

WAR THEATER

A MIKEL BASTIDA PRODUCTION

FILMED IN EUROPE

Cuadernos fotográficos de la Kursala Nº 27

Sala Kursala
Aulario La Bomba
Paseo Carlos III, Nº3, Cádiz, 11003
Del 16 de septiembre al 7 de noviembre de 2011
Horario de visitas: lunes a viernes de 9:00h a 21:00h.

Programación y comisariado: Jesús Micó
Organiza: Vicerrectorado de Extensión Universitaria. Universidad de Cádiz.
Patrocina el programa cultural de la Universidad de Cádiz: Cajasol

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WAR THEATRE

During the last two years Mikel Bastida has traveled across Western and Eastern Europe recreating the figure of a World War II photographer. He has covered several historical recreations where groups of reenactors have performed different war episodes in both historical scenarios and fictitious battlefields.

This photographic series is a search for those fields that history has turned into literary landscapes. Scenarios made out of different representations of WWII -from films to vintage photographs- which turn into huge sets where recreation and simulation leaves exposed a collective imaginary.

The Photographic Naturalism, the definition of reality from behind the camera, does not allow fictitious characters but imaginary. Real figures transformed into the main character of a false epic representation. Archetypes of a story that has permeated our popular culture to the point of making reality interesting only when it is mystified by its representation.

It is the eye of the photographer who creates this universe through the camera. Spaces and characters that only exist during a photographic moment, fragments of a reality that aspires to mask its ephemeral nature when it is represented.

Durante los dos últimos años, Mikel Bastida ha recorrido Europa Occidental y Oriental recreando la figura de un fotógrafo de la Segunda Guerra Mundial en diversas reconstrucciones históricas, donde grupos de reenactors representan diferentes episodios bélicos en escenarios históricos y campos de batalla ficticios.

La serie constituye una búsqueda de esos paisajes que la historia ha convertido en literarios. Escenarios contruidos a partir de las diferentes representaciones de la guerra, desde el cine a las fotografías de época, y convertidos en enormes decorados donde la recreación y la simulación dejan al descubierto un imaginario colectivo.

El naturalismo fotográfico, la definición de la realidad desde la cámara, no permite personajes ficticios, aunque sí imaginarios. Figuras reales transformadas en protagonistas de una falsa épica, arquetipos de un relato que ha impregnado toda la cultura popular hasta conseguir que la realidad tan solo interese cuando es mitificada por su representación.

Es la mirada del fotógrafo quien crea este universo a través de la cámara. Espacios y personajes que tan solo existen en el mínimo instante fotográfico, fragmentos de una realidad que anhela enmascarar su naturaleza efímera al ser representada.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD. BALDELLOU (SPAIN).DAY

A German cameraman takes footage of the battles
of Montecassino for the Nazi news.

(1944)



EXT. BATTLEFIELD. BALDELLOU (SPAIN).DAY

German troops move forward through the battlefield
while Allied forces withdraw into the woods
during the battles of Montecassino.

(1944)



EXT. JUNGLE. PADDOCK WOOD (ENGLAND).DUSK

A camouflaged German soldier defends his positions
against the attack of an Allied paratrooper unit.

(1944)



EXT. LANDING ZONE. NORMANDY (FRANCE).DAY

American 101st Airborne paratroopers jump from a C47
behind enemy lines during the days prior to D-Day.

(1944)



EXT. JAPANESE BUNKER. PADDOCK WOOD (ENGLAND).DAY

A Japanese soldier prepares to defend hand to hand his position in a bunker
from the attack of American troops during the battle of Guadalcanal.

(1942)



EXT. BATTLEFIELD. RECOGNE (BELGIUM).DAY

A dead German soldier is buried by U.S. troops
during the Battle of the Bulge.

(1944)



EXT. BATTLEFIELD. RECOGNE (BELGIUM).SUNSET

An American infantry soldier posing with his Thompson
submachine gun during the German offensive in the Ardennes.

(1944)



EXT. BATTLEFIELD. NIKOLSKOYE (RUSSIA).DAWN

A Russian soldier holds his DP-27 ready during a Soviet
offensive to break the German Siege of Stalingrad.

(1943)



EXT. FROZEN LAKE. LAHTI (FINLAND).DAWN

A Wehrmacht soldier drags a wounded Kamerad while trying to escape
the Soviet troops after the defeat in Stalingrad.

(1944)



EXT. GERMAN AIRFIELD. LEVISHAM (ENGLAND).DAY

A wounded German pilot is rescued from his burning plane
after being shot down by an anti-aircraft battery.

(1943)



EXT. LANDING ZONE. UTAH BEACH (FRANCE).DAY

An US infantryman makes his way through the vegetation
to release Saint Marie du Mont from the Nazis.

