

PHOTOGRAPHY SCHOOL

BLANK



PAPER

Hiroshi©José Bautista\_Kanseisound

2006 - 2017

# PRESENTATION

Blank Paper School was born in 2006 and in 2017 it transformed into Dinamo Visual Lab, a new teaching platform. Fosi Vegue, member of Blank Paper collective, founded the school he wished he could have gone to: a place in which experimentation with photography came before technique and where personal discourses intersected with broader issues, eventually also working as a trampoline for emerging photographers.

Along the way he could count on the support of the members of the Blank Paper collective and with the complicity of Miren Pastor, who had studied at the school and later on became its coordinator. Julián Barón, member of the collective, opened the Castellón and Valencia branches of Blank Paper School and consequently started its online program.

The school quickly became a landmark in Spain, reaching international recognition. Specialised media such as The British Journal of Photography, Unseen Magazine, The Eye and Yet Magazine, as well as professionals such as Paul Graham, Boris Mikhailov, Joerg Colberg, and Bruno Ceschel recommended it.

Several prominent international artists have taught workshops at the school, including Erik Kessels, Christian Patterson, Florian van Roekel, Gueorgui Pinkhassov, Joan Fontcuberta, Horacio Fernández, Xavier Ribas, Cristina García Rodero, Cristóbal Hara and David Jiménez. Most importantly, a large part of the generation that revolutionised photographic practice in Spain attended our school: Alejandro Marote, Federico Clavarino, Michele Tagliaferri, Arturo Rodríguez Castillo, Miren Pastor, David Hornillos, Olmo González, Jesús Monterde, Bernardita Morello, Nacho Caravia and Laura Carrascosa Vela, among others.

Located in the very heart of Madrid, Blank Paper School developed a broad cultural programme, including exhibitions, talks and book presentations. It became an important meeting point for photographers, specialists and photography lovers.



# PROGRAMME

During these 11 years we conceived teaching as a field for exploration, within which our students developed their attitude and their unique forms of expression, a personal visual code that allowed them to get to know themselves better and to interpret the reality that surrounded them. By being close and empathic, we did our best to introduce them to the creative and professional context they deserved.



Our pillars were the courses dedicated to long-term projects, and to the creation of vehicles for their transmission. The projects were always made into books, exhibitions and multimedia projections. Our library was always one of the main tools for the creation of a ground-breaking course in photobook production, developed with the support of print house Artes Gráficas Palermo.

We also believe in expanding the field of photography, which led us to propose courses that further explored the relations this medium has with art, society, politics, and history.

On the other hand, through video and digital retouching classes, students acquired technical tools that they later on applied to their personal discourses. In the audio-visual department, students learned about cinematic language.

We accompanied this permanent programme with workshops taught by national and international authors, who shared their creative processes and offered students a constructive critique of their work.

Every year we offered scholarships for our two main master programmes: Project Development and Photobook: Edition, Production and Distribution. We received hundreds of proposals by authors coming from all over the world, and carried out a difficult selection process of selection that also entailed holding personal meetings with the aspiring participants.

## CULTURAL INITIATIVES

Working as a team of cultural provocateurs, Blank Paper School has opened new paths within Spanish culture with the festival Fiebre Photobook, which has become one of the main international appointments related to the photography book.

In its two most recent editions, the festival held various exhibitions at CentroCentro Cibeles, a book fair at Casa del Lector-Matadero, a workshop with Erik Kessels, and talks and meetings with professionals working in the field of contemporary photography in collaboration with the Institut Français, the British Council and the Dutch Embassy, among others.

We took part in various fairs and festivals with the goal of giving visibility to the students' projects. We worked with various international entities: Paris Photo, Les Rencontres d'Arles, Unseen Amsterdam, Festival Circulation(s), Photobook Festival de Kassel, Photoespaña, Festival de Deauville, CentroCentro Cibeles, Fundación la Caixa, ARCO, La Térmica de Málaga, Casa del Lector-Matadero, Libros Mutantes en La Casa Encendida, Universitat Jaume I de Castellón, Ivorypress, Fundación Mapfre, La Troupe, Dalpine, Artes Gráficas Palermo.

The school hosted the first exhibitions of many authors that are recognized internationally, and became the place where most of the photobooks of this phenomenon's golden era in Spain were presented. Authors, curators, publishers, and designers passed through our school and shared their experience with the public.



# OUR TEACHERS

All of our teachers and collaborators were active professionals, who passed on their experience and motivation to the students with freedom and generosity. Some of the students even ended up teaching.



