



**Exhibition:** **Valencia del tranvía.**  
**Manuel Vicent versus Joan Antoni Vicent**  
IVAM – Centre Julio González  
10<sup>th</sup> January – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2008

**Organised by:** Institut Valencià d'Art Modern

**Curators:** Manuel Vicent and Joan Antoni Vicent

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The exhibition *Valencia del tranvía* (Valencia from a Tramcar) comprises 50 photographs by Joan Antoni Vicent that portray his vision of Valencia based on a series of passages from the popular novel *Tranvía a la Malvarrosa*, written in 1994 by his brother, Manuel Vicent. This sentimental walk down memory lane portrays a young man's passage from adolescence to adulthood in the nineteen fifties. The exhibition presents seven itineraries around the city, passing through different districts until it arrives at Malvarrosa beach, depicting the atmosphere of its streets and its most emblematic buildings. Coinciding with this exhibition, the IVAM has published a book containing over one hundred photographs and including a foreword by Consuelo Císcar, Director of the IVAM, an introduction by Manuel Vicent and the fragments of the novel that have inspired the lens of the camera.

By means of the photographs and the texts, this exhibition attempts to rescue from oblivion the Valencia that Manuel Vicent frequented in his student years, which, according to the writer, "has not completely been swallowed up by history nor has it totally succumbed beneath the pickaxe or the deluge of plastic".

The photographs displayed capture, on the one hand, current images of the city, placing special emphasis on the spots that play an important part in the novel, such as the historic centre or Malvarrosa beach. Using black and white to underscore the sensation of timelessness, Joan Antoni Vicent portrays sites, buildings and establishments that have remained practically unaltered for half a century: squares, markets, hotels and traditional shops.

The exhibition also includes photographs of the filming of the screen version of the novel (*Tranvía a la Malvarrosa*, José Luis García Sánchez, 1995), taken in colour by the same photographer. In this way, the atmosphere of literature and the cinema is added to the reality of a Valencia that is still standing and very much alive in order to enter the land of dreams through fiction.

Joan Antoni Vicent is the author of books of photographs like *Barcelona Silencis* (1999), a poetic vision of the silences of the city, and *Roda el temps* (2001), where he portrays the peoples and customs of his home town, La Vilavella (Castellón).