(1944)



EXT. BEACH. NORMANDY (FRANCE).DAWN

American infantry soldiers from the 4th Division
move through the water under enemy fire during the D-Day.

(1944)



EXT. BEACH. NORMANDY (FRANCE).DAWN

An American soldier reaches the sea shore with his gun wrapped in plastic
after the sinking of landing craft in which he was traveling.

(1944)



EXT. BEACH. SKEGNESS (ENGLAND).DAWN

American infantry soldiers, from the 1st Division, move along the beach
to destroy the German defenses during D-Day.

(1944)



EXT. FARM. MONTSURS (FRANCE).DAY

An American soldier moves into the enemy lines
driving his Harley Davidson WLA "Liberator".

(1944)



EXT. CORNFIELD. MESVIN (BELGIUM).DAY

German soldier standing solemnly in front
of the grave of a fallen comrade.

(1944)



EXT. GERMAN BUNKER. UTAH BEACH (FRANCE).DAY

A US soldier secures his position after attacking a German bunker
with hand grenades during the combats of D-Day.

(1944)



EXT. DESERT. ALMERIA (SPAIN).DUSK

An Afrikakorps soldier defends the Halfaya Pass
before the imminent British attack.

(1941)



EXT. DESERT. ALMERIA (SPAIN).DAY

German Soldier on lookout duty using binoculars to watch for
incoming enemies following the surprise attack to Tobruk.

(1941)



EXT. BATTLEFIELD. SERRACANYA (SPAIN).SUNSET

The body of a Russian soldier dead by a land mine
lies on the ground during the Battle of Kursk.

(1943)



EXT. ROAD. PADDOCK WOOD (ENGLAND).DAY

An American medic rests on the back of his ambulance after
having evacuated several wounded soldiers to a field hospital.

(1944)



EXT. BEACH. NORMANDY (FRANCE).DAY

A Canadian Chevrolet C15A is out of action
during the landing at Juno Beach.

(1944)



EXT. BATTLEFIELD. MONTSURS (FRANCE).DAY

An lonely American Sherman M4A1 tank marches its way across
the Panzer division during operation "Market Garden".

(1944)



WAR THEATRE

Digital photographs

110 x 80 cm.

Baryta paper Glicée print.

Mounted on foam board.

Box Framed.

Edition of 5 + 2 A.P

Fotografías digitales.

110 x 80 cm.

Giclée sobre papel baritado.

Montaje en foam reforzado.

Marco vitrina .

Edición de 5 + 2 P.A

MIKEL BASTIDA

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1982. Born in Bilbao.

Education.

2004. Photography. Andoain School of cinema.

2008. B.A. Visual Communication. UPV; Leioa

2011. Master in New Documentary Photography. EFTI; Madrid.

Awards and scholarships.

2009. Grant in Trafic´09 festival with Magnum photographer Carl de Keyzer. Barcelona.

2009. "A 1,20 metros". Second prize.

2010. Roberto Villagraz grant.

2011. Finalist I Concurso Internacional de Fotografía Galería Cero. Madrid

2011. Finalist "Descubrimientos Photoespaña 2011"

2011. "Al Betrayal" Future Award. EFTI

Group Exhibition.

2010. "A 1,20 metros", Sala EFTI; Madrid.

2011. "Displaced Consciousness", JustMad. Madrid, España.

2011. Concurso Internacional de Fotografía. Galería Cero. Madrid

2011. Master 2010. PHE 2011 Off section. EFTI Gallery. Madrid

2011. Les Promenades photographiques. Prix Mark Grosset. Vêndome. France.

Solo Exhibition

2011. War Theatre. Galería Cero. Madrid.

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1982. Nace en Bilbao.

Estudios

2004. Técnico superior en Imagen. Escuela de Cine Andoain.

2008. Licenciado en Comunicación Audiovisual. UPV; Leioa

2011. Master en Fotografía. EFTI; Madrid.

Premios y Becas

2009. Becado en el festival Trafic´09 para participar en el taller de Carl de Keyzer; Barcelona.

2009. "A 1,20 metros". Segundo Premio.

2010. Beca Roberto Villagraz.

2011. Finalista I Concurso Internacional de Fotografía Galería Cero. Madrid

2011. Finalista en "Descubrimientos Photoespaña 2011"

2011. Premio futuro "Al Betrayal"

Exposiciones Colectivas

2010. "A 1,20 metros", Sala EFTI; Madrid.

2011. "Displaced Consciousness", JustMad. Madrid, España.

2011. Concurso Internacional de Fotografía. Galería Cero. Madrid

2011. Master 2010. PHE 2011 Off section. EFTI Gallery. Madrid

2011. Les Promenades photographiques. Prix Mark Grosset. Vêndome. France.

Exposiciones Individuales.

2011. War Theatre. Galería Cero. Madrid.

