

Conference

# Cristina De Middel *Life and Miracles*

**KBr**

Fundación **MAPFRE**

# Cristina De Middel

## *Life and Miracles*



Date  
**April 12**

Time  
**7 pm**

In person and online

[kbr.fundacionmapfre.org](http://kbr.fundacionmapfre.org)

*BAMBUIT*, from the series "The Afronauts",  
2012. Cristina De Middel / Magnum Photos.

On the occasion of the workshop *Bending Time. Revisiting History Through Photography*, to be given by Cristina De Middel from 13 to 16 April, we present this talk that will allow us to retrace the career of this award-winning photographer through the series of expectations and deceptions that brought her to define her own path.

Graduated in Fine Arts and after working as a photojournalist with NGOs and newspapers for 10 years, De Middel took a sharp turn and consolidated her visual language that cleverly questions the delicate and loaded relationship between photographic representation and the "truth".

She is recognized, among others, for her series "The Afronauts", a fictional series on a real African space mission attempt, a series that challenged the stale and repetitive visual western stereotypes of (mis)representation of the African continent. The series has been exhibited several times in museums and institutions such as the MoMa in San Francisco, the Hasselblad Foundation in Göteborg, and the Centre Pompidou in Paris.

In conversation with Arianna Rinaldo, director of the series of workshops *Get Real! (Open your eyes!)* by KBr, Cristina De Middel will take us through her career choices, focusing on the turning points that led her to develop projects in her signature style as a continuous exploration of the possibilities of the photographic language (and the photobook format) to evolve and interpret the world.

After 10 years as a photojournalist, **Cristina De Middel** (Alicante, Spain, 1975) started to investigate photography's ambiguous relationship to truth. Blending documentary with conceptual photographic practices, she questions stereotypes and absolute truths typically imposed by the media. Since 2012 De Middel has published more than 14 books and exhibited widely across five continents. In 2017 she received the National Award for Photography in Spain and became a member of Magnum Photos; she has served as the cooperative's president since 2022. Cristina De Middel is a board member at the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation and at Vist Projects. She also has a publishing house (This Book is True) and is continually promoting initiatives to support the potential of the photobook as a visual storytelling phenomenon.

**Arianna Rinaldo** (Milan, Italy, 1971) is an independent curator and freelance photo editor. Between 2012 and 2021 she directed the international festival Cortona On The Move, in Tuscany. Over the course of the last few years, she has also directed the documentary photography magazine *OjodePez* and, between 1998 and 2001, the Magnum Photos archive in New York. Since 2016 she has been curating photography at PhEST, international festival of photography and art in Monopoli, and continues to develop photographic projects internationally, as well as teaching and mentoring. She is on the selection committee for the British Journal of Photography Ones to Watch, the Leica Oskar Barnack Award (LOBA) and the Deutsche Börse Prize.

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