

2ND CATALAN PHOTOGRAPHY CONFERENCE

SCAN

PHOTOGRAPHY
EVENT

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17, 18 and 19 April 2008

Facultat de Ciències Jurídiques. Rovira i Virgili University (URV)
Avinguda Catalunya, 35. Tarragona

Organised by: Catalan Ministry of Culture and the Media in
collaboration with Rovira i Virgili University

Project director: Pep Benlloch, lecturer at the Polytechnic University
of Valencia, director of the Master in Projects course at the Escola
Elisava, gallery director

Overall coordinator: Anna Garcia Munàrriz, Independent Cultural
Promotion Unit, Catalan Ministry of Culture and the Media

URV Coordinator: José Carlos Suárez, lecturer at the URV, director
of the Film Class at the URV

In 1980 the 1st Catalan Photography Conference was held at the
Joan Miró Foundation, organised by a group of people linked to
different areas of photography who later helped launch Photography
Spring. This first conference also led to a related publication.

The 2nd Catalan Photography Conference has joined forces with
SCAN to create a space for ongoing reflection on the state of
photography in Catalonia in different areas of analysis: heritage and
collecting, research, teaching, creating, promotion and criticism,
documentary photography, photojournalism, and the impact of new
technologies. This conference is also the starting point for future
specialist studies.

Following a congressional structure, the conference comprises six
tables dedicated to different areas. The members of each table have
prepared a study on the area in question and will present their
findings during the conference. At the public presentation, the
findings will be read by the representative of each table. In some
cases, this presentation will take the form of a summary of the
proceedings.

Each table will include a guest speaker, who will give a talk on the
subject in question.

Papers for each of the tables can be sent during February and March
2008. The authors of the selected talks will have 5 minutes to present
them on the corresponding day.

The talks and conclusions from each table, presentations, papers
and debates will be published in the record of the proceedings of the
2nd Photography Conference.

OPENING EVENT, THURSDAY 17 APRIL AT 10.30 AM

TABLE 1 DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY AND PHOTOJOURNALISM

Thursday 17 April, 11.00 am to 12.30 pm

Coordinator: **Claudi Carreras**, photographer, fine art graduate and lecturer in photography in the Design and Image Department at the University of Barcelona

Pepe Baeza, graphics editor of *Magazine (La Vanguardia)* and columnist

Sandra Balsells, photojournalist and lecturer at the Blanquerna Communication Department

Consuelo Bautista, photographer, member of the Barcelona Centre for Documentary Photography, lafotobcn, winner of the 2007 City of Barcelona Award in fine arts

Héctor Mediavilla, photographer and cofounder of the Pandora agency

Sílvia Omedes, cultural manager, founder of Photographic Social Vision

Guest speaker

Thursday 17 April, 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm

Patricia Mendoza, director of the Graphic Arts Institute in Oaxaca (IAGO), Mexico

Photojournalism and documentary photography have been undergoing a process of redefining themselves to adapt to a new media situation. The technological revolution of recent years has played a key role in rethinking these roles and affects visual-communication professionals in particular.

Paradoxically, at a time when more photographs are being taken than ever and when the image plays a key role in our culture, it is increasingly difficult to access high-quality photography content through traditional viewing means. The saturation of images, the trivialisation of information by communication monopolies and the deconstruction of photographic genres are some examples that are shaking the foundations of this area.

Faced with this situation, professionals are forced to create new models of representation and promotion for their productions, which raises the following questions:

What kinds of models need to be created?

How can we reformulate a commitment to political and social realities within contemporary documentary-making?

How can we adapt to the new technological possibilities for creation and promotion?

How should we create sustainable independent models to enable documentary-makers to carry out their work?

What role should public administrations play with respect to a profession that helps shape the country's historical memory?

What contemporary space is there for promoting documentary photography?

TABLE 2
PHOTOGRAPHIC HERITAGE UNDER DEBATE

Friday 18 April, 10.00 am to 11.30 am

Coordinator: **David Balsells**, chief photography curator at the MNAC

Sílvia Domènech, art and history expert at Barcelona City Council
Merche Fernández, expert in the area of images at the National
Archive of Catalonia

Pepe Font de Mora, director of the Colectania Foundation,
Barcelona

Jorge Ribalta, photographer and critic

Guest speaker

Friday 18 April, midday to 1.00 pm

Quentin Bajac, photography curator at the Musée National d'Art
Moderne. Centre Pompidou, Paris

Photographic heritage in Catalonia is currently going through a somewhat uncertain period, probably due to the lack of global references usually found in other countries. At the end of the 1990s, after the White Paper on Photographic Heritage in Catalonia was published, some institutions re-orientated their approach towards creating photography collections.

Now there is a need for a fresh analysis of the situation and to incorporate new approaches to give effective solutions.

