



FUNDACIÓN
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Digitization of 20th-century photographic heritage

The Fundación Photographic Social Vision has created a digital platform that opens to the public the photographic archives it represents, including that of Joana Biarnés, a pioneer of photojournalism

The new digital platform archivos.fundacionpsv.org brings together hundreds of iconic photographs – some of them previously unpublished – from the **Joana Biarnés** archive, and includes photographic work and unpublished collections from the other authors represented by this foundation: **Anna Turbau, Ferran Freixa, Isabel Azkarate, Jacques Léonard, Joaquín Tusquets de Cabirol, Leopoldo Pomés, Manuel Outumuro and Oriol Maspons.**

In 2026, the Fundación Photographic Social Vision **celebrates 25 years defending documentary photography** as a way to build a more conscious and better-informed society. It also has created the **Villa Alegre Gallery** to promote the international dissemination of the rich photographic heritage it manages.



>> The archivos.fundacionpsv.org platform **promotes the dissemination** of the photographic heritage represented by the Fundación Photographic; **it boosts the sale of works** —to museums, institutions, and individual buyers, both nationally and internationally— **and leverages intellectual property rights** so that authors and their heirs receive the income necessary to keep these legacies alive and prevent the disappearance of these photographic treasures.

>> The new Villa Alegre photography gallery —named after the foundation's headquarters in Barcelona, where it serves collectors and other interested parties— will participate in **international art fairs throughout 2026**, such as the MIA Photo Fair in Italy, to facilitate the sale of works and the internationalization of the photographic archives represented by the Fundación Photographic.

>> In 2026, the **Anna Turbau** and **Joaquín Tusquets de Cabirol** archives will be featured in **major retrospective exhibitions in Barcelona**, at the Palau Robert and the KBr Photography Center, respectively, thanks to the foundation's efforts.



Preserving and disseminating the photographic heritage of the foundation

One of the main missions of the **Fundación Photographic Social Vision** has been, for the past 14 years, to preserve and disseminate —through exhibitions, books, etc.— the photographic archives it represents, including essential names in the sector from the 20th century such as **Anna Turbau, Ferran Freixa, Isabel Azkarate, Jacques Léonard, Joaquín Tusquets de Cabirol, Joana Biarnés, Leopoldo Pomés, Manuel Outumuro, and Oriol Maspons.**

Starting this year, coinciding with the foundation's **25th anniversary**, this outreach effort is being strengthened through the creation of **its own digital platform, archivos.fundacionpsv.org, open to the public and free of charge.** *"The goal is to facilitate access to the rich artistic and documentary heritage that remains unpublished in our country and is largely unknown internationally,"* says Silvia Omedes, director of the Fundación Photographic.

The new platform **aims to broaden the recognition of the career and inspiring work of Joana Biarnés**, created over 30 years by the woman considered the first female photojournalist in Spain. The Biarnés legacy, owned by the Fundación Photographic, which has cared for, preserved, and managed it since 2014, continues to be studied and organized to make it progressively more accessible and useful. *"We have carefully preserved and stored over 100,000 negatives, digitized them, classified them, and stored them on our hard drives. We have also recorded a significant number of captions, dates, and locations, and now we can make this material available to researchers, students, journalists, producers, gallery owners, curators, artists, museum professionals, and all interested members of the public,"* Omedes emphasizes, adding: *"A legacy like Joana's should be enjoyed, analyzed historically and artistically, and reviewed periodically."* The platform houses various **thematic collections of the photographer's work**, curated by the foundation team.

This digital space also houses **collections of pictures and other information of interest** —such as biographies and the availability of works for sale— **from the other archives represented by the Fundación Photographic Social Vision.** This organization carries out the necessary tasks for the **preservation and management** of these photographic archives, as well as for the **exploitation of copyright**, on behalf of their heirs. This new tool **guarantees and improves dissemination**, in addition to incentivizing income from the **sale of licenses and photographic prints**, which allows the heir families to continue funding the conservation of these important legacies to ensure their long-term survival. The platform also specifies which works are for sale, with the intention of encouraging collecting.

The evocative photographic series —some previously unpublished— presented on the digital platform offer a thematic approach to these archives. The idea is for photography enthusiasts and curious visitors alike to discover iconic images from these essential legacies and also learn about their authors.

In addition to facilitating access to these photographic collections, the digital platform seeks **to foster new alliances with international gallery owners, curators and collectors** who are **often unaware of the extraordinary generation of photographers from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s in Spain.**

The Fundación Photographic is committed to continuously reviewing these photographic archives to identify content that can be discovered by new audiences and explored from new perspectives. **Preserving the integrity and accessibility of these archives is essential to safeguarding Spanish cultural heritage and collective memory.**

The platform will soon expand its features and offer additional original content, such as **video interviews** with photographers or their heirs and with the Fundación Photographic Social Vision management team; **technical information on photographic archives preservation; virtual tours** of archive exhibitions; **expanded biographies and bibliographies** for each photographer; and even a **virtual library** to access PDFs of published books.

The platform's technology was developed by **Bestalde Studio**, directed by Miren Pastor, which has over 12 years of experience providing customized technological solutions for the cultural sector. The project

was co-financed by a grant from **Spain's Ministry of Culture** and a digitization grant from the **Generalitat de Catalunya** — Government of Catalonia.

The Villa Alegre gallery: access to the Biarnés Archive and the international market

The Fundación Photographic Social Vision is headquartered in Villa Alegre, an exceptional house with a garden in the heart of Barcelona's bustling Via Augusta. In this unique space, and by appointment, the foundation's team welcomes collectors, researchers, students, photographers, journalists, gallery owners, curators, museum professionals, and, in general, anyone interested in learning about and/or acquiring photographic works. During visits, the foundation opens the refrigerated chamber where the original negatives are stored, sets up the space with a specially designed visual itinerary, and guides visitors through the process of discovering and selecting contemporary or vintage works from the archives it represents.

