

DIALECTICAL IMAGES

**Conversations
and screenings
on contemporary
photography**



**2/3
MARCH**

**Organised by:
MASASAM &
FRENCH INSTITUTE OF MADRID**

**Supported by:
AIR FRANCE**

DIALECTICAL IMAGES

Conversations and Screenings on Contemporary Photography

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Curated by **Masasam** and produced by the **French Institute of Madrid**

Dialectical Images

Conversations & Screenings on Contemporary Photography

in Madrid, from *Monday 2nd of March to Tuesday 3rd of March 2015*

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

DATES:

From Monday 2nd of March to Tuesday 3rd of March 2015

Monday 2 March

7:30 pm - 8 pm Opening presentation

7.30 pm - 9.00 pm

Conversation 1- The Photographer Today: A Collector of Fragments.

François Cheval & Martí Llorens

Tuesday 3 March

6:30 pm- 8 pm

Conversation 2- The Collective as Model

Juan Valbuena & Olivier Culmann

8 pm- 9.30 pm

Conversation 3 - The Projection of Image

Guillaume Chamahian, Nicolas Havette & Marta Dahó

LOCATION:

French Institute of Madrid // Calle Marqués de la Ensenada, 12

ORGANISED BY:

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PRESS RELEASE

A dialectical image is “when present and past illuminate one another in a “constellation” with the Now. In other terms, images are dialectics at a standstill.”

Walter Benjamin

Our main aim is to use the German philosopher’s concept not so much as a method for historical research but by recovering some of his practices and thus avoiding superficial models of analysis in favour of dynamic thought processes. This concept allows us to juxtapose fragments at the same time as establishing correspondences between diverse elements, thus obtaining a non-synthetic image. One that is capable of envisaging links through time, where past and present interact with one another.

Our objective is to encourage a dialectical exercise from several dialogues that reflect upon current photographic practice. Words and images will be woven in a “constellation” of conversations.

These dialogues, considered as dialectical spaces, will revolve around three topics that position, introduce and revise the very latest trends in international photography.

The first dialogue will deal with the figure of the photographer as a collector of fragments. We would like to question the role of the photographer today. Confronted by the growing saturation in image production, there are increasingly more photographers that prefer to work with found images and/or anonymous images. Their intention is to gather and juxtapose fragments from diverse stories to endow them with new meanings. We are interested not only in, as Joan Fontcuberta refers to, “the post-photographer as collector and junkman”, but also the idea of collecting and the inevitable limits of the photography medium.

In a second conversation, we will address the context in which contemporary photographers work in. The new tendency to work collectively and to look for collaborations makes us question how and why the collective is becoming a work model. Does it arise for mere survival or is it a strategy for the future?

The last topic of discussion will concern the projection of images, which entails a debate on the crisis of the exhibition format. Experimenting with new forms of presentation seems to be overdue homework for many art centres and museums. Even more urgent is the obvious need to establish efficient online networks. The proliferation of photography festivals around the world makes us contest their relevance and role. Have festivals become the ideal platforms to show and comprehend photography?

Each of these topics will be developed in three conversations between two photography specialists. Each dialogue will be introduced by a selection of short photography films that deal with the ideas and concepts to be discussed.

**Masasam.
Sandra Maunac & Mónica Santos**

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SPEAKERS

FRANÇOIS CHEVAL

Curator and Director of the Nicéphore-Niépce Museum in Chalon-sur-Saône since 1996.

www.museeniepce.com/index.php/infos/Edito

MARTÍ LLORENS

Photographer. His personal work deals with time, territory and memory.

www.martillorens.com

OLIVIER CULMANN

Photographer member of the Tendance Floue collective. Free will and social conditioning are core questions in Olivier Culmann's personal work.

www.tendancefloue.net

JUAN VALBUENA

Photographer and co-founder of the collective NOPHOTO. His personal projects deal with travel and memory giving special attention to the relationship between mankind, photography and territory.

www.nophoto.org

GUILLAUME CHAMAHIAN & NICOLAS HAVETTE

Founders and directors of *Les nuits photographiques* Festival, which takes place annually in Paris.

The Festival focuses on new forms of image presentation and avant-garde photography.

www.lesnuitsphotographiques.com

MARTA DAHÓ

Independent curator and lecturer in history of photography at the IDEP (School of Image and Design Studies) of Barcelona since 2006. She is currently doing her PHD research on photographic practices and the representation of territory.

www.cfdbarcelona.com/docentes/marta-daho/



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IMAGES FOR PRESS

This press release contains images in high resolution.
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For all other publication purposes please contact the Masasam team.
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CURATORS OF THE PROJECT - MASASAM

Masasam is an initiative founded in 2007 by Sandra Maunac and Mónica Santos. Two essential imperatives underlie all the projects they develop as curators: first, the need to represent realities and values different from those that monopolize the cultural sphere in Europe – to rebuild our relationship with the Other. Next, through the work of these artists, Masasam tries to disrupt the logic of conventionally accepted perspectives subject to circular, closed discourses. By contrast, the projects it curates are never intended to be closed either visually or theoretically, but are always open to questioning and debate.

Masasam has curated *Dakar. Cuerpo a Cuerpo*, *Elise Fritte-Duval* (Casa África, Las Palmas, Canary Island, 2014), *Keep Your Eye on the Wall* (at Les Rencontres d'Arles, Arles, 2013; Espace Central Dupon, Biennale Photoquai, Paris, 2013; CAP, Kuwait 2014; French-German Cultural Center, Ramallah, West Bank, 2014), *Fragments of a new history*, *Zanele Muholi* (at

South African Season in France, Bordeaux, 2013; Casa África, Las Palmas, Canary Island, 2011, among others), *A dream of a return journey. The Congolese Sape* (at Ciudadela de Pamplona; Institut Français Kinshasa, 2011, among others), *Songs of Immediacy*, *Mat Jacob & Gilles Coulon*, *Tendance Floue* (at Katara Cultural Village, Doha, Qatar, 2011), *Play of representation, the Egyptian experiment*, *Osama Esid*, produced by Casa Árabe (at Getxophoto, 2008, among others). Directors and curators of *Alwan 338*, 2nd Public Art Festival in Bahrain 2013, organized by Al Riwaq Art Space. Art directors of the book *La Sape*, *Héctor Mediavilla*, presented with an exhibition at La Petite Poule Noire (Photo Gallery in Paris, 2013). They have created and directed Casa África Award of the Bamako photography Biennale and the Collection *African Women photographers* published by la Fábrica.

www.masasam.com

ORGANISER - INSTITUT FRANÇAIS D'ESPAGNE

The Institut français d'Espagne is in charge of diffusing French language and culture in Spain and is an acting branch of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development. It encourages bilateral cooperation between the two countries in education and culture and helps promote France's attractiveness. It is furthermore a regular partner of Spain's most important cultural institutions and festivals working in close relationship with city councils and governments of autonomous communities. The Institut français d'Espagne has centres in Barcelona, Bilbao, Madrid, Zaragoza and Valencia, as well as an office in Seville.

The Institut français d'Espagne's network participates in all cultural and audiovisual fields promoting French cultural and creative industries. In partnership with Spanish professionals and in link with the latest French tendencies, our network is open to all intellectuals and artists throughout the country. By means of conferences, round-tables and symposiums, the Institut français d'Espagne encourages reflection upon contemporary problems in order to endorse plurality and the diversity of opinions as well as facilitating exchange between French and Spanish intellectuals.

www.institutfrancais.es/madrid

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