

Workshop
Get Real! (Open your eyes!)

Cristina De Middel

*Bending Time: Revisiting History
Through Photography*



As an active member of the photographic community, Cristina De Middel has been pushing the limits of visual narrative for more than 10 years, questioning modes of storytelling and defying stereotypes. With her work and her conceptual framing she invites fellow creators to explore ways of interpreting and understanding the world.

“To bend time – isn’t this what we do with a camera all the time?” is De Middel’s trigger for this workshop. Photographers are like time travelers, retelling stories of the past, of what has happened, or conjuring a future via dystopic or utopic imagination. Recreation, which includes interpretation, is what drives the photographic artist.

“Bending Time” is a provocative four-day workshop that will offer practical and conceptual insights into the experience of revisiting a past event, and creating a visual dialogue with history. Focusing on the anarchic revolution that took place in Barcelona in 1936, the selected participants will be invited by Cristina De Middel to revisit facts and places and reflect on the significance of those events in the framework of the day-to-day city. The aim is to open a dialogue between past and present, and to challenge the participant to visually translate the idealism and the concepts behind the revolution.

The workshop will not focus on technical aspects of photography but will include roaming the streets of Barcelona with a purpose. The goal of “Bending Time” is to offer tools and reflections to guide participants in refining and channeling visual narratives. The workshop will end with the creation of a communal book dummy and an analysis of possible exhibition ideas based on the process.

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.

Dates
**Thursday 13 to Sunday 16,
April 2023**

Schedule
**Thursday to Sunday,
10 am to 1 pm and
3 pm to 6 pm**

Opening talk
by Cristina De Middel
Wednesday, April 12, 7 pm

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The workshop is designed to be an intensive four-day experience with theoretical and practical aspects, conversations and fieldwork. The goal is to create an ongoing and open dialogue with photography's capability to revisit history and travel through time, guided by Cristina De Middel.

Opening talk Wednesday, April 12. 7pm

Face-to face and online

The day before the workshop begins, De Middel will give a talk at KBr: **Life and miracles.**

Day 1 Thursday, April 13

- 9 am - 11 am Introductions, Cristina De Middel and participants. Presentation of the workshop and its objectives.
- 11 am - 1 pm Organization of the working groups and definition of strategy.
- 1 pm - 2 pm Break.
- 2 pm - 4 pm Fieldwork or on-site visual research.
- 5 pm - 6 pm Evaluation of results and redefinition of strategies.

Day 2 Friday, April 14

- 9 am - 10 am Definition of strategies prior to fieldwork.
- 10 am - 1 pm Fieldwork.
- 1 pm - 2 pm Break.
- 2 pm - 5 pm Fieldwork.
- 5 pm - 6 pm Evaluation of results and redefinition of strategies.

Day 3 Saturday, April 15

- 9 am - 11 am Evaluation of the material generated.
- 11 am - 1 pm Editing and sequencing of images.
- 1 pm - 2 pm Break.
- 2 pm - 6 pm Editing and sequencing of images.

Day 4 Sunday, April 16

- 9 am - 1 pm Model construction and discussion of exhibition options.
- 1 pm - 2 pm Break.
- 2 pm - 5 pm Model construction and discussion of exhibition options.
- 5 pm - 6 pm Final conclusions.

Submission of applications

Interested participants must submit their application before March 12, 2023, through the online form available at kbr.fundacionmapfre.org

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