at El Hacedor



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Monsters are omnipresent in society, they are an intrinsic part of our culture and occupy a place in our ways of thinking. From early childhood monsters are shown in drawings, books, games,... by the time we die, they still terrify us with the devil coming to get us. Should we kill the monsters or embrace them?

Monsters form a universe of creatures between animals and men, full of symbolism and values, which can be found in Romanesque churches, rock songs, films, series, plays, books, poetry and art interpretations in a wide scope of appearances. All these, ancient and contemporary, expressions confirm that monsters - or monstrosities - have never ceased to capture the attention of humans, although, obviously, their greatest impact has been in medieval times.

The theme springs from a fascination for the figures hanging from numerous hermitages and churches in La Bureba and Las Merindades (Burgos). There are many interpretations of their symbolism and significance: they were meant to warn, to question, to amuse, to horrify, to distract, to instruct.... their appearances are diverse, there is no "model monster".

Who designed these figures and who decided where and how they were hung on porticoes, towers and walls? Who paid? Were they only to be found in hermitages and churches?

Perhaps there were many more we do not know about as they were created in poorer places, made of less durable materials. Was there a monster factory in medieval times? Who decided which monster was made by whom for which church? Were there calls for artists?



We do invite **contemporary artists** to think and rethink those monsters and the **new monsters** to be designed. What are today's monsters like? Where will we hang them? Who do they represent? Who finances the monster? Why has the monster not lost the interest of humankind? Has it never been killed?

Of course, there are many reasons to kill the monsters: in a secular and reason-based society, there is no need for alien figures to give lessons. They are elements of the past that do not belong to today. Also, they are ugly, scary, threatening, ... Why do we want these monsters having Chat GTP?

Nevertheless, there are also many reasons to embrace them:

for diversion: monsters are creations of human fantasy that provoke joy and fascination. Figures that invite us to distract ourselves, to evade the mind in an alien world, far from reality;

for aesthetic reasons: monsters provoke a debate about beauty and horror (the beauty of horror or the horror of beauty?), and play with emotions between pleasure and fear, sympathy and disgust;

for philosophical reasons: the multiple interpretations of the meanings of different monsters are nourishment for morality, both for believers and atheists. Monsters make one reflect on good and evil, on the self and the other, the plausible and the untrue;

for example.

To respond to this call we ask you to play with the question why we should embrace or kill them. Monsters can be expressed in all artistic languages.

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CALL Embrace or kill the Monster?

In this year 2025 we offer, for the fifth consecutive year, to work in the spaces of El Hacedor, both indoors and outdoors, on the following basis:

#### I.- Participants

Any interested artist may participate in this call in their own name, on behalf of a collective or company.

#### II.- Proposals

The project must be related to the monster, in the line of thought as described in the introduction.

The artists will present a sketch or draft of the exhibition project to be carried out in the interior and/or exterior space of the Hacedor, if selected.

All artistic disciplines are accepted, including sculpture, photography, theatre or dance, as long as they leave a visible stamp in the spaces of El Hacedor.

#### III.- The work

The works produced during the residencies will form part of the exhibition that Imágenes y Palabras organizes in October 2025.

The work produced is the intellectual property of the artist(s), but the work will remain at El Hacedor for at least three years.

#### IV.- Time

The selected artists will be invited to El Hacedor for a stay of fifteen days (travel days excluded). Depending on the complexity of the proposal submitted, this period may be extended.

#### V.- Contribution of El Hacedor

El Hacedor offers a working space, the use of tools and materials of the workshop and residence for the time specified in the present conditions.

The artist has the possibility to present his/her work to the public during the gastro-artistic meetings we organize periodically.

Imágenes y Palabras assumes the costs of the public exhibition presentation.

The selection of a proposal will not entail any other obligation for El Hacedor (especially of economic nature) beyond the cession of the space and the inclusion of the exhibition in its usual channels of publicity.

