

PHotoESPAÑA PRO TALENTO A BORDO

OPEN CALL – PROJECTIONS

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION for the activity PHOTOGRAPHY AS ENCOUNTER

1. Presentation

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.

As part of this programme, PHOTOGRAPHY AS ENCOUNTER is established as a space for visibility, connection, reflection, and transformation around contemporary photography with a focus on artists. This activity offers a platform where the image becomes a bridge between creators, mediators, and the public.

The initiative will feature two days of screenings with the participation of up to eight leading professionals, selected through this open call, who will share their audiovisual work with the general public and specialists in the field of visual arts at Espacio Cultural Serrería Belga auditorium. In addition, each day will conclude with a roundtable discussion focused on reflecting on the practice of photography and imagining possible futures within the discipline.

Through this programme, the aim is to act as a catalyst for new opportunities, creating a turning point in the artistic careers of the participants.

2. Objective of the Open Call

The PHotoESPAÑA PRO Talento a bordo programme was created with the aim of strengthening the ecosystem of contemporary photography, offering the selected artists a unique platform to expand their professional horizons and reflect on the photographic creation process.

This is a unique opportunity to provide a space for visibility and to showcase first-hand different visual perspectives, styles, and narratives that are transforming the landscape of contemporary photography. It is a meeting point between those who create photography, those who enable its production, and the general public.

Here, photography unfolds as a space of shared responsibility, between the artist and the mediator, because beyond technical or logistical processes, there is an implicit agreement: to give the image the possibility to exist. The presentation of the artists in this event reveals not only their work but also the network that supports photographic creation.

PHOTOGRAPHY AS ENCOUNTER also seeks to strengthen the connection between artists and audiences, fostering collective reflection on the power of photography as a tool to interpret and question the world around us.

3. Participants

This call for entries is open to photographers with a recognized professional career who are already established within the visual arts scene. Applicants must meet at least one of the following requirements: having held at least one solo exhibition; having participated in at least two group exhibitions curated by a curator or cultural institution; or having published a photobook with a publishing house.

The call is open to both Spanish and international artists, fostering exchange and promoting the international projection of talent.

A maximum of eight projects 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 contemporary art dissemination platforms.

4. Benefits of the Open Call

The selected artists will have the opportunity to present their video art works during one of the sessions of the PHOTOGRAPHY AS ENCOUNTER programme, which will take place on June 9th and 16th at the Espacio Cultural Serrería Belga auditorium in Madrid.

Their works will be part of a specially curated programme designed to highlight contemporary audiovisual creation and facilitate its connection with diverse audiences and professionals from the visual arts sector.

In addition, participating artists will be invited to an informal cocktail reception alongside cultural agents, curators, gallery owners, collectors, and other professionals from the art world — creating a relaxed space for conversation, exchange, and networking.

This is a valuable opportunity to build meaningful relationships within the world of contemporary photography, helping to strengthen the cultural ecosystem and fostering connections that can lead to future collaborations and projects for everyone involved.

Each selected artist will receive a financial contribution of €300 (tax-exempt and subject to a 19% withholding tax according to Spanish income tax regulations). The corresponding tax deductions will

be applied in accordance with current legislation. Payment will be made upon completion of the activity.

5. Key Dates

- Call for entries opens: April 20
- Application deadline: May 18
- Announcement of selected participants: May 22
- Programme at Espacio Cultural Serrería Belga: June 9th and 16th, 2026

6. Selection Process

A jury, together with the technical and artistic committee, will evaluate the applications based on criteria such as artistic quality, the artist's professional background, and the relevance of the photographic project, taking into account the artist's ability to contribute to the dialogue around the programme's objectives.

The committee's decision will be final and will be announced through PHE's communication channels and Iberia's website. In the meantime, the selected artists will be notified via email.

7. Application Requirements

Applicants must submit the required documentation and audiovisual material through the completed application form. The video art projects must have a duration of 3 to 4 minutes. Files (in .mp4 format) must not exceed a maximum size of 10 MB.

Applicants must provide the following documents:

- Completed application form.
- Curriculum vitae and a brief biography.
- A copy of their identity document.

Project dossier in PDF format, which must include:

- Project title.
- Project description (maximum 500 words).
- Reference images from the audiovisual work, with a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 25 images.

9. General Conditions

The rights to the works will remain the property of the artists. However, PHotoESPAÑA and Iberia may use the works for the purpose of promoting and publicizing the project, always ensuring proper credit and recognition of authorship.

The participant declares and guarantees that they are the sole author of the project submitted to the call and that they hold all copyright over the work.

The participant will be solely legally responsible for any disputes that may arise due to non-compliance with copyright laws regarding the use of texts or images.

The organization reserves the right to modify the dates or conditions if necessary for the proper development of the programme. Any changes will be duly communicated to the participants.

10. Contact

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

11. Acceptance of the Terms and Conditions

By participating in this call, participants fully accept each and every one of these terms and conditions as the rules governing this competition.

In line with this, participation in the competition implies the participants' consent for their name and surname to appear in informational and promotional materials, whether printed or digital, produced in connection with this call for entries.

12. Context about the PHotoESPAÑA Festival:

PHotoESPAÑA is a photography festival with a strong social focus, turning Madrid and Spain each year into key meeting points for the international photography community. Driven by Fundación Contemporánea and organized by La Fábrica, the event has become, since its creation in 1998, an international benchmark thanks to the work and involvement of specialists and agents from the artistic, cultural, and political fields, as well as the collaboration of institutions and the participation of the public.

Throughout the Festival's history, more than 1,300 exhibitions — both solo and group shows — have been presented, showcasing the work of over 3,000 Spanish and international artists.

In addition, La Fábrica has published over 100 exhibition catalogues, both collective and monographic, providing the event with a continued presence in another format and reaching wider audiences through its national and international distribution networks.

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

Alongside the exhibitions, a wide range of parallel activities are organized each year. Workshops, seminars, portfolio reviews, talks, conferences, photography screenings, film series, and even marathons turn the Festival into a major cultural event for a broad and diverse audience.

13. Context about Iberia Talento a bordo:

This project is part of Talento a bordo, an initiative by Iberia aimed at connecting Spanish talent — and talent expressed in Spanish — both within and beyond our borders across different disciplines. Its goal is to accompany talent on its journey, support its development and collaboration, promote its achievements, provide resources, and foster connections.