

Menorca Doc Fest presents 'Invierno Profano', twenty years of winter rituals by photographer Carmenchu Alemán

- The Mirador del Claustre del Carme hosts, from 1 to 31 October, the main exhibition of the 8th [Menorca Doc Fest](#), 'Invierno Profano', by Pamplona-born photographer Carmenchu Alemán
- On 2 October, at 11.30 am, the exhibition will host a school visit as part of Aula Doc, the festival's morning programme dedicated to the island's schools

Alemán will present her photography project on Thursday **1 October, at 8 pm, in the Sala d'Audiència of the Claustre del Carme (Maó)**. The talk will be given in Spanish, and places can be reserved with [accreditation](#).

'**Invierno Profano**' brings together the journeys the photographer has made over several decades across Spain and Portugal, between the winter solstice and the day before Ash Wednesday, in search of symbolic iconography in rural rituals and processions. An exploration of how these traditions bring disorder and belief into play, the urge to break rules and the need to reconcile with something greater: a journey of shadows and light showing how the ancestral never fully disappears, only transforms. **After twenty years and many kilometres**, the project ultimately speaks to very basic questions: respect for the forces of nature, acceptance of life's cycles, and how we live with our deepest-rooted fears. These are images that invite the viewer into a dreamlike world, an ideal setting to explore how popular mythologies help us understand life, suffering or death.

On Friday 2 October, at 11.30 am, the programme will include a **guided school visit** to this exhibition, as part of **Aula Doc**, the Menorca Doc Fest morning programme dedicated to Menorca's schools. The morning will also include the audiovisual presentation of the photography projects ***Hasta que la tierra aguante***, by **Santi Donaire**, **Samuel Nacar** (World Press Photo Award and Luis Valtueña Humanitarian Photography Award) and **Valentina Sinis** (Luis Valtueña Humanitarian Photography Award).

[Carmenchu Alemán](#) (Pamplona, 1967) is a documentary photographer. She bought her first SLR camera at eighteen, after spending a whole summer giving private lessons to pay for it. Self-taught at first, she later decided to turn her passion into a profession and trained at EFTI in Madrid, where she completed the photography programme and master's degree. She holds a law degree from the University of Navarra and an MBA from the University of Nantes and Strathclyde University in Glasgow.

For more than twenty years, she has developed projects on festivities, rituals and traditions in Spain and Portugal, such as *Invierno Profano*, *Miércoles de Ceniza*, *Hispania Sacra*, *Bestiario* and *Los Sanfermines*. At EFTI, her teacher was **Cristina García Rodero** — the first Spanish photographer at the Magnum agency and author of *España Oculta* — of whom she considers herself both student and friend. From her, Alemán inherited an interest in festivities and rituals as a window onto human dualities, but she brings her own perspective, attentive to the eccentricity of tradition and to the strangeness of what remains hidden yet refuses to disappear.

About the festival's exhibitions

The opening ceremony for all the festival's exhibitions will take place on the same **1 October, at 6.30 pm**, at the **Mirador del Claustre del Carme**. The projects are 'Absència', by Anthony Nietzke, 'No muerte', by JM Ruíz, 'Estenopèiques', by Toni Camps, 'Donde el agua vuelve', by Marta Villa, 'Catalina de Can Joan d'En Gall', by Isa Sanz, 'Circus', by Manolo Sosa, and the 29th Luis Valtueña Humanitarian Photography Award.

'**Donde el agua vuelve**', by **Marta Villa**. Explores old age, grief and the fragility of memory through an intimate, documentary gaze. The sea and tears frame a reflection on loss and permanence, placing at the centre those who are often forgotten and reclaiming the importance and dignity they deserve. Marta Villa is a documentary photographer based in Mallorca. Her work explores memory, territory and emotional bonds through an intimate, contemporary lens.

She has exhibited at Can Balaguer, La Misericòrdia, JUSTMAD and SUMMA Mallorca. A finalist of Art Jove Mallorca, she has completed the PHotoESPAÑA Master's and is taking part in PHotoESPAÑA 2026.

'Absència', by Anthony Nietzke. Explores absence as an open territory of multiple meanings. Through spaces, gestures and atmospheres, it invites viewers to interpret emptiness, memory and transformation, turning each image into an intimate experience in which every gaze builds its own story. Anthony Nietzke is a visual artist specialising in analogue processes, exploring various formats and techniques in photography and film, seeking to harmonise aesthetics, visual narrative and experimentation as the essence of artistic practice.

'No muerte', by JM Ruíz Luengo. Explores the experience of physical fragility and memory through a dark, sensory visual narrative. The photobook offers a journey through silence, transience and permanence, in which the images suggest more than they explain. JM Ruíz Luengo found in photography a way of inhabiting time. His work explores urban observation, memory and human presence through images in which pause, transience and perception take centre stage.

'Circus', by Manolo Sosa. 32 photographs taken during a circus's visit to the island in 2012, driven by the artist's curiosity to find out how performers lived and worked in and behind the ring. Manolo Sosa is a self-taught, amateur photographer with a strong interest in documentary photography, through which he seeks to explore his own concerns.

'Estenopèiques', by Toni Camps Coll. Building pinhole cameras and creating images with them is a pastime Toni Camps has pursued for thirty-two years; a game through which he explores the possibilities each device offers for drawing with light. This exhibition is a small sample of that extensive body of work. Toni Camps Coll is a self-taught photographer. After studying painting at the Escola Massana in Barcelona, he moved into photography and, during the 1990s, won 1st prize at the Premi Planeta. Throughout his career he has built up an extensive archive of analogue photography, exploring genres such as still life, portraiture, the nude and travel photography, with work carried out in North Africa, Europe and Cuba.

'Catalina de Can Joan d'En Gall', by Isa Sanz. A series of portraits of Catalina Escandell Riera, an Ibiza woman who wore the traditional peasant dress every day. At Can Joan d'en Gall, the house where she was born and lived, Catalina represents a link to the memory and identity of Ibiza. Isa Sanz is a visual artist and curator, born in Valladolid and based in Ibiza since 2010. Trained between Spain and England, her practice spans photography, video and performance, exploring identity, the body and human experience through a poetic, critical lens.

29th Luis Valtueña Humanitarian Photography Award, with Samuel Nacar, Jehad Alshrafi, Valentina Sinis and Santi Palacios. Since 1997, Médicos del Mundo has held the award every year in memory of Flors Sirera, Luis Valtueña, Manuel Madrazo and Mercedes Navarro, four members of the organisation killed while taking part in humanitarian aid projects. The winning work of the 29th edition, 'Las sombras ya tienen nombre', by Samuel Nacar (Spain), explores migration, social conflict and depopulation with a gaze that combines rigour and sensitivity. It gathers the stories of survivors of Syrian prisons, such as Sednaya. The finalist projects will also be on display: 'Eternal Death', by Jehad Alshrafi (Palestine), 'Were Afghan Women to Unveil Their Tales', by Valentina Sinis (Italy) and 'Nadie llegó a tiempo', by Santi Palacios (Spain). The event will take place on 1 October, at 7.15 pm, in the Sala d'Audiències of the Claustre del Carme, Maó. There will be a panel discussion with photographers Samuel Nacar and Valentina Sinis, moderated by the awards' coordinator, Nora Mora, held in Spanish, Italian and English. Places can already be reserved with [accreditation](#).

Menorca Doc Fest is an initiative by FAR Cultural, sponsored by the FFTM, the Institut d'Estudis Balearics and the Menorca Island Council.

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