

30.09.2021 – 16.01.2022

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KBr Flama'21

Laura Gálvez-Rhein,
Blanca Munt,
Gael del Río,
Gunnlöð Jóna
Rúnarsdóttir

Young talents from
photography schools

KBr Flama is a project conceived with the objective of supporting emerging creation and new generations of photographers beginning their professional careers after having studied at the schools of photography in Barcelona. Conscious of the importance of creating a bridge between the academic realm and the professional lives of photographers, *KBr Flama* addresses the matter with the essential cooperation of four Barcelona-based institutions committed to the study photography: Grisart, Idep Barcelona, IEFC and Elisava, Barcelona School of Design and Engineering. In this inaugural edition of 2021, the four highlighted photographers are Laura Gálvez-Rhein (Frankfurt-am-Main, 1998), Gunnlöð Jóna Rúnarsdóttir (Reykjavik, 1992), Blanca Munt (Barcelona, 1997) and Gael del Río (Barcelona, 1990). A panel of professionals within the field photography, made up of Marta Gili, Sergio Mah, Ramón Reverté and Arianna Rinaldo, chose these photographers through a rigorous selection process. The exhibition showcases four projects that take us to different realities through four personal visions grounded in recollections of the past and in the observation of aspects of collective identity. Gael del Río and Laura Gálvez-Rhein develop their personal histories through familial figures (father and grandfather respectively), while Gunnlöð Jóna Rúnarsdóttir and Blanca Munt focus on the collective histories that shape local realities and identities.

Evocare

Gael del Río

Evocare speaks of the artistic relationship between a father and his daughter, one that arose from the latter's need to confront loss. This autobiographical project begins with the death of the author's father and studies the relationship that exists between the artistic work of the photographer and the graphic work by Carlos del Río. A professional surgeon and part-time art lover, Carlos del Río dedicated significant time to painting, sculpture and etching. With this work, Gael del Río offers an intimate and sensitive view on grieving. Her will to translate the intangible aspects of this process into images has led her to transcribe emotions through the camera, producing poetic and evocative photographs. These images speak of absence, while the centrality of the subject being photographed emphasizes the individuality and subjectivity of the project. The artist transports us to her interior world made up of scattered, isolated and solitary objects that create a dialog with her father's art; a compendium of ideograms full of hidden meanings. A conversation between two juxtaposed personal views that suggest a formal and conceptual link between two generations of artists.

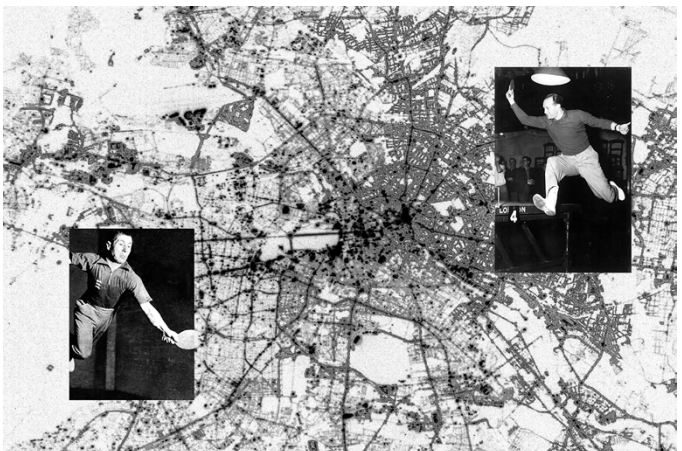
Luca Bani



Ex-Libris

Laura Gálvez-Rhein

Ex-Libris is a documentary series based on the biography of Wolfgang F. O. Rhein (born in Berlin in 1937), grandfather of photographer Laura Gálvez-Rhein. Wolfgang lived in Steinbach am Taunus, close to Frankfurt am Main. He had practically no childhood or adolescence, and his adult life was centered on work. After leaving his education as a Jesuit monk, he began his career as a German teacher at several locations. Now retired, he continues to conduct lessons for refugees as a volunteer. Through photographic collage, Laura Gálvez-Rhein's *Ex-Libris* explores the complexity of memory, oblivion and confrontation with trauma. The artist's creative process led her to work with the family archive and with material from the Bundesarchiv (the German Federal Archives), allowing her to produce a report on Wolfgang's day to day life as a representative of the *Kriegskinder* (war children) generation, silenced by the German culture of memory.



Alerta Mira-Sol Blanca Munt

In 2019, photographer Blanca Munt participated in a neighborhood watch chat group created to warn neighbors of possible robberies and other suspicious events. What began as an efficient neighborhood tool soon turned into a source of conjecture, suspicion and paranoia. The apparently calm neighborly coexistence in an area with brightly lit streets and standardized housing began to unravel, not only on account of actual robberies, but also due to the absolute disintegration of the concept of community when personal safety is at stake. Not only will those spotted in the vicinity be seen as suspicious according to their appearance or attitude; now, all neighbors who do not faithfully comply with the group's mandate will be considered suspicious, too. The images in *Alerta Mira-Sol* are interlaced with other sources of information and mental images that are generated as one begins to understand the skewed points of view of each one of the characters within this landscape – neighbors, suspects, police, local administrators – and in turn, summon our own fears and contradictions. In her own words, Blanca Munt proposes a “reflection on the tension between the privilege of living in a peaceful environment and the constant sense of threat that is latent in today's current fear-driven culture”.

Fosi Vegue



Obscure Presence

Gunnlöð Jóna Rúnarsdóttir

Coming from a small and isolated island, with an extreme climate and landscapes that are otherworldly, we, the Icelandic people, have a unique connection with the unknown. We tend to believe in ghosts, elves and *huldufólk* (hidden people), and many of us also feel a connection with these supernatural beings. According to a study carried out in 2007 by folklore professor Terry Gunnell, most Icelandic people do not rule out the existence of ghosts and elves; in fact, many of them are completely convinced they exist. The extreme isolation endured by people who lived in huts many years ago could be the basis for their experiences with the supernatural realm. But, how can we explain these beliefs nowadays? Gunnlöð Jóna Rúnarsdóttir interviewed Icelanders who had personal stories relating to supernatural experiences and used those narratives as a starting point for her images. From the beginning of the process, it became clear that most of the stories had a common theme and a similar atmosphere. The objective of Rúnarsdóttir's *Obscure Presence* is to put forth these stories and create a series of images that underline this peculiar atmosphere.



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Dates

September 30, 2021
– January 16, 2022

Opening hours

Mondays: Closed
Tuesdays – Sundays
(and public holidays):
11am-7pm
Last entry: 6:30pm

Visitors must leave the galleries
10 minutes before closing time

Admissions

Standard ticket: 5 €
Ticket with reduction: 3 €
Free standard ticket: Tuesdays
(except public holidays)
Groups: 3 € / per person

Guided tour

(cultural mediation service)

Wednesdays & Thursdays: 5-7pm
Fridays & Saturdays:
12-2pm, 5-7pm
Sundays & public holidays: 12-2pm
(Information at the reception)

Bookshop

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the exhibition:
#KBrFlama21

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