

ARCHIVO SOMBRA

CARLOS CANAL

Opening Event: September 28th, 20 PM

Sala de Exposiciones del Rectorado de la Universidad de
Málaga (Av. Cervantes, 2)

September 28 - November 18, 2023

Open Mondays to Saturdays
(except public holidays): 10 AM to 14 PM / 17 PM to 21 PM
Guided tours: Thursdays 19 PM, Saturdays 12:30 PM

50
ANIVERSARIO



UNIVERSIDAD
DE MÁLAGA

ARCHIVO SOMBRA [SHADOW FILES]

Photography in our culture is related to memories, memory and oblivion. Memories are movements of the heart that are relived in relation to the inner, intimate feelings that occur in our consciousness. Memory, on the other hand, can be understood as a rather cold reaction that is detached from emotion, from the subject itself and settles in the subconscious.

Photography is an “interface” that allows us to connect the inner being of the photographer with things and events in the outside world, questioning reality and generating a circular movement that reveals to us that the basic principles of photography follow the principles of life.

For a photographer, the file is something more than documents, it is a source of traces, footprints, encounters, pieces of a life that in the image will last forever. The file is driven by destruction, by its relationship with death, a file represents a chronology of a life that has already been lived, in short it is a place of origin and end, a file of the phantasmatic, of the secret, of the shadow. What remains in the end, the file or its shadow?

Shadow Files arises from the ashes of the file, from that hidden place where all the moments that we have decided to photograph in order not to forget are kept. A Pandora’s box that opens when the photographer needs to recapitulate. To externalize what has remained hidden, dormant, hidden in the ashes of the passage of time.

Photography is built through the duality generated by light and shadow, reality and fiction, memory and oblivion, life and death. Shadow Files poses a dialogue between the immaterial, intangible and translucent with the material, opaque and solid.

Rafael Doctor, writes: “In this exhibition we will only find two works, two immense works built over forty years of observation, contemplation, fixation on the world around us and the world we are. A first ethereal work that eludes the wall and shows itself in the air. Large images hanging from the ceiling and now printed on Japanese rice paper envelop us, showing us structures, abstract forms, as if trying to transcend the concrete and trying to place us in an unreal space that is none other than that of the primary elements, where light lives through its own dance. We are before the perception of what cannot be told, of the forms that take us to the essential that resides in each of the images. A volatile forest that does not require from the spectator much more than its transit, its walk, an experience that prepares to reach the second work, the one that as a great altarpiece is shown on a single wall. An absolute and definitive work in which Carlos Canal offers himself in all his nuances, a work that is many but here is a whole. The viewer is welcome to build for himself his own reading and freely look at the different areas of the author’s soul, because here, in a random way, there is everything he is.

Sleeping in old negatives, stored for years and years, here awaited these snippets of what one has been looking at and being for a lifetime. We are before the Shadow File, which is none other than the author himself, open in soul, who offers himself to us bravely and without any modesty at all. There is nothing to tell in this mosaic, each tessera is a part but it is also a whole. Shadows hidden in time that now claim with this presence a place that brings them closer to the life they once were”.

Carlos Canal