**FOSI VEGUE**



**JULIÁN BARÓN**



**ANTONIO M. XOUBANOVA**



**ÓSCAR MONZÓN**



**RICARDO CASES**



**FEDERICO CLAVARINO**



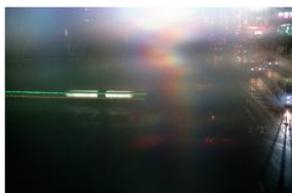
**MICHELE TAGLIAFERRI**



**VÍCTOR GARRIDO**



**JOSÉ OTERO**



**JOSÉ BAUTISTA**



**IVÁN DEL REY DE LA TORRE**



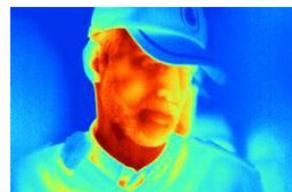
**EVA FILGUEIRA GUIMERA**



**HORACIO FERNÁNDEZ**



**GONZALO GOLPE**



**ARTURO R. CASTILLO**



**ALBERTO SALVÁN ZULUETA**



**OLMO GONZÁLEZ**



**SONIA BERGER (DALPINE)**

# OUR ALUMNI

Our best biography is the work of our students, which has achieved visibility through exhibitions, prizes and publications, often on an international level.



Alejandro Marote



Federico Clavarino



Michele Tagliaferri



Rodrigo Ramos



David Hornillos



Miren Pastor



Jesús Monterde



Bernardita Morello



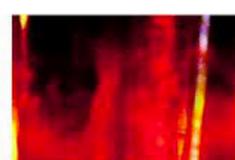
Fabiola Cedillo



Nacho Caravia



Dalpine



Mario Zamora



Arturo Rodríguez



Íñigo Aragón



Ignacio Navas



Julie Delabarre



Laura Carrascosa



Alberto Lizaralde



María Rojas



Cynthia Nudel



Tatjana Schhör



Luis Cuenca



Brenda Moreno



Gloria Oyarzabal



Carol Caicedo



Olmo González



Massao Mascaró



José Bautista

# TEAM

Fosi Vegue could count on the support of professionals, authors and different entities, but the school's permanent team was always its main resource, also counting on former students along the path.

Miren Pastor, who was always part of this project, came in as a student and the following year she was already in charge of coordinating, organizing and communicating the school's events.

Arturo Rodríguez Castillo, who was part of the first generation of students at Blank Paper School, helped develop the content of many courses. Former students Jorge Alamar and Leticia Tojar carried out a similar task in Valencia.

Another student of ours, Alberto Lizaralde, started taking care of social networks and advertising campaigns. Olmo González – who also attended our classes – later on took up his role.

Cecilia Vegue was responsible of the administration and reception office of the school, a role she later on shared with former students Ángela Losa and Anaïs Benavente.



# REPERCUSSION

The work of the Blank Paper collective and school received international recognition in the exhibition “Blank Paper: Histoires du présent immédiat”, during the 2017 Rencontres d’Arles. The show was curated by Sonia Berger in collaboration with Joan Fontcuberta, Anna Planas and Pierre Hourquet.

It included works by Julián Barón, Óscar Monzón, Ricardo Cases, Fosi Vegue, Antonio M. Xoubanova, Alejandro Marote, Federico Clavarino, David Hornillos, Bernardita Morello, Miren Pastor and Michele Tagliaferri.



“At the beginning of the 2000s, a group of photographers established a collective in Madrid in order to develop their work and create a common intellectual space. This was Blank Paper. Ever since, their photography has continued to develop following a practice that includes collaboration and exchange among its principal characteristics. Far from official institutions and circles, these photographers succeeded in building an independent network of production, exhibition, and distribution based on solidarity. This was a risky but necessary venture, as the times brought not only great social change, but also a profound economic crisis.

Blank Paper proved to be a group with enormous driving force, one which brought about a dynamic scene at the center of Spanish photography. Favoring an experimental environment, Blank Paper responds to a new sensibility characterized by the work itself, and the ways the work is implicated in the reality in which it is inscribed.

# REPERCUSSION

The works of this group of photographers are often trying to decipher the signs of the contradictory world in which they live. In them, human emotion, and the way that emotion manifests in real contexts, creates a paradoxical mix of bitterness and humor, critique and pleasure, and observation of a world that is both banal and transcendent.

This exhibition gathers together the most recent works of the Blank Paper collective, along with works of a few photographers close to them. The mutual confidence and complicity created over years of learning together feed their respective works. The exhibition aims not just to show the sum of the individual works, but to reflect the manner in which they continuously share their creative process”.

*Sonia Berger*

