

The exhibition features about 80 works that reflect the changes in the major Latin American cities during the second half of the twentieth century

The Foto Colectania Foundation presents the treasures of Latin American photography of the collector Anna Gamazo de Abelló

The collection of Anna Gamazo de Abello gathers some of the best examples of twentieth century Latin American photography. Names like Horacio Coppola, the portrait of Buenos Aires, the Cuban Alberto Korda, who shot to fame by the photos of Che Guevara, Sergio Larrain, the best example of Chilean photography Gerardo de Barros, representative of the Brazilian avant-garde photography and Pablo Ortiz Monasterio, a portrait of the marginality of Mexico, among others, these pictures are part of a collection that has been developed in their native field: its curator, the frenchman Alexis Fabry- too curator of this exhibition- has travelled to different countries to see first hand the best photograph of each place. Thus, after seven years, the collection of Anna Gamazo de Abelló is a representative example of all styles and techniques of Latin American photography, which includes documentary and plastic visions, and in which the protagonists are people and their histories. The exhibition, "The weight of the city. Latin American photography in the collection of Anna Gamazo de Abelló, which shows a selection of these pieces, is opened to public on 27 January 2010 in the Foto Colectania Foundation.

The exhibition is entitled "The weight of the city" because in all cases, the city is its story line: the photographs reflect the social change in several Latin American countries for the population growth in urban areas. What was often an example of development, wealth, expansion, new opportunities, in others it was only a reflection of poverty, population density and social inequality. The cities featured in this exhibition (Buenos Aires, Mexico City, São Paulo, which far surpassed the four million people since 1970 and today, are some of the biggest cities in the world) were, during the 50s, 60s and 70s of the last century, these cities have undergone town planning and architectural changes, and for photographers, their streets and grand boulevards were full of contrast material.

One of the best known photographers who portray the Latin American city was Horacio Coppola. Born in Buenos Aires in 1906, with 30 years he got one of the

largest job of his career, portraying the city in the 400th anniversary of its foundation. The job, directly from the Municipality of the city, allowed this young photographer, who studied at the Bauhaus, discover a city of big buildings, where the neon lights flashing on Corrientes Avenue, one of the largest in the world at that time.

Several of the photographers whose work is shown in this exhibit were part of the prestigious Magnum agency. Two examples are Sergio Larrain and Miguel Rio Branco. The first, born in 1931, he bought his first camera-a Leica-in United States, where he was studying. At 20 years, thanks to a family trip that lasted eight months, had the opportunity to explore Europe and the Middle East and take lots of pictures of the Old World. In 1959 he met Henri Cartier-Bresson, who, when he discovered his work, encouraged him to work for Magnum. Regular contributor to magazines like Paris Match, Camera and Photo, Sergio Larrain was made famous by a picture of two girls walking down the stairs port of Valparaiso, but also of poor children in Santiago de Chile and the pictures he took for the Pablo Neruda's book "A house in the sand" (1966).

Miguel Rio Branco (1946), son of a Brazilian diplomat, first he studied photography at the Institute of Photography in New York and later industrial design in Rio de Janeiro. In 1972 he made a series of prostitution in Salvador that was a great success, but he felt that photography wasn't allowed him to express everything he wanted and, back to Rio, he began to develop collages, projections and installations. His images, sometimes hard but with poetry and conceptual elements, have the chiaroscuro as an important element. His images of children dancing capoeira in the street are renowned.

A journey through the twentieth century Latin American photography

Mexican photography is widely represented in the exhibition, for example, in the work of Nacho López (1923-1986). In line with the bustling city of Coppola, Nacho Lopez photographed the nightlife and popular neighbourhoods of Mexico City. One of the most important photographers of the twentieth century in Mexico, also he is considered one of the best fotoreporters of their country, and he has done one of the most famous snapshots of the Mexican capital, such as the intervention "Venus goes

out on the town” (1953) in which a man moved a dummy from one factory to another and the photographer followed him capturing the reactions of people.

Also Pablo Ortiz Monasterio is Mexican who was born in 1952 and is author of the series of photographs that best portray Mexico DF: “The last city”. Although the images weren’t published in book form until 1996, were made in the 80s in every corner of the Mexican capital where the photographer masterfully portrays the pathos of a city of marginal people and pariahs. Ortiz Monasterio portrays here a Mexico in conflict with the tourist town.

Among the women present in the exhibition there is Graciela Iturbide, born in Mexico in 1942 and pupil of Manuel Alvarez Bravo, one of the great masters of Mexican photography. Iturbide's photographs (awarded with, among others, the Eugene Smith Award and the Hasselblad Award, given to photographers like Cartier-Bresson and Robert Frank) are halfway through documentary and poetry: although she often portrays tragic events in his country and in other places of Latin America, there is always a place for sentiment, for small flashes of beauty. In his career series dedicated to everyday life are abundant like traditional rituals-Carnival, Catholic rites mixed with indigenous parties, but also dreamlike images in which are joined nature and culture. In the exhibition images from the serie dedicated to Tehuantepec, an indigenous people of Oaxaca, will be shown; Iturbide make them in the 80s of last century.

*The Peruvian Milagros de la Torre is another of the women present in the exhibition of Fundació Foto Colectania, born in 1965, whose series *The Lost Steps* (1996) evokes the violence present in Lima through the evidences found in the archives of the Palace Justice of the city. The work of Milagros de la Torre explores violence and questions the history, often censored or forgotten voluntarily, through a photo with a conceptual background. His most recent work is a reference bulletproof vest used in Latin America, which portrays on a neutral background to emphasize its impact.*

The collection of Anna Gamazo de Abelló

The exhibition presented by the Foundation Photo Colectania is only an approximation to the collection of Anna Gamazo de Abelló began in 2002 with the collaboration of Alexis Fabry, one of the great experts in Latin American photography, for whom it is significant that "both the fragmentation and the unity of the Latin American world " have been picked up by a Spanish collector, because " Spain is the conjunction of the Hispanic world". Through 400 images (from 1895 to 2008) of this private collection, the visitor could see the influences in the work of different photographers, from the Indian heritage of Mexico and Peru contained in snapshots of Martin Chambi, to the European heritage in photographs of the Venezuelan Paolo Gasparini, through late modernism portrayed by Yalenti in São Paulo in the 40s.

The weight of the city. Latin American photography in the collection of Anna Gamazo de Abelló

From January 27 to May 29, 2010

Press Conference

Wednesday, January 27th at 11.30am

Inauguration

Wednesday, January 27th at 20h

Foto Colectania Foundation

Julián Romea, 6 D2

08017 Barcelona

www.colectania.es

Schedules:

From Monday to Saturday : from 11 to 14 and from 17 to 20.30.

Admittance: 3 € (With discount: 2 €. Free entrance first Saturday of the month)

Guided tours from October, Mondays at 19.00.

Institucional sponsors:



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