

Workshop
Get Real! (Open your eyes!)

Simon Norfolk

*Clarifying your vision: how to make
your photographic project stand out*

KBr

Fundación **MAPFRE**

Barcelona Photo Center

Program

During this 4-day workshop participants will discuss, share and learn about the development of long-term photographic projects. Thanks to his experience in visual narrative and storytelling, Simon Norfolk will suggest how to clarify and (re)conceptualise projects, making them sharper and more effective. The ultimate goal of the workshop is to avoid a problem that photographers all too often end up facing. How do projects gain that extra sophistication that makes them stand out from the rest, the lucidity that wins awards or gets published in prestigious outlets?

In Simon's own words: "I want to show you how I craft my projects and how I layer them up with ideas to make them multifaceted... I'll show you how I research and clarify an idea and the influences I bring to bear not just on what I photograph but why I make my pictures look the way they do. Buying a new lens or upgrading some software won't make your photography outstanding. But a little 17th century landscape painting, a whiff of the history of English garden design, a slight acquaintance with Paleolithic cave painting or a handful of ideas from European philosophy or the intellectual history of World War One might trigger something fruitful."

Norfolk will share the kinds of places he goes to look for purpose in classes that are not designed simply to gain his feedback, but that encourage the common goal of finding inspiration in the history of ideas.

The workshop is aimed at experienced photographers interested in developing a body of work that has been initiated but not finalised. In this way, Norfolk can help adjust the direction and contribute to elevating the level of the final project.

Dates
**Thursday, June 19 to
Sunday, June 22 2025**

Schedule
**10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
and 3 to 6 p.m.**

One late night and one early morning outing (days to be decided)

**The workshop will be held
in English**

Opening talk by Simon
Norfolk in conversation with
Arianna Rinaldo.
Wednesday, June 18, 7 p.m.
Face-to-face and online
**In English with simultaneous
translation into Spanish**

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Born in Lagos, Nigeria (1963), Simon Norfolk earned degrees in Philosophy and Sociology from Oxford and Bristol Universities in the UK. His photographic work on landscape and architecture has a broader scope, exploring the multifaceted meaning of the land. Whether as the battered stage of wars, or spectator to the passage of time, Norfolk's landscapes hold layered meanings.

Norfolk has won two World Press Photo Awards, three Sony World Photography Awards, was shortlisted for the Deutsche Bourse Prize, and won a Prix Pictet Commission. He won the Infinity Prize from the International Center of Photography, and was the first British photographer to have a solo show at the Tate Modern. His work is in major collections such as The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, The Getty in Los Angeles, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Sir Elton John Collection. His work has been shown widely and internationally from Brighton to Ulaanbaatar. He shot ten years' worth of assignments for the New York Times Magazine and is a long-standing National Geographic photographer.

He has produced four monographs of his work, including *Afghanistan: Chronotopia* (2002), which was published in five languages; *For Most Of It I Have No Words* (1998) about the landscapes of genocide; *Bleed* (2005) about the war in Bosnia; and *Burke + Norfolk: Photographs from the War in Afghanistan* (2011).

The workshop is an intensive four-day experience with theoretical and practical aspects guided by reflections on research, cultural references and inspirations. Participants will find the necessary tools to sharpen their work, making the resulting project more effective and relevant.

During the workshop, participants will go out shooting one late evening followed by a very early morning (the routine Norfolk follows when on assignment) allowing for the review of the night's work. Norfolk will assign themes for shoots, similar to those he receives from editors. The final day of the workshop will be dedicated to sharing and critiquing the work undertaken.

Opening talk Wednesday, June 18 at 7 p.m.

Face to face and online

The day before the start of the workshop, Simon Norfolk will deliver a talk at KBr: **Looking back over 30 years of photographing war and conflict.**

Day 1 Thursday, June 19

- 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Presentation of the workshop's goals and introduction to Simon's work.
- 3 - 6 p.m. Introduction of the participants' projects and shared feedback.

Day 3 Saturday, June 21

- Dawn or Morning Fieldwork (theme and time to be defined).
- 3 - 6 p.m. Shared critique of the assigned work (I).

Day 2 Friday, June 20

- 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sources of inspiration and research.
- Afternoon Assignment of night and next day fieldwork.
- Night Night assignment (theme and time to be defined)

Day 4 Sunday, June 22

- 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Shared critique of the assigned work (II).
- 3 - 6 p.m. Final feedback and conclusions.

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