



# PHotoESPAÑA 2020: #PHEdesdemibalcón



VISUAL ARTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Tue, September 22–  
Tue, December 22, 2020

#### Venue

Former Residence of the  
Ambassadors of Spain, 2801 16th St  
NW, Washington, DC 20009

[View map](#)

#### Admission

Free

#### Credits

Presented by the Cultural Office of  
the Embassy of Spain in  
Washington, D.C. and  
PHotoESPAÑA. Image by Ahidée  
Álvarez

The XXIII edition of PHotoEspaña which started this year with a call for photos of the Spanish lockdown and with open-air exhibitions in 50 Spanish cities is now moving to Washington, D.C.

The exceptional situation around the world caused by the current health crisis has prompted substantial changes in all areas of our lives, including the way we live and interact, and the Festival is not an exception. Knowing the role that balconies and windows were playing during the days of lockdown, PHotoESPAÑA launched a call for participation during this period in Spain with the initiative #PHEdesdemibalcón, an appeal to citizens' creativity and artistic exploration announced through social media. Anyone was invited to use a photograph to share how they saw life via their balcony during the times of pandemic. It registered more than 60,000 images on Instagram and opened the 23rd edition of the Festival with exhibitions in 50 Spanish cities.

Now Washington joins this project with an unique open-air exhibition including a sample of the most representative images submitted for this call. They show Spanish people in day-to-day situations facing these exceptional circumstances which could be seen from their windows and balconies for them to stay in our memory.

Windows and balconies have been perennial themes in art history and have repeatedly been used in artistic representation, as shown by works like *Woman at a Window* by Caspar David Friedrich, *Figure in a Window* by Salvador Dalí, *Woman Seated before the Window* by Pablo Picasso,



*Open Window* by Henri Matisse and *Cape Cod Morning* by Edward Hopper. In photography, too, there are countless works by authors who have reflected on indoor and outdoor space, from the very first photograph *Point de vue du Gras* that Nicéphore Niépce took from the window of his home in 1826, to more recent works like *Maria, New York* by Lee Friedlander, *Love* by Adriana Lestido, *The Models* by Alessandra Sanguinetti, *The Bedroom* by Sarah Jones and *At the End of the Hallway* by Alberto García Alix, among so many others.

Here, and in our everyday lives, windows and balconies serve to separate the interior (and personal) space from the outside world. Through them, we discover the reality outside, turning us into voyeurs of everyday scenes, yet they are also a source of yearning and freedom. Windows, balconies, terraces, buildings... a reflection of our society that goes beyond our own personal space.

## ABOUT PHOTESPAÑA

*PHotoESPAÑA* was born in 1998 with the intention of developing a festival rooted in society. Supported by the Fundación Contemporánea and organised by La Fábrica, *PHotoESPAÑA* has put Madrid and Spain at the center of the world of photography with a yearly meeting of the highest order. From that 16th of June in 1998 to date, thousands of photographers, creators, artists, curators, museum directors, editors, heads of foundations, companies sensitive to culture, journalists, cultural managers, laboratories, photography schools, volunteers, politicians and, naturally, spectators, have set the foundations for a modern festival, open to new audiences, rigorous in its approach, ambitious in its objectives, and capable of covering as ample a spectrum of interests as might prove necessary.

Since its inception, *PHotoEspaña* has had a decidedly international vision. As well as on strictly local values, *PHE* has focused both on grand concepts and vast artistic territories: Europe, North America, Latin America, the Far East. This vision has been upheld and developed by the curators and directors that every three years have been put in charge of the program.

*PHotoESPAÑA* looks at the past, the present and what is emerging as the future. The national in continuous coexistence with the international. Fully consecrated names along with others unknown until now. A sum of points of view that, from each of them in particular, provides a vision, a unique, different and new version of the Festival.

Note that this is an open-air exhibition held at our Cultural Center's exterior fence.