

## PRESS RELEASE

# Kelly vs Kelly

- Having completed the work “Water is Life”, artist Kelly Arrontes has started her second artistic intervention at Barcelona Science Park, “The Origin of Life”, a mural 125 metres long which is expected to take 20 days to finish.
- The artist, who has just 9% of vision and is a member of ONCE, has taken up this new challenge after winning the second PCB Artistic Intervention Competition, a public and anonymous contest held by the park to promote interaction between art and science.

**Barcelona, 14 de December 2018.** Kelly Arrontes has started a new artistic intervention at the [Barcelona Science Park \(PCB\)](#). The mural measuring over 125 metres long will run along the corridor of Floor 0, which connects the Cluster I and Cluster II buildings, where a large number of company laboratories and public research centres come together.

The cell, as the origin of life, is the central theme of the work. “It will be a composition in which my own vision of the eye neurones and cells are represented in two clearly differentiated spaces. The main idea is to make the smallest... the biggest; from miniscule images of electronic microscopy... creating a mural of these dimensions. Due to my sensory peculiarities, I find eye cells very interesting. As for neurons, I am attracted by their plastic versatility, as they are very different from one to the other; they are the most diverse cells in nature. This is the benchmark, but the work may acquire ‘a life of its own’ as the project gets underway... The artistic production has many parallels with the scientific method. Parts of an idea, but each step you take opens up new pathways which can lead, initially, to surprising results”, says Arrontes.

The acrylic-based composition combines paint with the texture and embossments made with tissue paper. “It is the Arrontes signature. All of my works are created to be touched, in solidarity with my collection... I want anyone, regardless of their state of vision, to be able to enjoy them and capture the emotions that I wanted to convey”, reveals the artist who, with 9% vision, is legally blind and a member of ONCE.

The predominant colours are red, yellow and orange in all of their chromatic ranges. Warm colours that contrast with her first mural “Water is Life”, but at the same time, complement it. “When executing this second work I aim to enhance the fusion of the concepts of Art and Science, and create an integral, current and innovative project, just as in biotechnology”, explains the artist.

“The Origin of Life” was the winning proposal of the second Artistic Intervention Competition of Barcelona Science Park by unanimous decision of the judges, composed of different experts from around world in science, communications and the visual arts.

“Art and science, the artist and investigator share values, passions and methodology. We have science of excellence at the park and we work to dedicate more spaces to art. Kelly faces a twofold challenge, reflecting biotechnology through her artistic vision on a wall 125 meters long and exceed herself and the magnificent work “Water is Life”, which she created at the beginning of the year. We have very high expectations that we’re sure she will surpass”, says Maria Terrades, General Director of Barcelona Science Park.

## Art and science by PCB

“The Origin of Life” is the fourth initiative by which the Barcelona Science Park aims to promote interaction between art and science.

In April, Kelly Arrontes completed her first intervention at the park, “[Water is life](#)”, a mural over 125 meters long which runs along the corridor that connects the Cluster I and Cluster II buildings. The work has water as its backbone, faithful to the artist’s expressionist abstract style. The mural’s four parts represent the symbiosis between the different physical-chemical states of water and the artist’s different moods according to the fluctuations of her visual acuity.

In 2014 “[El Jardí del Parc](#)” (The Park’s Garden) was inaugurated as a leisure space for the PCB community in which the artist [Núria Mora](#) recreates a plastic proposal that works with the space’s geometrics and its surroundings, combining the simplicity of abstract shapes and flat volumes with a pallet of colours made by the artist herself.

In 2015, [Anna Taratiel](#), one of the most prominent representatives of the global street art movement, completed her [artistic intervention](#) on a central corridor that connects the Cluster I and Cluster II buildings, a pictorial and avant-garde composition more than 80 metres long, featuring geometric shapes of high visual impact which play with the chromatic saturation to offer unusual perspectives in two or three dimensions.

## ■ About Kelly Arrontes

Kelly Arrontes (<https://www.arrantes-arts.com/>) was born in Valladolid (Spain), where from a very young age she began to paint in spite of visual problems resulting from having been born with severe myopia. In 1987, she enrolled in the Valladolid School of Arts and Crafts, where that same year she won first prize in drawing and painting. After graduating in Fine Arts with honours from the University of Sant Jordi in Barcelona in 2000, she received several awards and participated in numerous group and solo exhibitions in Spain and abroad in cities such as London and New York.

Between 2002 and 2014, severe visual problems impeded this Valladolid native's painting career. She joined ONCE and resumed painting, winning first prize in the 2015 National Art Contest sponsored by Grupo Provital. Her first works were "images reflecting the invented images" of her own mental constructs. She also painted hyper-realistic portraits, which she has gradually given up in order to fully devote herself to enjoying pure abstract work.

In 1990 she participated in the Touring Exhibition of Contemporary European Art in the Americas (Chelsea Gallery in New York and San Diego Gallery in Bogota). Particularly noteworthy amongst her exhibitions were those at the Palau de Congressos de Catalunya (Barcelona 2005) and the Molino events hall (Barcelona 2016). She also held a solo exhibition at the Palau Robert in Barcelona (2014). In 2016, Fundación ONCE selected her to exhibit at the Tifológico Museum in Madrid. She currently lives in Barcelona where she has her studio and promotes her company Arrontes-Arts.

## ■ About the Barcelona Science Park

The Barcelona Science Park ([www.pcb.ub.edu](http://www.pcb.ub.edu)) is a place where university, business and society converge with the mission of promoting ways to enhance research excellence, knowledge transfer and entrepreneurship. Founded by the University of Barcelona in 1997, the PCB was Spain's first science park and is now an international leader in promoting innovation.

The Park, covering a total area of 100,000 m<sup>2</sup>, is a dynamic ecosystem that is home to an innovative community made up of 6 research institutes and more than 100 public and private entities and 2,700 professionals –who work mainly in the emerging fields of life sciences (biomedicine, biotechnology, tecmed, eHealth, etc.)– and offer a wide range of scientific and technical services specifically geared towards supporting R&D. Its facilities are home to a community of more than 2,700 researchers, entrepreneurs, businesspeople and professionals.

The Barcelona Science Park's areas of strategic focus include popularisation activities designed to improve the public's scientific awareness and encourage young people to enter science-related fields. The PCB currently organises more than 100 face-to-face activities as part of its Research in Society programme in which some 5,000 people take part every year.

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### For further information:

**Azucena Berea** • Press Officer • Barcelona Science Park • Tel. +34 93 403 46 62 • [aberea@pcb.ub.cat](mailto:aberea@pcb.ub.cat)