

Exhibition 28 May 2014 – 5 January 2015
Sabatini Building, 4th floor

photobooks

Spain 1905–1977



Palabra e Imagen (Word and Image). Barcelona: Lumen, 1961–1975. Collection of the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (Library and Documentation Center).

photobooks. Spain 1905–1977 is a history of Spanish photography through a selection of its best photobooks, many of them little known. The result of research conducted on photobooks by the Museum's Department of Collections, which has also led to the acquisition of a collection of the most representative examples, this exhibition offers a new perspective on Spanish photography during its most important period. The authors include photographers like Luis Acosta Moro, Alfonso, Jalón Ángel, Antonio Cánovas, Robert Capa, Francesc Català-Roca, Colita, Joan Colom, José Compte, Salvador Costa, Ramón Masats, Xavier Miserachs, Misiones Pedagógicas, Fernando Nuño, Francisco Ontañón, José Ortiz Echagüe, Joaquín del Palacio, Enrique Palazuelo and Leopoldo Pomés.

photobooks probes the broad and suggestive relationships between photography, publishing, design and literature, popular art and culture, history and politics, and public and private life. In the pages of these photobooks is a plural history of the profound transformation of Spanish society. Thanks to the collective work of photographers, publishers, designers and writers, the themes presented in *photobooks* include the image of woman, seen from perspectives as different as the submission to patriarchal culture in the works of Cánovas and Compte and the militant feminism of Colita. Another major topic is the representation of the Spanish Civil War from both sides, with books like *Madrid*, which deals with the victims of the bombings during the siege of the capital, contrasting with Jalón Ángel's portraits of soldiers on the side of the uprising. The war is followed by the sadness and harshness of the dictatorship, shown in photobooks by Joaquín del Palacio and Alfonso.

The relationship between photography and literature emerges throughout the exhibition, starting with the book by Cánovas mentioned above. From the period of the Civil War, special attention is merited by the photobooks of Antonio Machado, Miguel Hernández and Arturo Barea. In the sixties, the Lumen publishing house brought out the "Palabra e Imagen" (Word and Image) collection, designed by Oscar Tusquets, with extraordinary contributions by writers like Aldecoa, Cela, Delibes, Vargas Llosa and Caballero Bonald, and photographers like Masats, Maspons, Miserachs and Colita. One outstanding work in this section is *Nuevas escenas madrilenas* (New Scenes of Madrid), with photos by Enrique Palazuelo.

Urban culture is also present in the photobooks of Alfonso, Català-Roca, Miserachs and Ontañón. Mention should be made too of the books on the end of the dictatorship by Nuño and the Diorama and FotoFAD teams, which show the gradual disappearance of the old identifying features of Spanish society under the influence of tourism and the global economy.

Apart from displaying some photographs autonomously, the show also features systems that allow visitors to view the plural content of each work exhibited, since it is in the work as a whole, as a coherent sequence of images, that the true entity of the photobook resides.

Related activities

Books that are photos, photos that are books

Exhibition December 17, 2013 - September 2014

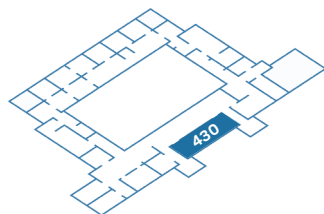
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Space D, Floor 0

This exhibition has been organized by the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in collaboration with AC/E

Sabatini building

4th floor, room 430



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Opening hours

Monday to Saturday

and bank holidays

from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Sundays

from 10:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

complete Museum visit,

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visit to Collection 1 and a

temporary exhibition

(check Website)

Closed on Tuesdays

Visitors are kindly asked to clear the galleries 15 minutes before closing

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