

PHotoESPAÑA PRO TALENTO A BORDO

OPEN CALL – PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING

CALL FOR ENTRIES – PHotoESPAÑA PRO Talento a bordo

1. Introduction

Following the excellent experience of the first edition, Iberia and PHotoESPAÑA, in collaboration with Espacio Cultural Serrería Belga, are continuing with the ambitious initiative that strengthens the Festival's position as a reference in the field of contemporary photography: the PHotoESPAÑA PRO Talento a Bordo program, aimed at enhancing the professional development of outstanding Spanish and international visual artists.

This initiative allows thirty photographers to participate in intensive work sessions over three days with leading industry experts, including museum and art center directors, curators, gallerists, editors, and collectors.

The program aims to be a catalyst for new opportunities, creating a turning point in the artistic careers of the participants.

2. Objective of the Call

The PHotoESPAÑA PRO Talento a Bordo program is designed to strengthen the contemporary photography ecosystem by offering selected artists a unique platform to expand their professional horizons and establish their presence on the international stage. Through work sessions, the program promotes knowledge exchange, networking, and access to new collaboration opportunities with prestigious institutions. This initiative supports the projection of artists and fosters key connections for their long-term professional development.

In addition to increasing the visibility of the participants, the PHotoESPAÑA PRO Talento a bordo event contributes to the vitality of the photography sector by serving as a bridge between creators and leading figures in the visual arts worldwide. The initiative reinforces a commitment to established talent, fostering a constructive dialogue that allows photographers to explore new work opportunities and project production. Thus, this program acts as a support engine for the photography community, strengthening its role in the international cultural scene and generating synergies that enhance its projection and sustainability over time.

3. Participants

Photographers with an established and recognised career who are already consolidated within the visual arts scene may take part in this open call. It is an essential requirement that applicants have held at least one solo exhibition, have participated in at least two group exhibitions by invitation of a curator or cultural institution, or have published a photobook with a publishing house. The call is open to both Spanish creators and artists from other countries, thereby fostering exchange and the international projection of talent.

A total of 30 photographers will be selected, ensuring diverse representation that reflects the richness and plurality of the current artistic landscape. In addition, this initiative aims to promote more inclusive access to professional networks and to platforms which disseminate contemporary art.

4. Benefits of the Call

The selected participants will take part in an intensive training event at Espacio Cultural Serrería Belga in Madrid on June 10, 11 and 12, 2026. During this period, the 30 selected photographers will have individual work sessions with eight international experts, scheduled in morning and afternoon slots. Additionally, a series of themed round tables will also be organised, in which the eight invited guests will engage in discussion on a proposed topic alongside four of the selected participants. These sessions are conceived as an ideas laboratory in which professionals can collaboratively develop an initial proposal, functioning as a practical exercise aimed at the development of future projects.

The program will also include informal meetings designed to encourage spontaneous idea exchange and strengthen professional relationships in a relaxed environment. Throughout these three days, the selected photographers and invited experts will spend more time together, including during meals and a cocktail reception.

As part of its commitment to supporting new projects, Iberia will review the photographers' work and its connection to the company's communication objectives. One of the 30 participants will be selected to present a photographic series, which will be exhibited in an outdoor activation on various urban platforms in Madrid within the framework of PHotoESPAÑA 2026's Official Section.

- Each participant will have eight individual meetings with international reviewers, each lasting 20 minutes.
- The meetings will be conducted in English (with no translation provided by the festival).
- Each photographer's personal schedule will be sent before the sessions begin.
- A welcome breakfast on the first day, lunch on the first two days, and a cocktail on the first evening, for guests and selected participants are included.

5. Key Dates

- Call opens: February 23rd
- Application deadline: April 20th
- Announcement of selected participants: April 23rd
- Program dates at Espacio Cultural Serrería Belga: June 10 - 11 (morning and afternoon), June 12 (morning) of 2026.

6. Selection Process

A technical and artistic committee will evaluate applications based on criteria such as artistic quality, the applicant's resume, and the relevance of their photographic project in relation to the program's objectives.

The committee's decision will be final and will be communicated through PHotoESPAÑA and Iberia's official channels. Selected artists will be notified via email.

