

Cristina de Middel

After 10 years as a photojournalist, Cristina De Middel shifted her practice to a more conceptual approach in order to question the documentary value of photography. In 2012 she produced the acclaimed series *The Afnauts*, triggering a decade of work around the role of photography in creating stereotypes. Besides her prolific career as an author, and as an active member of the photography community, Cristina has been invited to curate festivals like Lagos Photo, PhotoEspaña, and San José Photo in Uruguay. She has published more than 14 photobooks and her work is constantly on show in different institutions and venues. Cristina is also on the board of Vist Projects, a platform to support Latin American visual story-telling and she is a member of Magnum Photos agency and its president since 2022.

EDUCATION

2002 MA in Photojournalism | Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

2001 MA in Fine Arts | Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain

2000 MA in Photography | University of Oklahoma - PROMOE Scholarship, EEUU

AWARDS

2024

Finalist of the Deutsche Boerse Prize for Photography | London, UK

2023

Winner of 'Premios Periodísticos Comunidad Valencia' Professional Trajectory | Valencia, Spain

2020

Winner of the Prix Virginia

Finalist of the Leica Oskar Barnak Award

2017

National Prize of Photography | Spain

Winner of the F.C Barcelona Project Award | Barcelona, Spain

Winner of the LENS CULTURE Portrait Award | USA

2016

Winner of the Greenpeace photography Award | Zurich, Switzerland

2014

Winner of the Best Book of the year with "Party", PhotoEspaña | Madrid, Spain

2012

Winner Infinity Award, best publication for *The Afnauts*, ICPI New York, USA

Finalist of the Deutsche Boerse Prize for Photography | London, UK

Winner of the Photo Folio Review, Rencontres de la Photographie | Arles, France
2° Prize in the Sony World Photography Awards | London, UK

2011

Winner of the Lightside/Humble Arts grant | New York, USA

EXHIBITIONS

2024

- Journey to the Center. Rencontres d'Arles. Arles. 2024. France
- Cartas al Director. Festival Revela't. Vilassar de Dalt. 2024. Spain.

2023

- Cartas al Director. Sala Canal. Madrid. 2023. Spain.
- ETCÉTARA. Centre del Carme de Cultura Contemporànea. Valencia. 2023. Spain.
- A World in Common: Contemporary African Photography. Tate Modern. London. 2023. UK.
- The Kabuler. Kunsthal. Rotterdam. 2023. Netherlands.
- Gentlemen's Club. Art Photo BCN. Barcelona. 2023. Spain.
- On the Edge of Reality. National Gallery. Sofia. 2023. Bulgaria.
- Testimone Oculare. SI FEST. Savignano sul Rubicone. 2023. Emilia Romagna.
- Tales for a Stranger. Warehouse. Brussels. 2023. Belgium.
- Kosmos – neue Welten. Schloss Peuerbach. Peuerbach. 2023. Austria.
- The Wall. Huelva. 2023. Spain.
- Vento Solar. Solar Foto Festival. Forlaleza. 2023. Brazil.

2022

- "Close Enough. New Perspectives from 12 women photographers of Magnum". ICP. New York. 2022. USA
- Jetzt: Magnum Photos. The Reinbeckhallen. Berlin. 2022. Germany.
- Ozangé. Bienal de Fotografía Africana. La Térmica. Málaga. 2022. Spain.
- Boa Noite Povo. Gran Teatre del Liceu. Barcelona. 2022. Spain.
- PROCESS. by Alexander McQueen. 2022. Online.
- La Voce delle Mani. Palazzo Callas Exhibitions. Sirmione. 2022. Italy.

2021

- Not standing still: new approaches in documentary photography. Monash Gallery of Art. Melbourne. 2021. Australia.
- Pseudología Fantástica. Museo Universidad de Navarra. Pamplona. 2021. Spain.
- La Línea Pródiga. Consorci de Museus de la Comunitat Valenciana. Valencia. 2021. Spain.
- El Turista Accidental. Museo Boca del Calvari. Benidorm. 2021. Spain

2019

- Polyspam – "Fake News / Fake Truth". Haifa Museum. Haifa. 2019. Israel.
- Preparados, Listos, Archivo! Tabacalera. Madrid. 2019. Spain.
- Muchismo. Centro Andaluz de Fotografía. Almería. 2019. Spain

- Midnight at the Crossroads. Casa América. Barcelona. 2019. Spain.
- Boa Noite Povo. Itaú Cultural. São Paulo. 2019. Brazil.
- THE AFRONAUTS
- Centre Pompidou. Festival Hors Pistes. Paris. 2019. France
- “Apollo’s Muse”. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. New York. 2019. USA
- “Far Out”. SFMoMa. San Francisco. 2019. USA
- “Moonstruck”. Zurich Museum of Modern Art. Zurich. 2019. Switzerland.
- Hasselblad Foundation. Göteborg. 2019. Sweden.

