

Exhibition:           **Photography in the Collection of the IVAM**

Organized by:       Institut Valencia d'Art Modern

Curators:           Consuelo Ciscar and Fernando Castro

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The exhibition showcases a selection of 412 photographs by 183 of the most representative artists in the History of Photography. All the works belong to the collection that the IVAM has put together thanks to donations from private individuals, the artists themselves, plus long-term loans from the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Carlos, Josep Renau Foundation, Gabriel Cualladó Collection, Ordóñez-Falcón Collection and the “Gandia i la Safor. Els paisatges de Joanot Martorell” Collection shared with the City Council of Gandia, but above all, thanks to the periodical acquisitions carried out by the IVAM itself since it was set up. The IVAM has always focussed on Photography, giving it the same consideration as other artistic disciplines like drawing, sculpture or painting, following the historiographical criteria of Modern Art, a practice unusual in European museums at the time the IVAM was created.

The exhibition *Photography in the Collection of the IVAM* gives us an overview of the History of Photography from its origins right up to the present moment in time, starting off with sections devoted to the pioneers and to the early steps in Photography, with works by Talbot, Adget, Bayard and Pascual Pérez; then

looking at the photomontage made between the wars, with pieces by Heartfield, Klucis and Renau. Other focuses include Documentary and Humanist photography, represented by Walker Evans, Paul Strand, Álvarez Bravo, Robert Frank and Cualladó; the New Vision of Moholy–Nagy and Weston; the Nudes by Bill Brandt, Irving Penn and Leopoldo Pomes; Urban and Natural Landscape with Adget, Abbot, the Bechers, Basilico and Wenders; and then Conceptualism with Baldessari, Richard Prince and Susy Gómez; finally, more recent trends are on view in the works of Boltanski, Coplans and Fontcuberta.

The IVAM's photography collection has always aimed at expressing and underscoring the characteristics of modern and contemporary art, as well as the specific contributions to its development in Spain and very especially in Valencia. The main axis of the selection consists of works by artists using photography as a form of artistic expression, alongside works by artists who made up the historical movements from the decade of the nineteen-thirties, and those that arose later with Informalism and Pop Art, two movements receiving a lot of attention in the IVAM Collection.

Ever since its foundation, the IVAM included photography, photomontage and graphic design in its Collection and these are on view in this exhibition represented by the most emblematic figures of the artistic avant-gardes, but also by less well-known artists. Taking the superb works by the Valencian photomontage artist Josep Renau as a starting point, a significant part of the collection was gradually put together dedicated to artists working with the montage of images, without restrictions in terms of techniques used. And so, we can see some of the experiments from the period of the historical avant-gardes and their evolution in parallel to the use of photography, new typographies and procedures of graphic reproduction in later generations.