7. Application Requirements

Candidates must submit their documentation via the completed application form. The dossier (in A4 format) must not exceed 20 MB.

Applicants must submit the following documents:

- Completed application form.
- Resume and short biography.
- Copy of an identity document.

Project dossier in PDF format, including:

- Project title.
- Project statement (maximum 500 words).
- Between 25 and 35 project images.

- Application fee: €650 (only for selected photographers). Scholarships covering the full registration fee are available. See the next section.

8. Scholarships

Iberia, committed to supporting artistic talent, is sponsoring this project and will provide scholarships for **ten Spanish photographers** to participate in PHotoESPAÑA PRO. These scholarships will cover the registration fee.

The **Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands** also joins the programme through the Guest Country section and supports **eight Dutch artists** by awarding grants that cover the costs of registration for PHotoESPAÑA PRO Talento a Bordo – Professional Networking. This initiative reinforces the international vocation of the project and the circulation of talent.

The **Institut français d'Espagne** joins this year's edition of the programme by granting two scholarships for French photographers, with the aim of supporting their participation in PHotoESPAÑA PRO · Talento a bordo. This collaboration covers the registration fees and helps strengthen the presence of French artists in the international professional sphere, fostering exchange and dialogue within the programme.

The **Royal Norwegian Embassy** joins this year's edition through the award of **two grants** intended for **Norwegian photographers or photographers residing in Norway**. This support covers the registration costs, thereby encouraging the presence of creators from the Norwegian context at the professional meetings and promoting international exchange within the programme.

The **Goethe-Institut Madrid** takes part in the programme by awarding **two grants** aimed at **German artists**, with the objective of facilitating their participation. This collaboration will cover the registration costs, fostering professional dialogue between creators and sector professionals within the framework of the programme.

The **Institut d'Estudis Baleàrics** (IEB) is once again collaborating on this PHotoESPAÑA project to enable **two photographers from the Balearic Islands** to take part in the professional meetings. The call is open to **residents of the Balearic Islands or those originally from the archipelago**, and the IEB will cover the registration costs, thereby contributing to the international promotion of Balearic creators and their connection with the wider global context.

9. General Conditions

The rights to the works will remain the property of the artists. However, PHotoESPAÑA and Iberia may use them for the purposes of promoting and publicising the project, always ensuring proper acknowledgement of authorship and respecting the corresponding credits.

Participants declare and guarantee that they are the sole author of the project they submit and hold all copyright over it. They will be solely legally responsible for any copyright disputes arising from the use of texts or photographs.

The organization reserves the right to modify dates or conditions if necessary for the program's proper execution. Any changes will be communicated to participants in a timely manner.

The selected participants commit to attending all event activities.

10. Contact

For more information, inquiries, and applications, please contact: phe.programas@phe.es

11. Acceptance of Legal Terms

By participating, applicants accept all the terms and conditions of this call.

Participation implies consent for their name to appear in informational and promotional materials, both printed and digital, related to this call.

12. About PHotoESPAÑA:

PHotoESPAÑA is a photography festival with a strong social focus that turns Madrid and Spain into key meeting points for the photography world each year. Organized by Fundación Contemporánea and La Fábrica, the event has been an international reference since its creation in 1998, thanks to the work and commitment of specialists, cultural agents, institutions, and public participation.

To date, over 1,300 exhibitions (individual and collective) have showcased the work of more than 3,000 Spanish and international artists.

In addition, La Fábrica has published over 100 exhibition catalogs, keeping the event alive beyond its duration and reaching broader audiences through national and international distribution networks.

PHotoESPAÑA has collaborated with more than 400 cultural institutions, public administrations, foundations, companies, museums, and nearly all Madrid's art galleries, making it a powerful platform for introducing new talent to the European photography market.

Alongside exhibitions, the Festival organizes workshops, seminars, portfolio reviews, talks, film screenings, and photography marathons, making it a major cultural event.

13. About Iberia Talento a bordo:

This project is part of Talento a bordo, an initiative by Iberia aimed at connecting Spanish talent—both from Spain and abroad, and in the Spanish language—across various disciplines. Its mission is to accompany talent on its journey, support its development and connections, promote its achievements, and provide visibility and resources to help it thrive.