

Centro Niemeyer

A POSSIBLE STORY.

ALCOBENDAS PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION

About Alcobendas Photography Collection

During the last quarter of the past century, more precisely in the early 1980's, Spain started to experience a great change in the relationship between art and society. This substantial change brought along new cultural forms and practices, usually imported from societies that were more advanced in the artistic field in all its manifestations. The phenomenon of great retrospective and/or historical exhibitions that roamed was mainstream, however, gradually in most art centres emerged a trend to produce and create their own collections. This new reality resulted in the development of institutional collecting, which in turn boosted the purchasing activity that had been so far in the hands of galleries, private collectors and the incipient art fairs.

In this social and cultural context, the City Hall of Alcobendas, with a clear political will and determination, decided to focus on photography as an emerging creative discipline by approving, in 1993, the starting of a collection that should provide a genuine review of Spanish contemporary authors.

More than twenty years later, it is amazing to see how much and how good, the cultural heritage of the City Hall of Alcobendas has become, supported by high-quality consultation. "So far this is the only municipality throughout Spain that has focused, and still focuses so clearly, on this field¹ The result is currently a collection that gathers over 850 works by 170 creators, represented by very significant pieces. Time, consistency and seriousness guarantee that this effort, in economic, cultural and social terms, makes sense. A perfect example in this regard

¹ Juan Manuel Bonet: "Una gran colección de fotografía española", *15 años de fotografía española contemporánea* [Catalog], page 15, City Hall of Alcobendas, 2008. Published on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of Alcobendas Photography Collection.

is the Alcobendas Photography Collection that, with different teams, overcoming budgetary and structural issues, and under various governments, until now and in a quiet and peaceful way, presents itself as one of the few collections devoted exclusively to this artistic discipline that has been able to survive and consolidate itself, by opening to new aesthetic approaches, new formats and supports, without forgetting or belittling traditional photography².

Some years after its creation, the collection starts roaming among public museums and institutions (Granollers, Valencia, Saragossa, La Coruña, Rome, Milan) showing the creative potential of photography in our country. During the spring of 2007, following Ignacio García de Vinuesa's election as Mayor of Alcobendas, a new and promising change occurs not only to consolidate the path already taken, but also to make a commitment to boost this collection by increasing the budget for future acquisitions, fostering the roaming of its funds throughout new cities (Almeria, Teruel, Segovia, Castellon, Torrelavega, Orense, Vitoria, Oviedo, Rabat, Sofia, Lima, Barranquilla, Buenos Aires, Asuncion, Santiago de Chile), extending the activities related with photography with workshops, exhibitions in the city, audiovisuals, PIC.A PHOTOESPAÑA International School of Photography of Alcobendas and the Alcobendas International Photography Award that celebrates its fifth edition next year.

About the exhibition A possible story. Alcobendas Photography Collection

On this occasion at Niemeyer Centre we can see an outstanding proposal based on the funds of Alcobendas Photography Collection, with a selection of works by África Guzmán, Ana Teresa Ortega, Julio Álvarez Yagüe, Antonio Bueno, Antonio Tabernero, Vari Caramés, Dionisio González, Carlos Cánovas, Joan Fontcuberta, Almalé/Bondía, Alberto García Alix, Juan Manuel Castro Prieto, Ángel Marcos, Alberto Schommer, Pilar García Merino, Pedro Giménez, Paco Gómez, Pablo Genovés, Luis Vioque, Fernando Manso, Oriol Maspons, Carlos Pérez Siquier, Nicolás Muller, Manuel Sonseca, Ángel Sanz, Valentín Vallhonrat, Oscar Molina, Benito Román, Toni Catany, Ciuco Gutiérrez,

² Rosa Olivares: "A favor del tiempo", *22 años Colección Alcobendas 2009-2012* [Catalog], page 26, City Hall of Alcobendas, 2012. Published on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of Alcobendas Photography Collection.

Colita, Joan Colom, Gabriel Cualladó, Daniel Canogar, Evaristo Delgado, Juan Manuel Díaz Burgos, Eduardo Cortils, Manel Esclusa, Fernando Herráez, Gervasio Sánchez, Isabel Flores, Javier Esteban, Javier Valhonrat, Jordi Guillumet, Jorge Ribalta, José María Mellado, Chema Madoz, Manuel Vilariño, Fernando Maqueira, Marisa Flórez, Ouka Leele, Pilar Pequeño, Ricard Terré, Ricky Dávila, Felix Curto, Rosell Meseguer, Javier Campano and Rafael Navarro.

This exhibition features an outstanding representation of the best contemporary photographic creation in Spain, although this time with a universal approach as creative scenario that revolves around human beings as its substantial context.

Public collections are full of experimental ways, achievements and shortcomings, diverse proposals and languages but this selection is based on the very best of Spanish photography. It is a pleasure to present this solid show of Alcobendas Photography Collection at Niemeyer Centre.

José María Díaz-Maroto
Curator and Conservator of Alcobendas Collection