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RANDE: A BRIDGE OVER CAPTAIN NEMO'S HAVEN

25 contemporary looks on the symbol of a mythical place

From September 4th to 14th, 2019

Opening Reception: September 4th, 2019 at 7:00PM

La Nacional - Spanish Benevolent Society, 239W 14th Street, 10011, NY, NY

Open from Monday to Friday 9AM - 3:00PM Afternoons and weekends by appointment.

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Fog 2, de Ricardo Grobas

La Nacional - Spanish Benevolent Society is pleased to present *Rande: A Bridge Over Captain Nemo's Haven*, a photographic exhibition that shows 25 contemporary views on the symbol of a mythical place that is Rande and the Vigo estuary. The exhibition consists of the best images participating in the Autopistas del Atlántico photography prize, convened by Autopistas del Atlántico SA for the first time in 2019.

Rande's bridge was constructed in 1978 over the Vigo estuary, located in the south of Galicia (Spain), has become a reference space in the history of universal literature and music since the thirteenth-century Galician troubadour Martin Codax wrote about the melancholy he felt at contemplate the waves of the sea that formed it. Their songs are in parchments that are part of the collection of the Morgan Library of New York since 1977.

In the nineteenth century a new literary appearance in *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea: Submarine Voyage* by Jules Verne, gave it a mythical dimension that remains to this day. "Right now we are in the same bay of Vigo and it is only up to you to find the mysteries that are enclosed in it." This was announced by Captain Nemos to Professor Aronnax in his Nautilus cabin on February 18th, 1868. He would later tell his prisoner the historic battle of Rande in 1702. A contest that took place on October 23, 1702 and in the that faced less than 20 ships of the Franco-Spanish fleet, which carried the largest shipment ever known of gold, silver and precious stones from the Americas, against that formed by more than 60 ships of English and Dutch.



The recent expansion of the infrastructure carried out between 2016 and 2017 has turned Rande into an engineering milestone, as it is the first extension of a bridged bridge in great light. The Rande Bridge, named in 2019 by the International Bridge and Structural Engineering Association (IABSE) as the second best bridge in the world. In addition, the work has been awarded as a finalist of the Outstanding Structure Award or OSTRAs awards.

Its extension is the first one that takes place in the world on a cable-stayed bridge of great light. The OSTRAs 2019 joins the ITS 2019 Prize awarded in April in Madrid, and the Segovia Aqueduct Award, for its respect for the environment during the works. The IABSE and OSTRAs Awards for Best Structure have recognized since 1998 the most outstanding works worldwide and that stand out for their uniqueness, innovation and respect for the environment. Valuations are granted by engineers and scientists from 100 countries. The IABSE OSTRAs 2019 awards have been delivered on September 4 in New York. The extension works of the Rande Bridge were carried out completely from the sea with systems designed specifically for its characteristics and maintaining the traffic and activity of the infrastructure. The works were carried out during 16 months (August 2016-December 2017), with an investment of 191.6 million euros, fully assumed by Autopistas del Atlántico SA

On the occasion of this award, Autopistas del Atlántico (Audasa), a company that manages the highway that crosses the bridge and financed the expansion of the bridge, launched a photo contest. The 25 works that are shown in the La Nacional room are those selected from the participants, of which the winners have been awarded *Niebla*, by Ricardo Grobas, and *Crossing the Estuary*, by Álvaro Rodríguez. 25 readings of a historical and mythical place for literature, music and art and, now, also for engineering.

Exhibition organized by Audasa, Autopistas del Atlántico SA, in collaboration with Noelia Lecue, curator of La Nacional - Spanish Benevolent Society, the oldest Spanish cultural entity in the New York City and the Spanish heart in Manhattan.