Thanks to the newly established **Villa Alegre gallery**, the Fundación Photographic has the opportunity to participate directly in specialized photography fairs worldwide and personally ensure that the collections it safeguards reach the international market. Thus, it has recently participated in international festivals such as Les **Rencontres de la Photographie d'Arles** or in renowned fairs such as **Paris Photo**, last November, or in the **MIA Photo Fair** this March in Milan.

Retrospectives of Turbau and Tusquets de Cabirol

In 2026, the archives of Anna Turbau and Joaquín Tusquets de Cabirol will be featured in **major retrospective exhibitions in Barcelona**, at the Palau Robert and the KBr Photography Center, thanks to the foundation's efforts.

Since 2023, the Fundación Photographic has worked closely with **Anna Turbau (Barcelona, 1949-2025), one of the pioneering women of Spanish photojournalism**, on the cataloging and digitization of her archive. Its team has also advised her on organizing exhibitions and selling her pictures and assisted her in the inclusion of several of her analog prints in the National Photography Collection of the Government of Catalonia, acquired by the MNAC (Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya - National Art Museum of Catalonia). Following Turbau's unexpected death in March 2025, work continues, now alongside his son Daniel Soler Turbau, to promote her **great photographic and human legacy, characterized by an honest and courageous vision and a strong social commitment**, as demonstrated by her most popular works, created in Galicia during Spain's turbulent transition to democracy. **Thanks to the efforts of the foundation, a major retrospective exhibition will open in 2026 at Palau Robert (Barcelona)**, among other projects that will honor her memory.

The foundation also represents the heirs of **Joaquín Tusquets de Cabirol (Barcelona, 1904-1979)**, an industrialist with a passion for art who, for pleasure, documented post-Spanish war Catalonia during the 1940s and 50s, creating a body of work that stands apart from that of his contemporaries due to its technical excellence and innovation. **This photographic treasure remained completely unknown until 2020**, when some of his work unexpectedly surfaced in a dumpster, and the foundation began advising his family, who had preserved his prints. **Since 2022, the Fundación Photographic has undertaken the cataloging, preservation, digitalization, and collection of oral testimonies from his descendants**, which initially led to the inclusion of several of his original prints in the photographic collection of the MNAC. **In 2026, a major retrospective exhibition will open at the KBr Photography Center**, part of the Mapfre Foundation, in Barcelona. *"The process of recovering this legacy has been exciting,"* says **Marina Balagué**, head of the archives department at the Fundación Photographic, *"from the initial discovery of the material to the culmination of the anthological exhibition and the publication of a book, which rescues from oblivion a photographic archive of unquestionable value for contemporary photographic historiography."*

About Silvia Omedes and the team of women in the archives area

The photographic archives representation area of the Fundación Photographic Social Vision emerged in the organization's early years as a result of supporting photographer **Joana Biarnés** and the heirs of photographer **Jacques Léonard**, advising them on the preservation and promotion of their legacies. This experience demonstrated the need to offer these services on an ongoing basis to both photographers and their heirs, providing them with the knowledge and contacts necessary to **keep these valuable photographic archives alive**.

The team that carries out this work is composed exclusively of women, led by **Silvia Omedes**, a graduate of The New School for Social Research in New York, who has been the founder and director of the Fundación Photographic Social Vision since 2001. She is also an independent curator, editor, photographers' agent, and cultural manager.

The head of the archives department is **Marina Balagué**, a graduate in communication from the Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona (UAB), specializing in the conservation and management of photographic archives at the UAB's School of Archival Studies and Records Management and at the Institut d'Estudis Fotogràfics de Catalunya (IEFC - institute of photographic studies of Catalonia).

Imma Cortés, **Maria Planas**, and **Valeria Fossati** are also part of this team. Cortés trained in architecture in Milan and Barcelona and later studied photography at the IEFC. She honed her skills in archival research during the four years she worked in the Joana Biarnés archive alongside the photographer herself. Planas is the director of the Biennial de Fotografia Xavier Miserachs (Xavier Miserachs photography biennial), with a background encompassing visual arts, history, and development cooperation. Finally, Fossati holds a degree in Journalism and has experience as a documentary photographer and manager of cultural projects with social impact.

La Fundación Photographic Social Vision: 25 years defending documentary photography

The Fundación Photographic Social Vision is a non-profit organization that celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2026. Since its inception, **it has championed documentary photography as a means to build a more conscious and better-informed society**.

In addition to **taking care of photographic archives**, it is active in other areas. On the one hand, it **organizes exhibitions, such as World Press Photo in Barcelona**, to raise awareness of current challenges and also **promotes photographic creation** through the Beca Joana Biarnés para Jovenes Fotoperiodistas (grant for young photojournalists), the Star Photobook Dummy Award, and by providing **guidance to professionals**. On the other hand, it **carries out participatory photography and visual education projects** for schoolchildren, vulnerable groups, professionals, and the general public, including *Material Sensible*, a workshop for survivors of childhood sexual abuse, and a recent **study on the level of visual literacy among adolescents**, which will lead to the development of educational tools to improve it.

Finally, the Fundación Photographic participates in initiatives of the national photojournalism sector such as **Archivo Covid** (a photographic archive from the COVID-19 times in Spain) or **LASAL, Festival Mediterráneo de Fotografía y Periodismo** (Mediterranean festival of photography and journalism), in addition to being a member of the platform that promotes the soon-to-be-opened **Centro Nacional de Fotografía e Imagen** (Spanish national center of photography and image).

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