

The Formentera Office of Tourism reports that the ninth edition of Formentera Fotogràfica, the local photography festival initially scheduled to take place in May, **will be held 8–12 October 2021** .

Cristina de Middel, Miss Beige, Sofía Moro and Fernando Maquieira will share the stage on Formentera with other leading figures of contemporary photography and visual culture. Organisers announced the names of six of the festival's speakers today and said additional details about the programme, registration period, prices and promotions, including resident discounts, would come in the days ahead.

Consell de Formentera premiere and tourism chief Alejandra Ferrer hailed "another year of visits from brilliant professionals and photography enthusiasts revelling in the island's unbeatable backdrop for photos".

Speakers

Spanish photographer **Cristina De Middel** has been an associate of the Magnum agency since 2017. She investigates photography's ambiguous relationship with truth and questions the stereotypes that lead to a blurring of the line between reality and fiction. After 10 years as a photojournalist and humanitarian photographer, De Middel published the acclaimed *The Afronauts* in 2012, following the series with more than 13 projects and publications and winning accolades like the ICP's Infinity Award in 2012 (New York City) and the National Photography Award in 2017. De Middel's work has been shown in over 50 exhibitions internationally and features in collections such as the Tate Modern and the National Gallery of Victoria.

Ana Esmith is a journalist, performer and Instagram artist known by the pseudonym **Miss Beige** . The Madrid native studied drama in London, where she lived and worked in stage productions as a creator and director for over 15 years. With Miss Beige, Esmith's years in journalism and art find a new outlet in performance, her first exploration of non-verbal work. Rituals of appearance, aesthetics of artifice and reflection on gender form part of the conceptual background as the artist liberates the image of femininity understood as a cultural construction based on arbitrary conventions, imposed over the centuries.

Freelance photographer **Sofía Moro** specialises in editorial portraiture. She contributes regularly to Vanity Fair and El País Semanal magazines, where she has published over a hundred portraits and more than 20 cover stories. Other more personal projects centre on human rights, such as the book *¿Quién merece morir?* (2018) and the exhibition *Cuidadoras* (PhotoEspaña 2020). In 2010 she won first prize for portraiture in the Foto-Nikon contest, and in 2019 she was named finalist in the international LensCulture Portrait Awards.

Fernando Maquieira is a Spanish musician and photographer specialising in art and architecture photography. His many publications include the *Guía Nocturna de Museos*, which offers a new look at museums under the influence of night and the absence of light. Maquieira built 2018's breakthrough *Alucinosis* around rediscovered travel slides which years in cardboard boxes had left caked in mould and bacteria. In 2019, *Alucinosis*'s colours, psychedelic shapes and built-in study of chance and time's passage could be seen at the Revela't festival.

Jon Cazenave is an economist and visual artist. He sees photography as an intimate exercise in anthropology and enlists his personal language of ancestral signs and symbols in contemporary creation. Cazenave is an austere, silent, intense and synthetic author, and follows a quest for knowledge based on introspective questioning in an effort to better understand broader contexts. After thirteen years of preparation, Cazenave's Galerna was published in 2020 by the iconic publishing house Éditions Xavier Barral i Dalpine.

The professional endeavours of **Gloria Oyarzabal** are split between film, photography and education. A visual artist, photographer, fine arts graduate, programmer and co-founder of the Madrid arthouse cinema La Enana Marrón (1999-2009), Oyarzabal used a three-year sojourn in Mali to hone her study of the African imaginary, processes of colonisation/decolonisation, new colonialisms and the diverse voices around African feminisms. In 2017, the artistic residency "Ranchito Matadero Nigeria" between South Africa and Madrid and "Art House Foundation Lagos" in Nigeria helped Oyarzabal advance her research on the colonising of the concept of woman. Of the many awards she has received, the Aperture Paris Photo's Best Photobook of the Year (2020) stands out.

Formentera Fotogràfica is "*fotografia en família*". Great names in contemporary photography piloting intimate hands-on and theory-based sessions in the service of knowledge, reflection and collective creation. An invitation to professionals, students and image enthusiasts to exchange experiences face to face with a varied group of industry players against the incomparable backdrop of Formentera.

Since 2013, Formentera Fotogràfica has welcomed 75 leading photographers such as Alberto García Alix, Martin Parr, Joan Fontcuberta, Isabel Muñoz, Donna Ferrato, Eugenio Recuenco, Chema Madoz, Joana Biarnés, Colita, Manuel Outumuro, Samuel Aranda, Gervasio Sánchez, Antoine d'Agata, Manel Esclusa, Tino Soriano, Carlos Pérez Siquier and Cristina García Rodero.

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