TABLE 3
RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS AND PROMOTION

Friday 18 April, 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm

Coordinator: **Jorge Blasco**, director of the project Archive Cultures

Carles Guerra, artist, art critic, curator and associate lecturer in contemporary art at Pompeu Fabra University

Juan José Lahuerta, lecturer in art history and architecture at the School of Architecture of Barcelona

Juan Naranjo, researcher in areas related to the history of photography, exhibition curator

Carmelo Vega, lecturer in art history at La Laguna University, author of several books on the history of photography

Guest speaker

Friday 18 April, 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm

Hilde Van Gelder, lecturer in the history of modern and contemporary art at the Lieven Gevaert Research Centre for Photography and Visual Studies (LGC)

The practical nonexistence of photography research groups, on either the historical or theoretical side, is the main reason why there are practically no original publications on this subject in Spain. One of the central causes is the lack of a specific area of knowledge about photography at universities and the total absence of any specialised institutions (museums, study centres or photo-libraries) to promote research and publish and disseminate results.

In the context of a photography exhibition, art criticism often lacks a way to contextualise work and is generally unaware of the referents concerning the author. As a result, there are very few interesting texts on the exhibitions held.

TABLE 4

PHOTOGRAPHY AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Saturday 19 April, 10.00 am to 11.30 am

Coordinator: **Pere Freixa**, lecturer in photography and digital image at Pompeu Fabra University

Joan Fontcuberta, photographer and lecturer

Enric Galve, president of Sonimagfoto and manager of EGM Laboratoris Color

Carles Mitjà, lecturer in image technology at the CITM at the UPC

Roc Parés, artist and lecturer at the UPF

Guest speakers

Friday 18 April, 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm

Derrick de Kerckhove, Director of the McLuhan Programme in Culture and Technology at the University of Toronto

Saturday 19 April, 11.45 am to 12.45 pm

Kamal Munir, Senior Lecturer at the Judge Business School, University of Cambridge

As the overhyped debate on analogue versus digital photography still drags on, it is time to raise our sights and start to imagine what the next horizon will be. What awaits us after digital photography? What will images be like? And, most importantly of all, why and how will we use them?

This table aims to speculate prospectively and critically on the future of photography and the stages on which it will be played out.

TABLE 5
THE MARKET AND COLLECTING

Saturday 19 April, 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm

Coordinators: **Pepe Font de Mora** and **Irene Mendoza**, director and artistic co-director, respectively, at the Colectania Foundation, Barcelona

Emilio Álvarez, director of Galeria dels Àngels, Barcelona

Jordi Bernadó, photographer

Chantal Grande, president of Fundació Forvm per a la fotografia

Rafael Tous, collector

Guest speaker

Saturday 19 April, 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm

Michel Auer, collector, Switzerland

The photography market has expanded rapidly in recent years. As in the case of new media, many galleries and artists have opted for this technique as a paradigm of a new artistic language. However, the bustling international market is not reflected in Catalonia. And the problems experienced by the photography market are very similar to those experienced by contemporary art: collecting is often very local and underdeveloped. This table aims to take a look at the changes in the market in recent decades and consider the current situation, with particular emphasis on three key figures: the photographer, the gallery director and the collector.

TABLE 6
PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS. CURRENT STATE AND ALTERNATIVES

Saturday 19 April, 5.15 pm to 6.45 pm

Coordinator: **Pep Benlloch**, lecturer at the Polytechnic University of Valencia, director of the Master in Projects course at the Escola Elisava, gallery director

José Carlos Suárez, lecturer at the URV, director of the Film Class at the URV

M^a Dolors Tapias, photography and cinema lecturer in the Fine Art Department at the University of Barcelona, director of the Design and Image Department at the University of Barcelona

Dr Laura Terré Alonso, president of the Barcelona Centre for Documentary Photography, lafotobcn; secondary-education official; Head of Art at the Dolores Mallafrè i Ros secondary school in Vilanova i la Geltrú

Juan Urríos, photography lecturer at Serra i Abella Art and Design School in Hospitalet de Llobregat

Guest speaker

Saturday 19 April, 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm

David Company, photography lecturer at the University of Westminster, London

The education and training currently on offer in the field of photography at our universities leaves much to be desired, despite the fact that there is plenty of supply in the market of photographic work. This apparent contradiction can only be explained through the dynamic of Spanish artists imitating their foreign colleagues.

The most elementary knowledge on images should be taught in the basic cycles of the education system with particular emphasis in secondary education so that Spanish universities can take on an area of knowledge about photography. This would mean students on all courses could take optional or free elective photography credits, and that fine art and history students could develop highly specialised areas.

CLOSING EVENT, 19 APRIL AT 8 PM

All opinions expressed by participants are their own personal opinions and in no way should be taken to represent those of the institutions where they work.

General information and times

<http://scan.gencat.cat>

Non-academic information and registration

Free entry. Registration necessary. Limited places.

<http://scan.gencat.cat>

inscripcionescan@gmail.com

Academic information and registration

Free elective credits

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