

GALERÍA BLANCA BERLÍN

CURRICULUM

JOAN COLOM

BIO

Joan Colom (Barcelona, 1921–2017) took up photography late in life and taught himself the craft. In May 1957, he joined the Agrupació Fotogràfica de Catalunya (AFC). A year later, he began using his Leica camera to photograph the people he encountered on the streets of the Chinatown district, the dark heart of the city of Barcelona. His work, in which the immediacy of a direct gaze upon reality takes precedence over technical considerations, is captured in series such as *La calle*, *El Raval* and *El Born*.

Colom's work is part of the context of renewal in the photographic medium during the 1950s. Close to the principles of the AFAL collective and their attempts to break with the pictorialist tradition that prevailed in Spain, his work is representative of the movement that the critic Josep Maria Casademont called the New Avant-Garde.

Recognition would come decades after the creation of his most iconic series. In 2002 he was awarded the National Photography Prize and in 2004 the National Visual Arts Prize of the Government of Catalonia. Furthermore, his work has been the subject of renewed attention, with exhibitions such as *Joan Colom. Photographs of Barcelona, 1958–1964* (Fundación Telefónica, Madrid, 2006) and *Joan Colom. Les gens du Raval* (Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, Paris, 2006).

CURRICULUM

INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITION

2013

Exhibition at the MNAC in Barcelona, from December 2013 to June 2014, covering his entire artistic career from its beginnings.

2011

Exhibition: *Album. Joan Colom* at the Foto Colectania Foundation, from 23 June to 29 October.

2007

Exhibition at FOAM, Amsterdam (Netherlands), from 15 March to 13 May.

Exhibition at the Museum für Fotografie, Braunschweig (Germany), from 30 November 2007 to 20 January 2008.

2006

Exhibition at the Laurence Miller Gallery, New York (United States), from 9 March to 29 April.

Exhibition at the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, Paris (France), from 25 April to 30 July.

Exhibition at the Folkwang Museum, Essen (Germany), from 23 September to 12 November.

2005

Exhibition at the Caja Madrid Cultural Centre, Barcelona.

2004

Exhibition: Joan Colom. Photographs of Barcelona 1958–1964 at the Fundación Telefónica gallery, Ministry of Culture, Madrid.

2003

Exhibition Resonancias: Brassai-Paris/Colom-Barcelona, at the Foto Colectania Foundation in Barcelona.

Exhibition of his recent colour work at Sonimag, stand of the Agrupació Fotogràfica de Catalunya, Barcelona.

ARCO: exhibition at the Ministry of Culture's stand.

Screening at the Centre de Cultura Contemporània, Barcelona.

National Tribute by the Spanish Photography Confederation

2002

MACBA acquires a copy of his 8 mm film, which is shown in the museum's collection exhibition.

1999

The exhibition El Carrer: Joan Colom is presented at the Sala Aixelà 1961 in the Museum

1996

In November, she held a solo exhibition at the Galería Forum in Tarragona

1961

Promoted by José Ma Casademont, she held her first solo exhibition, *La Calle*, at the Sala Aixelà in Barcelona in June. In December, it was shown at the Real Sociedad Fotográfica in Madrid. Cualladó described it as “the most comprehensive and interesting of all those held at that institution”.

The exhibition toured various Spanish towns until 1964.

It was featured in various publications, including the magazine AFAL in its 28th issue, “Young Spanish Photography”.

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

2025

8 May to 28 September, group exhibition at the CCCB: *En el aire conmovido*.

A co-production between the Centre for Contemporary Culture of Barcelona (CCCB) and the Reina Sofía National Art Museum.

19 July..., Spanish Cultural Centre in Mexico, group exhibition: *Spanish Photography. Foto Colectania Foundation*.

2024

January, Foto Colectania Foundation, group exhibition The Course of Events. An Atlas of the Foto Colectania Collection.

From 13 November 2024 to 26 April 2025 – The Warehouse, Miami, group exhibition Spanish Photography. Foto Colectania Foundation.

