

PHOTOBOOK PHENOMENON



Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona – From 18/03/17 to 27/08/17
Fundació Foto Colectania – From 18/03/17 to 25/06/17

Press conference: Friday March, 10:30 at Foto Colectania / 12:30 at the CCCB
Opening: Friday 17 March, 18:30 at the CCCB / 20:00 at Foto Colectania

In an exceptional collaboration, the **Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB)** and **Fundació Foto Colectania** present the exhibition **Photobook Phenomenon**, which will run simultaneously at these two Barcelona venues: from 18 March to 27 August 2017 at the CCCB, and from 18 March to 25 June 2017 at the new headquarters of Fundació Foto Colectania.

Photobook Phenomenon is an exhibition that reclaims the role of the photobook in contemporary visual culture, at the same time proposing a reinterpretation of the history of photography by focusing on the role of the photobook and of printed photographs.

The exhibition is a kaleidoscopic view of nine international curators who present seven different sections that create a dialogue to give us the broadest possible idea of what a photobook is. It also involves international and local artists, collectives, publishers, specialists and booksellers.

The contents of *Photobook Phenomenon* range from the photobooks of **Rodchenko**, **William Klein** and **Robert Frank** to **Japanese photobooks**, pioneers in the phenomenon. Photographer **Martin Parr** will be presenting the best copies from his own collection. A section devoted to **photobooks of protest and propaganda** brings together more radical designs. **Manuel Álvarez Bravo**, **Gabriel Cualladó** and **Henri Cartier-Bresson** are other of the names present in the show, alongside the latest offerings from **renowned contemporary artists**

who bring authentic vision to the medium, such as **Laia Abril** and **Vivian Sassen**, with an illustration of the processes of creating a photobook.

The exhibition **Photobook Phenomenon** presents new viewpoints of the importance and the impact of the photobook on the visual culture of our times, tracing a path that leads from its beginnings to contemporary production.

A photobook is a work in itself. A book in which photographs construct the narrative and respond to an original concept. A choral work involving design, graphics and typography, the sequence of the images, the maquette and the text—that is, a series of qualities of concept and the material nature of the object. Recent years have seen a period of great expansion for photobooks, which now occupy a central position in contemporary photography. Today, more books are produced than ever; they are bought and sold, swapped and collected, and now, at the peak of the digital era, we are seeing a return to the printed object. For many artists, this format is not just a useful means for showing their photographs, but also the perfect space for experimentation and creativity.

Photobook Phenomenon offers a kaleidoscopic overview and a dialogue of perspectives of the photobook. The curators chosen to create the exhibition are **Martin Parr**, **Gerry Badger**, **Markus Schaden**, **Frederic Lezmi**, **Horacio Fernández**, **Ryuichi Kaneko**, **Erik Kessels**, **Irene de Mendoza**, and **Moritz Neumüller**, who acts as executive curator. The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue with texts by the curators and the expert **Lesley A. Martin**, who contributes a taxonomy of the contemporary photobook.

Organized into **seven thematic sections**, the exhibition starts with the best photobooks according to Martin Parr and continues with a selection of books of protest and propaganda. Section three examines William Klein's New York, a seminal work in the history of the photobook. The Library as Museum interweaves the books and photographs of three pioneers in promoting the photobook: Álvarez Bravo, Cualladó and Cartier-Bresson. Section five is given over to the Japanese photobook and the sixth presents an installation by Erik Kessels. The last section offers a collection of the best photobooks of 2015 and 2016, and seven projects by seven contemporary artists.

The exhibition also addresses the challenge of exhibiting a photobook, using various interactive systems to explore and “experience” the book and the photograph from very differing viewpoints.

Photobook Phenomenon is the product of an exceptional collaboration between the CCCB and Fundació Foto Colectania, and will run simultaneously at these two venues in the city: from 18 March to 27 August 2017 at the CCCB, and from 18 March to 25 June 2017 at the new headquarters of Fundació Foto Colectania. Foto Colectania will be presenting the sections curated by Martin Parr and Horacio Fernández, and the CCCB hosts the other five.

During the exhibition, a series of activities will be organised to explore the phenomenon of the photobook, involving international and local specialists and creators.

Organisers: CCCB and Fundació Foto Colectania

Collaborating media: La Vanguardia

More information and graphic material

<http://www.cccb.org/ca/connecta/premsa/fenomen-fotollibre/225695>