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As part of FotoWeekDC 2013, SPAIN arts & culture presents:

VAIVÉN, Six visual journeys back and forth between Spain and the U.S.



© Photo by Carla Tramullas

WHEN AND WHERE:

PRESS PREVIEW: Friday November 1st, 2013 4:00 pm
Former Spanish Ambassadors' Residence
2801 16th Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20009

Exhibition on view: November 1-24.

Gallery hours: Thursday -Friday, 5 pm-8 pm; Saturday, 11 am-7 pm; Sunday, 12 noon- 5 pm. Free.

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Vaivén:

(n.) = shuttling back and forth ; flip-flop ; seesaw [see-saw] ; swaying ; sway ; rocking.

Washington, D.C.- **SPAIN arts&culture**, the Spanish official cultural program in the US, is pleased to present, as part of **FotoWeekDC 2013: VAIVÉN: Six visual journeys back and forth between Spain and the US.**

This exhibition features six photographers from Spain and the United States who interpret the realities of both countries from multiple perspectives. The dichotomy of belonging to two places and the constant play between the influence of cultural background versus the setting, remains the core of this exhibition. Memories, popular culture, identity, the everyday life, nature and urban spaces function as starting points to analyze the motivations and expectations that lie behind each photographic series.

The diverse backgrounds of all the artists meet on the common grounds of their intersecting perspectives of both countries. **Ana Hayes-Pérez**, explores her personal connection with Spain through souvenirs and family memories; **Carla Tramullas** analyzes the process of remembrance with shots snapped on her trips across the US with her grandfather's Leica. **Javier Corso** reinterprets the military imagery of Spain through the strong visual references present in the popular culture of the US **Raúl Urbina** observes Chicago by foregoing its iconic side to focus on the city's driving forces, from its people to its infrastructures; Chicago based photographer **Xavier Nuez** uses dark alleys and ruins of the city to turn his pictures into monuments that give dignity to rejected urban spaces. **Monica Lek** uses her photographs of New York to reflect the human reality of the city through portraits of her neighbors.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

All the artists are members of **SPAINRED**, the **Spanish cultural network in the US** aimed at creative individuals and institutions willing to explore opportunities related to Spanish culture in this country.

ANA HAYES-PÉREZ

Ana Hayes Pérez was born in Madrid, Spain. She was raised in Gambrills, Maryland, by a Spanish mother and an American father. She holds a B.A. in History and Art History from Towson University and an M.A. in Graphic Design from the University of Baltimore. She currently works as a graphic designer in Baltimore but loves to return to Spain and visit her Spanish family.

Ana Hayes-Pérez about her series: "Souvenirs of Spain"

"For as long as I can remember my family has been hauling stuffed suitcases from Maryland to Spain and back again. On the way to Spain, we carried gifts collected by my Spanish mother for her family and packed with Tetris-like precision by my father. On the return, the suitcases were filled with our souvenirs: Bath gel, nativity sets, museum brochures, olive oil, polvorones, I seem to love everything from Spain. In four decades I may have bought it all: tiny plastic boxes of saffron, too many keychains, tacky t-shirts, an apron printed with paella recipes, etc. "When my sister and I grew up, my grandmother and my great aunt entrusted us with little pieces of family history – old photos, bits of lace, and rosaries in every color. But I've seen that almost anything from Spain becomes precious to me. I can't seem to throw out a 1987 calendar from a television repair service, old cans of olives that threaten food poisoning or a pretty box of violet candies. The trip back to Maryland is always hard, even with a suitcase of souvenirs. To see family only once a year, or less, is something I wouldn't wish for anyone, although I know that I am luckier than many. Technology has made it easier to get a Spanish fix with Skype and online shopping and news. However, I doubt the irrational boarding will ever go away. I find a used metro ticket or a button from my abuelita and I feel the delights of Spain and the love that awaits me there".

CARLA TRAMULLAS

Carla Tramullas is a photographer and videographer from Barcelona currently based in Brooklyn, NY. She has conveyed visual stories for a variety of brands, agencies, artists and media, including: Adidas, Nike, Levis, Bacardi, Time Out Magazine and Lomono Magazine. Since 2004, her art has been exhibited in many group and solo exhibitions. Her work is defined by a sharp, personal style that stands at the crossroads of documentary, cinema and art and speaks about emotion, intimacy and subtleness.



Carla Tramullas about her series: “Chapter I”

“The series Chapter I is an intuitive and subjective visual portrait of my personal experiences in the United States and is part of the creative project that I’ve developed since I started my photography career. This one establishes an aesthetic exploration of the little things (in size or relevance) that surround me, and it’s based on subtleness, intimacy and emotions. The paradox of Chapter I is that while it has to do with moving, changing and discovering, aesthetically, this project has also meant a radical return to the beginnings of my photographic work”.

JAVIER CORSO

Javier Corso is from Valladolid, Spain. He studied photography at the Institut d'Estudis Fotogràfics de Catalunya and cinematography at the Escola Superior de Cinema i Audiovisuals de Catalunya. He began his professional career working for newspapers such as El Periódico de Catalunya and El País. His work has been awarded LUX Photography Awards by the Professional Photographers Association of Spain and exhibited in festivals such as VISA OFF (Perpignan).