2023

June to September, Foto España 2023 Festival in Zaragoza, group exhibition.

27 October 2023 to 11 February 2024, group exhibition at the MNAC: Quina Humanitat? The Human Figure After the War (1940–1966).

2018

Institución Acción Cultural Española, travelling exhibition *50 Fotografías con Historia*.

2001

Some of his photographs (on loan from the MNAC collection) are displayed at the presentation of the collection of the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA).

A short sequence from Colom's film is included in José Luís Guerin's film *En construcción*.

1996

He takes part in the exhibitions: *El compromiso de la mirada* (La Caixa Foundation, Barcelona),

Photography and Society in Franco's Spain 1939–1975,

The Sources of Memory III (La Caixa Foundation, Barcelona and Madrid) and

Barcelona Contemporània 1860–1999 (Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, CCCB).

The Fons d'Art of the Generalitat de Catalunya acquires one of his works, which is exhibited in *Imatges. Catalan Photography at the Centre d'Art Santa Mònica (Primavera Fotogràfica)*.

1992

He takes part in the exhibition *Temps de Silenci. Panorama of Spanish photography from the 1950s and 1960s*, at the Centre d'Art Santa Mònica in Barcelona, which travels in 1993 to the *Galerie du Chateau d'Eau* in Toulouse.

1986

The exhibition *Fotografies Catalanes dels anys 50* is presented at Tarragona City Hall.

1984

He takes part in the exhibition *Photographies catalanes des années cinquante* (Centre d'Etudes Catalanes, Paris), which later goes on tour.

1982

He took part in the exhibition **Catalan Photography in the 1950s and 1960s** at the *Palau de la Virreina* in Barcelona, during the first edition of **Primavera Fotográfica**.

1963

He takes part in the exhibition Contemporary Spanish Photography, organised by J.M. Casademont, as part of the 1st Salón de la Imagen (the precursor to Sonimag) in Barcelona.

The exhibition subsequently tours Europe.

1962

Travels to Paris in May as part of the project '11 Spanish Photographers in Paris' (Maspons, Cualladó, Miserachs, Forcano, Cubaró, Basté, Cantero, Masats, Gómez, Ontañón and Colom), which is exhibited at the Sala Aixelà in November and subsequently at the Sala Biosca in Madrid.

1960

Among other exhibitions, he takes part in the 3rd Pescara Biennial, which is later shown in Milan, and in the Photeurop 60 exhibition in Brussels, Lausanne and Versailles.

1958

He is selected for the travelling exhibition of Spanish photography organised by AFAL, which is shown in Paris in December 1959 and subsequently travels to several cities in Germany.

AWARDS

2014

On 23 October, a ceremony was held at Barcelona City Hall to mark the presentation of the Ramblista d'Honor award, presented by Els Amics de la Rambla.

2008

The Agrupació Fotogràfica de Catalunya appoints him an Honorary Member.

2006

The Government of Catalonia awards him the Cross of Saint George.

2005

He is awarded the Government of Catalonia's National Prize for Visual Arts for the retrospective exhibition held at the National Art Museum of Catalonia.

Barcelona City Council awards him the City of Barcelona Prize for Plastic Arts.

2003

National Tribute from the Spanish Photography Confederation

Barcelona City Council awards him the City's Gold Medal.

2002

The Ministry of Culture awards him the National Photography Prize.

1958

Until 1963, he takes part in several national competitions and wins various prizes.

PUBLICATIONS (MOST RECENT)

2006

The German publisher Steidl publishes a book on his work, with editions in German, French and English.

1984

New edition of **Izas, rabizas y colipoterras**, published by Lumen in the **Palabra Menor** collection.

1964

In September, the British magazine **Photography** publishes the portfolio "Ladies of Spain".

1964

The book *Izas, rabizas y colipoterras*, with text by Camilo José Cela and photographs by Joan Colom, is published in the *Palabra e Imagen* collection by Lumen. It is launched on 23 April, World Book Day.

1960

Publication of articles and reproduction of photographs in the magazines *AFAL* and *Arte Fotográfico*.