

Workshop
Get Real! (Open your eyes!)

Alex Majoli

*Unveiling the Myth:
How Photography Acts*

KBr

Fundación **MAPFRE**

Barcelona Photo Center

Program

Known for his powerful, cinematic approach to documentary photography, Magnum photographer Alex Majoli explores the complexity of human behavior and the blurred boundaries between reality and performance. His work spans global conflict zones, social unrest, and intimate human experiences, often rendered in striking black and white.

With his visual storytelling practice, Majoli challenges conventional documentary form and invites viewers to question the nature of truth in photography. Through his works and teaching, Majoli encourages photographers to engage deeply with their subjects, pushing beyond reportage to explore emotional and psychological depth.

The workshop is designed to build a visual language and strengthen the artistic autonomy of each participant. At the center of photographic practice is the individual, with their own history, background, and the experiences that comprise them; all these elements profoundly influence each photographer's work. Through discussion, editing, and portfolio development, participants will have the opportunity to observe their own photographic language, enhancing the unique characteristics of each student.

Dates
Thursday 22 to Sunday 25,
January 2026

Schedule
Thursday to Sunday
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.
to 6 p.m. (Thursday, Friday
and Saturday)

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
to 5 p.m. (Sunday)

The workshop will be held
in English

Opening talk: *Life is a stage, photojournalism its screenplay*, Alex Majoli in conversation with Arianna Rinaldo.
Wednesday, January 21,
7 p.m.

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Magnum photographer, Alex Majoli (1971, Ravenna, Italy) explores the human condition and the theater within everyday life. A graduate of the Art Institute in Ravenna, his career began with *Leros*, a project documenting the closing of a psychiatric hospital in Greece, inspired by Franco Basaglia's groundbreaking mental health reforms. Majoli went on to develop *Tudo Bom*, a 20-year exploration of Brazilian society, a compelling body of work about the multi layered, complex country and specifically the extremes found in the darker side of its society.

Throughout the years Majoli has worked as a photojournalist, always challenging conventional documentary form and questioning the nature and role of photography. He joined Magnum Photos in 1996 and became a member in 2001.

His ongoing project *Scene* develops from the idea that the photographer witnesses but also influences how people perform their own realities. His long experience as a photojournalist reinforced this idea. By using dramatic lighting and cinematic composition, he blurs the line between documentary and fiction, revealing the tension between truth, perception, and performance.

His work is held in major public collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, ICP, and Mucem. Majoli's many honors include the W. Eugene Smith Grant, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the ICP Infinity Award. He has published several books, among them *Leros*, *Congo*, *Scene*, and *Opera Aperta*.

The workshop is designed to be an intensive four-day experience with theoretical and practical aspects, debates and conversations. The goal is to offer ideas and tools intended to challenge the participant's storytelling methods and approach photographic practice. Daily review sessions will be held for a collective vision of works and an exchange of ideas and feedback.

Opening talk
Life is a stage, photojournalism its screenplay
Wednesday, January 21 at 7 p.m.

Face to face and online

The day before the start of the workshop, Alex Majoli will deliver a talk at KBr.

Day 1
Thursday, January 22

- 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Introductions
- 2 - 6 p.m. Portfolio reviews part I

Day 2
Friday, January 23

- 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Exploring the role of photography
- 2 - 6 p.m. Portfolio reviews part II

Day 3
Saturday, January 24

- 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Debunking the myth
- 2 - 6 p.m. Portfolio reviews part III

Day 4
Sunday, January 25

- 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Open ended conclusions
- 3 - 5 p.m. Q&A and conclusions

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