About his series Soldiers

This project springs from the photographer’s interest in showing what lies behind the Spanish Armed Forces and how the system works. A quest that begins when he realized that all of the images from the military world that he remembers have a flag with stars and stripes. This is due to the influence of the United States Army in movies and photography. A civil person might not know anything about the uniforms, the medals or even the bodies that belong to the soldiers of his or her country, but all of us are aware of what a U.S. marine looks like. We have seen lots of barracks and trainings, battles and weapons, from the legendary M16 to a submarine’s interior. But what is happening now? What have we here? Where does the Spanish soldier live or train when he is not abroad on a mission? To begin to answer these questions this project portrays the image of the soldier and the institution he belongs to. “Soldiers” is a glance at one of the oldest armies in the world, a world-round trip inspired by pictures from the other side of the ocean, a photographic coverage of daily images that suggest military action, even though they were all taken in the author’s country. In particular, these are photographs about those who guard out borders in Spain.

MONICA LEK

Monica Lek (Tarragona 1989) grew up in Valls, Tarragona and moved to Barcelona when she was 16. Lek studied Art Direction and Film, while regularly traveling to Berlin and London. She decided to move to NYC to explore the non-existing boundaries of her own self. She spent two years working as an editor, photographer, and director of photography until she became more interested in directing films. She is currently working on her first documentary, which is being shot in Istanbul.

Monica Lek about her series “My Neighbors”

“My passion and curiosity to explore new surroundings brought me to New York, and to My Neighbors, where I experienced the impact that all those magnetic characters had in my journey. Having grown up in a small town by the Mediterranean Sea, where everyone knows each other, and then arriving in New York where nobody knows you, was a challenge and the beginning of a new cycle. During the time I was there, I developed a need to depict two contrasting ideas: Authenticity vs artificiality. I started wandering the city, searching for the places where all the cultures merged, revealing the different connections between them and myself. These photos portray a naked New York, a city with no make up. They present people who are not usually shown on the screen. I begged for naturalness. My goal was to transmit an honest reality, with respect to the fake side of society, and to paint a transparent landscape with my eyes in attempt to be a testimony to the world’s naked truth and its hidden splendor, seeking and stalking the light of my neighbors, their dignity as human beings and their sense of honor”.

RAÚL URBINA

Raúl Urbina is a freelance photographer based in Madrid. He combines his artistic work with editorial contributions in different media nationally and internationally: El País, El Mundo, Time, Vogue, Vanity Fair, Financial Times, and The New York Times. His last exhibitions are: “Chicago. I’ll stop the wind from blowing”; “Individual” in PhotoEspaña 2013 (2013); “Air_port_photo” Official Section. Collective PhotoEspaña 2012 (2012); “Double Space”. T-2 Madrid Barajas Airport. AENA Art Foundation (2008). He has been awarded with Selection of the V International Visual Arts Prize Foundation María Jové (2012); Special Jury Award for best picture, Photography contest INECO-TIFSA (2008), among others.



Raúl Urbina's series: Chicago. I'll stop the wind from blowing.

The author reveals the lesser-known face of the city, leaving aside its iconic architecture and best-known characters, showing what could be called a "B side" of the city. By observing the everyday through Urbina's images, one claims to be part of the narrative, forgetting his foreign roots and focusing on that so common reality that often becomes invisible. The similarities of this reality we find between Spain and the USA are what Urbina attempts to showcase through a dialogue with the city, photographed as accurately as possible, underneath the street webs, the muddle of sewage systems, the metro lines, the invisible and underground spread of pipelines (electricity, gas, water pipes of the Chicago River, telephone lines, etc.) that flow like the city itself and without which life would be impossible on the surface.

XAVIER NUEZ

Xavier Nuez's photographs have been featured in solo and group exhibitions in museums and galleries internationally, such as the Illinois State Museum in Chicago; the Marin Museum of Contemporary Art in California, and the Instituto Cervantes in Chicago. His work is in numerous public, corporate and private collections, including those of the University of Richmond Museum in Virginia; the Norfolk Southern Collection; and the Vicente Fox Center in Guanajuato, Mexico. Xavier's family is from Spain; he was born in Montreal and lives in Chicago.

Xavier Nuez about Alleys & Ruins

"My family immigrated to Quebec, Canada, from Spain in the early 1960's, just when the French separatist movement was heating up. We moved to the small industrial city of Sorel, where I grew up, and where my family experienced years of bigotry because of our immigrant roots and English education. In this environment I began to develop an alienated worldview, which would later lead me to look for solace in dark and abandoned urban corners. In the end, the thing I was most afraid of and which has caused me the most anguish has created the greatest successes in my life".

More info: <http://www.spainculture.us/city/washington-dc/vaiven-six-visual-journeys-back-and-forth-between-spain-and-the-us/>

ABOUT FotoWeekDC

FotoWeekDC 2013 will take place from November 1-10, 2013. Its mission is to provide exposure for photographers and to make diverse, high-quality photography accessible to audiences through the exhibition of inspiring and provocative images, dynamic programming, and collaborations with the local and international community.

Whether through fine art photography, photojournalism, or the work of emerging artists, FotoDC provides a dynamic, evocative, engaging experience for photographers, cultural institutions, galleries, curators, schools, area residents, and tens of thousands of viewers. Founded as FotoWeekDC in 2008, the weeklong photography festival initially attracted 20,000 participants; including professional and amateur photographers, photography lovers, and partners such as National Geographic, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, The Smithsonian Institution, and various local art galleries. In 2009, the organization received non-profit status and began developing programs to include professional development and new exhibition venues. In response to demand for year-round programming, FotoWeek DC rebranded in 2011 to become FotoDC, and launched new programs to provide greater exposure for all photographers, new venues for exhibitions and new programs for students and youth. The annual Festival in November continues to be FotoDC's largest project with over 40,000 attendees each year.

More info: <http://www.fotoweekdc.org/>