



Soledad (Sole) Gutiérrez

Art History; Assistant Director of SYA Summer in Spain
M.A. University of Barcelona

Born in Barcelona in 1966, I have lived in Zaragoza since 1996. Since completing a Master's in Art History and a post-graduate program in Cultural Management at the University of Barcelona in 1993, I have been working in the professional art world organizing exhibits for contemporary artists. My first foray in this field was in mounting exhibits for artists Manuel Nietro, Beato, and Francis Mean at Gallery 500 in downtown Barcelona. Next, I worked at the Tapies Foundation of Barcelona and with independent curator Rosa Martínez on international projects like *En el espíritu de Fluxus*, *Thinking of you* at the Kontshalle in Goteborg (Suecia), and those of other Spanish artists. Once our family moved to Zaragoza, I worked in the same line of work at the Pablo Serrano Museum, setting up similar shows with local artists like Roberto Coromina, Santiago Gimeno, and others.

I started at SYA as the school's administrative assistant, and in 2002 I began as an Art History and Contemporary Art teacher. I have published articles on Zaragoza artists Martín Durbán and Marín Bagües in the local art magazine *Revista Pasarela de la Artes*. To add breadth to my cultural and artistic understanding of our students, I participated in a teachers' workshop at the MOMA in New York.

I wonder at times why I like art and teaching art so much. It is not an easy question to answer. The more I go the more I discover new aspects and nuances that convince me of the need for and pleasure of this discipline. I understand art as something intrinsically important for grasping the complexity of human nature. It is a clear example of the evolution of the species, but also of its shortcomings. It is at the same time a very free and very regulated form of expression; it is at times visceral and at others purely rational. It is this very ambiguous and complex aspect of the artistic discipline that attracts me most. I definitely consider art a book as yet unfinished in our individual and collective life pattern, whose pages have been emerging in the hands of our predecessors, and with whom we have the duty and pleasure of collaborating.

I have enjoyed working at SYA for 17 years, and am a passionate advocate for the arts. I have led SYA school trips to artistic and cultural landmarks all over Zaragoza, Spain and throughout Paris. Four years ago I created an art elective, *Contemporary Art and its Roots* to help students become more actively involved in the creation of new art.

I am very excited about the summer Adult Enrichment program with you, sharing Zaragoza's, Aragón's and Spain's rich artistic role in contemporary art.