The contribution of El Hacedor does not include the transport and living expenses of the artists.

The artist will receive a certificate of participation at the end of his/her stay.

The works of all the selected artists will be published on the website: https://apocalipsisrural.com

Before and after the residencies, online meetings will be organised with all the selected artists to share proposals, ideas and reflections.

#### VI.- Presentation of applications

Interested artists should send their application to: hacedor@imagenesypalabras.com

#### Documentation:

- Registration form.
- CV of the artist or group.
- Brief description of the project in a maximum of three pages and three photographs/designs (JPG format) or a video of max. two minutes.
- Any other document considered relevant.
- Indication of availability to carry out the work as indicated in the calendar (inscription form).

#### VII.- Selection of proposals

The selection of proposals will be made by a jury made up of:

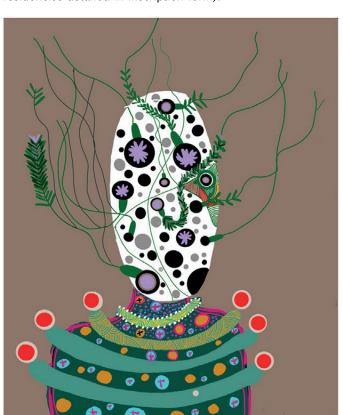
- A representative of Asociación Imágenes y Palabras.
- A representative of Silvestris Festival.
- A representative of the territory.

#### VIII .- Calendar and deadlines

The deadline for submitting projects is April, 10th until 00:00 hours.

The jury's decision will be communicated to all artists who have submitted a project before April, 25th.

The selected artists or collectives will carry out the works at El Hacedor between May and October 2025 (calendar of residencies detailed in inscription form).



#### **WORKING METHOD**

The selected artists meet in time and place during their creative process, with a minimum of two and a maximum of four artists at the same time. Imágenes y Palabras encourages cooperative creation, not being synonymous with joint creation: the results may be individual, but the process of creation is, at least partially, collective.

Prior to their arrival, the artist will be put in contact with the other selected artists. Online meetings with all artists and organizers will be held before, during and after the residencies so everybody can be part of the process from the beginning.

During the stay of the artists there will be moments of reflection, through meetings, walks and small excursions in the surroundings of El Hacedor and La Aldea del Portillo de Busto.











THE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION IMÁGENES Y PALABRAS organizes since 1999 a continuous action related to arts and culture, mainly in the province of Burgos.

In **El Hacedor** we organize exhibitions (collective and individual) of any artistic discipline, presentations of local and international artists, workshops, encounters of groups and any other activity that meet the goals of our association.

IMÁGENES Y PALABRAS RUNS AND MANAGES THE SELF CONSTRUCTED WORKSHOP AND CULTURAL CENTRE EL HACEDOR FROM THE BEGINNING: A HUGE CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY AND WORKSHOPS FOR ARTISTIC PRODUCTION, EQUIPPED WITH A WIDE RANGE OF TOOLS AND MATERIALS. YOU WILL FIND DRAWING AND WORK TABLES, A PRESS FOR ENGRAVINGS, SCREEN PRINTING EQUIPMENT, SEWING MACHINES, TOOLS FOR WORKING WITH CEMENT, IRON OR WOOD, A LIBRARY WITH CATALOGUES, MAGAZINES, ART BOOKS AND A WHOLE LONG ETCETERA.

The works produced in the workshops are exhibited in the gallery or outside in the areas adjacent to El Hacedor.

The association provides a house where the artists can live and relax during their stay.











## V Open call for Artist Residencies at El Hacedor TO KILL OR TO EMBRACE THE MONSTER?

Presentation of projects until April, 10th 2025

Residencies (2 weeks) between May and October 2025

Asociación cultural Imágenes y Palabras - El Hacedor C/Medina, 2 · 09211 La Aldea del Portillo de Busto (Burgos)

https://elhacedor.es

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