



**2011**

**E•CO**

*PRESS RELEASE*



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## E•CO

A photographic exhibition by twenty collectives of Europe and Latin America with the Environment as a starting point



Photo: Supay Fotos, Perú

**When: Friday, June 3, 2011, 10AM: Press Preview with curator Claudi Carreras and photographers Iata Cannabrava (Brazil) and Sergi Camara (Spain)**

**Where: American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center  
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016**



## E•CO: A photographic exhibition by twenty collectives of Europe and Latin America with the Environment as a starting point

Washington, DC, May 12, 2011- The Ministry of Culture of Spain, The Embassy of Spain, and the Spain-USA Foundation in collaboration with the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center and FotoDC are pleased to present the exhibition **E•CO**, from June 4<sup>th</sup> to August 14<sup>th</sup> .

Curated by Claudi Carreras, the exhibition E•CO gathered photographic projects by twenty Latin American and European photographic collectives, each tasked with crafting a visual essay about one of the most important topics of our day: the environment. Free of curatorial influence, the collectives define “environment” for themselves, and maintain their own production and editing processes. The resulting essays reflect the interests and concerns of each group and nation, as well as the working organization of each collective.

With this premise, each group freely chose the topics and locations of their project. Thus, the exhibition is a sample of the most pressing environmental problems, in the countries where the collectives are operating. At the same time, it’s a way to understand the peculiarities of teamwork and its modes of representation.

First in Madrid and later in Soria, E•CO 2010 assembled 20 photographic collectives, from **Germany** (Ostkreuz), **Argentina** (Sub.Coop), **Brazil** (Cia de Foto and Garapa) **Costa Rica** (Collective Wanderer), **France** (Odessa, Tendence Floue and Transit ), **Italy** (TerraProject), **Mexico** (Mondaphoto), **Peru** (Supay Photos and Versus-Photo), **Portugal** (KameraPhoto), **UK** (Documentography), **Venezuela** (ONG) and **Spain** (Blank Paper, NoPhoto, Pandora and Noise Photo) as well as a multinational group that represents photographers from **Eastern Europe** (East & Ost), that discussed with editors, researchers and other professionals of this media, the problematical and needs of the photographic medium.

For the presentation of the exhibition in Washington, D.C., two of the photographers from the collectives, **Iatã Cannabrava (Brazil)** and **Sergi Camara (Spain)** are invited to present their view on how photography can serve as a medium for researchers and professionals to portray important issues such as the environment and how the work as a collective is an innovative way of doing photography.

This exhibition is part of Spain Arts & Culture 2011, a cultural program that includes more than 100 events all over the US featuring the most cutting-edge works of internationally renowned Spanish artists in fields such as design, urban culture, architecture, visual arts, film, performing arts, literature and music.

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And also on [www.facebook.com/SpainArtsCulture](http://www.facebook.com/SpainArtsCulture) / Twitter [www.twitter.com/SpainCultureUSA](http://www.twitter.com/SpainCultureUSA)



The exhibition *E•CO* will run from June 4 to August 14, 2011. Friday, June 3, 10A.M. press preview with curator Claudi Carreras and photographers Iatá Cannabrava (Brazil) and Sergi Camara (Spain). RSVP by May 31<sup>st</sup> at 202-728-6774 or [laura.espino@spainculture.us](mailto:laura.espino@spainculture.us)

High res images found here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/spainartsculture/sets/>

## About the photographers:

### Iatá Cannabrava (Brazil)

Director of the most important festival of Brazil (Paraty en foco - [www.paratyenfoco.com/](http://www.paratyenfoco.com/)) and of the Foro Latinoamericano de Fotografía de Sao Paulo ([forumfoto.org.br/es](http://forumfoto.org.br/es)).

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### Sergi Camara (Spain) Pandora Foto ([www.pandorafoto.com/es](http://www.pandorafoto.com/es))

One of the most impressive young documentary photographers, the collective Pandora is the one with the best photographers in Spain.

+BIO

## From the curator, Claudi Carreras:

E • CO presents photographic projects, made by twenty Latin American and European photographic collectives, whose works have been commissioned by the Ministry of Culture of Spain, under the Spanish Presidency of the European Union and within the celebrations of bicentenary of many Latin countries' independence. Each collective has received the proposal to raise a visual essay, that reflected its concerns around one of the most important topics of our day: the environment.

Faced with such a wide initial approach, the first challenge was conceptualize the proposal, and try to define an issue that every day becomes more important in our society. The complexity of this subject has been expressed since the initial call, since each country has different definitions of what "Environment" means.



One of the project's key points is trying not to influence the themes presented and their representation – therefore, the results presented here reflect the interests and concerns that each group wanted to highlight.

Formal image post-production as well as editing, are a reflection of each group's works. It provides a virtual tour that gives the viewer several reading possibilities – on one hand, the one referring to the problems reflected and, on the other, the one reflecting the forms of organization of each collective.

Even though photographic collectives are not a new phenomenon, in recent years they have become particularly relevant. In a situation of mass saturation images and the same communication channels, professional photographers are forced to seek new forms of representation and alternative circuits to make their production visible. The groups provide a platform that reacts to a hostile situation and, on the other side, they are the reflection of a society, in which it is necessary to join efforts to achieve good results.

Claudi Carreras, curator of E•CO

\*The Government of Spain —through the Embassy of Spain's Cultural Office in Washington, D.C. and its network of General Consulates and Cervantes Institutes in key cities— promotes Spanish culture and art in the United States and strives to strengthen bilateral cultural, artistic and academic exchanges. Spanish-American cultural cooperation aims to create multiple links between the creative sectors of both countries and promote Spain's contemporary artistic expression with special attention to Americas Hispanic Community, striving to emphasize plurality expression and opinion, in line with Spain's own diversity in language, creativity in the arts and unique cultural heritage.