

**The Museo Thyssen and Fundación Iberdrola España present
Weaving lives, telling paintings, an Easy Read graphic novel by
Aitor Saraiba**

- A publication that is part of Graphic Novel, a cognitive accessibility project on Easy Reading by the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza's Education Department, with the support of Fundación Iberdrola España



Graphic Novel is a cognitive accessibility project on Easy Reading of an inclusive nature created by the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza's Education Department with the support of Fundación Iberdrola España and the collaboration of AMÁS Fácil (an Easy Reading service offered by Grupo AMÁS). It also benefits from the participation of the Spina bifida Association of Madrid, the Secretariado Gitano Foundation, the Grandes Amigos Foundation, the Paedeia Association for the integration of children and young people, the Latina social support day centre (part of the public network of social support for individuals with mental health problems of the Region of Madrid, managed by Grupo5), and Grupo AMÁS's Municipal occupational centre in Leganés.

Weaving lives, telling paintings by the artist and graphic narrator Aitor Saraiba is constructed from a selection of works in the collection and from the life stories of participants in this project. The texts and drawings arise from the different exercises suggested to participants by the author and his one-to-one interviews with them. The group then approved the result, after which AMÁS validated it for Easy Reading. This has been a networking project that has strengthened the role of the museum as a setting for participation and as an agent for social change. It has involved a focus on researching and developing new narratives based on the museum and its collections and on the creation of accessible material for the general public.

Weaving lives, telling paintings:

<https://www.museothyssen.org/conectathyssen/publicaciones-digitales/tejiendo-vidas-contando-cuadros>

When the state of alarm was declared in Spain due to the health emergency caused by COVID-19, work continued via a Whatsapp group that allowed the project to carry on and for participants to stay in contact while shielding, preventing isolation and allowing for mutual support.

Weaving lives, telling paintings has thus become a multi-dimensional creation: it includes the biographies of participants; it represents a new and different route through the museum's collections, constructing new narratives based on the selected works; it is the work of an artist; the result of a networking project involving different bodies; and it comprises accessible material that is appealing to any reader or visitor to the museum. It is also an example of how the museum can become a setting for respect, participation and tolerance, fulfilling its function as an agent of social cohesion and change; a space in which anyone of whatever origin, age and situation can see themselves reflected and consider themselves a part.

The Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, supported by Fundación Iberdrola España and in pursuance of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, will continue working to improve accessibility to its collection and its contents via the Educational projects and Social Action of its Education Department.

Iberdrola, committed to society

Since its creation Iberdrola has been committed to the development of the communities in which it is present in terms of energy-based, cultural and social development. As such, the Fundación Iberdrola España represents a further step in this commitment through the support and promotion of initiatives that contribute to improving people's quality of life. One of the Foundation's principal areas of action focuses on the care, conservation and promotion of art and culture.