2018

- Midnight at the Crossroads – “Afrodescendientes”, Centro de la Imagen. Mexico City. 2018. Mexico.
- The Body as a battlefield – Nobel Peace Foundation. Oslo. 2018. Norway.
- Midnight at the Crossroads - Rencontres d’Arles. Arles. 2018. France
- Excessocenus – Coalmine Museum. Winterthur. 2018. Switzerland.
- Cucurrucucú – Centro Fotográfico Manuel Álvarez Bravo. Oaxaca. 2018. Mexico

2017

- The Perfect Man. Juana de Aizpuru Gallery. Madrid. 2017. Spain
- The Afronauts. Chobi Mela Festival. Dakha. 2017. Bangladesh
- Jungle Check. Foam Space, Rencontres de la Photographie d’Arles. Arles. 2017. France.

2016

- Gentleman’s Club. National Portrait Gallery. London. 2016. UK
- Muchismo. PhotoEspaña Festival. Madrid. 2016. Spain
- Jan Mayen. Encontros Da Imagem Festival. Braga. 2016. Portugal
- The Afronauts. Perth Centre for Photography. Perth. 2016. Australia
- The Perfect Man. Festival Images. Vevey. 2016. Switzerland
- Sharkification. Guernsey Photo Festival. 2016. Guernsey

2015

THE AFRONAUTS

- Deutsche Börse Photography Prize. The Photographer’s Gallery. London. 2015. UK
- Selection Officielle de Les Rencontres Arles. Arles. 2015. France
- Museo FOAM. Amsterdam. 2015. Holland
- Festival Paraty em Foco. Paraty. 2015. Brazil
- Lagos Photo Festival. Lagos. 2015. Nigeria
- Espace QUAI 1. Vevey. 2015. Switzerland

PUBLICATIONS

Journey to the Center
Editions Textuel | France
2024

Cucurrucucú 2016
Editorial RM | Spain
2016

Cartas al Director

Muchismo

This Book is True | Spain
2023

Boa Noite Povo
Superlabo | Japan
2023

The Kabuler
This Book is True | Spain
2023

Gentlemen's Club
This Book is True | Spain
2023

Preparados, Listos, Archivo
Spanish Ministry of Culture | Spain
2018

Midnight at the Crossroads
This Book is True | Spain
2018

Jungle Check
Editorial RM | Spain
2018

The Perfect Man
Editorial La Fábrica | Spain
2017

Editorial La Fábrica | Spain
2016

Jan Mayen
Archive of Modern Conflict | UK
2015

Man Jayen
Museum of the University of Navarra | Spain
2015

Sharkification
Editora Madalena | Brazil
2015

This is What Hatred Did
Editorial RM y AMC Books | Spain and UK
2015

Party
Editorial RM y AMC Books | Spain and UK
2013

The Afronauts
Self-published | Spain
2012

Vida y Milagros de Paula P
Museum of the University of Alicante | Spain
2009

CURATORIAL ACTIVITIES

Carta Blanca
PhotoEspaña, Spain
2018

Goa Photo
Goa, India
2017

LAGOS Photo Festival
Lagos, Nigeria
2015- 2016

San José Photo
San José, Uruguay
2015

PRESENCE IN COLLECTIONS

Coleccion Banco Sabadell

Spain

Deutsche Börse Foundation | Germany

Germany | Acquisition 2020

Tate Modern | London

London | Acquisition in 2017

Collection of the Generalitat Valenciana

Spain

Archive of Modern Conflict

Canada and UK

MUN - Museo de la Universidad de Alicante

Spain

MACE - Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Ibiza

Spain

BIOGRAPHY

Cristina De Middel is a Spanish-Belgian photographer born in Alicante in 1975. After studying Fine Arts, she moved away from the complexity of contemporary artistic language to turn her passion for photography into a passion for documenting the world in a straight way.

She was a photojournalist working for Spanish local newspapers and NGOs like the Red Cross and Doctors without Borders for almost 10 years, covering crisis in Syria, Haiti and Bangladesh amongst others.

In 2012 she produced "The Afronauts", a fictional series inspired by the real, yet unbelievable project that Zambia had to conquer the moon in the middle of the Space Race and the Cold War.

The project focused on the low expectations that the Western audience had towards the capacities of the African continent after decades of misrepresenting it and contributing to the stereotype with photography.

The book of "The Afronauts" series that she self-published consolidated her career and a language that questions the delicate and loaded relationship there is between photography and "truth".

That same year she was awarded with the Infinity Award for the best publication at the International Center of Photography in New York, the PhotoFolio Review Award at the

Rencontres d'Arles, and she was a finalist of the prestigious Deutsche Börse Award for photography.

The series *The Afronauts* has now been exhibited more than 50 times in museums and institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum in NYC, The Hasselblad Foundation, the San Francisco MoMA, or the Centre Pompidou in Paris.

Since 2012 Cristina has published more than 14 books and exhibited widely in the 5 continents.

In 2017, she received the National Award for Photography in Spain and became part of Magnum Photos agency, which she is the president since 2022.

Cristina is also an active member of the photographic community and, apart from curating festivals like Lagos Photo (2015 and 2016), she is now a board member at the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation and at Vist Projects, a Pan-American platform that gives visibility to Latin American visual creators and explores the possibilities of the photographic language to diversify the points of view in the visual understanding we have of the world.

She also has a publishing house (This Book is True) and she is continually promoting initiatives to support the potential of the photobook as a visual story-telling phenomenon.

Cristina is now based in Brazil and is continuously developing new projects.