

The 38th Catalan Photography Festival

By Joan Membrives
President of AFIC Blanes and Chairman of the Quillat Salon,
Spain

The 38th Catalan Photography Festival turned Blanes into the capital of photography. It was held on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Quillat International Competition organised by AFIC Blanes.

AFIC Blanes (Agrupació Fotogràfica i Cinematogràfica) is a photographic entity with 63 years of history. It organised the competition for the first time in 1968 and except for some interruptions it has been repeated every year until reaching the 50th edition.

As president of AFIC Blanes, Joan Membrives says, 50 years of Quillats has resulted in the exhibition of many different photographs. Photographs of different themes, styles (classical, experimental...) and processing (developed, chemical, digital...). What is clear, however, is that the authors have always sought to capture a moment, an idea... and turn it into an artistic message.



Visiting the Quillat 2023 exhibition

The Quillat competition, recognised by FIAP 2023/042, CEF I/2023/02 and FCF 2023/06, was reaching its 50th edition and the organisers wanted to celebrate this anniversary in a special way. For this reason, during the month of May, six exhibition halls were set up in Blanes, which were located throughout the town, to display the winning photographs of each edition of the salon.

On the 13th May, the prizes were awarded and the exhibition of the winning photographs from the last edition was inaugurated. The event was presided over by the municipal authorities and the jurors of the competition, Joan Burgués Martisella (Vice-President of FIAP), Jean Saleilles (President of the French Federation of Photography) and Jordi Argila Lluésma (President of the Catalan Federation of Photography). Harry Daemen from Luxembourg was the winner of the Quillat 2023 prize of honour, awarded with 500 € and a FIAP Blue Pin.



Quillat 2023 competition awards ceremony

May 13th was also a very full day in terms of photography, as AFIC Blanes asked to celebrate the Catalan Photography Festival on the occasion of the aforementioned anniversary.



Exhibition of different Quillat trophies won over the 50 years

The Festival of Photography is an annual event, supported by the Catalan Federation of Photography (FCF), and is held in a different town each year. Each group gives its own personal touch and style to the festival, and AFIC Blanes, being located in a coastal town and gateway to the Costa Brava, decided to organise a photography festival in which the sea would be the theme. That's why the participants were called at 5:30 AM, as the first activity would be to photograph the sunrise from one of the best beaches, the beach of Cala Bona. But we also had to make the town and its



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most emblematic places known, such as the Botanical Garden "Marimurtra" where a photographic tour was organised with six different photographic stops. Both lunch and dinner also adhered to the theme. In the Grenyal restaurant, local products were tasted and in the Cala Bona restaurant, a dinner was served with items offered on the menu made entirely with fish products.



"Maduixots" parading on the occasion of the 38th Photography Festival



Attendees of the 38th Photography Festival with the comedian "Nano Ferrari"

The next seven photos show attendees of the 38th Photography Festival in the different photographic sets in the "Marimurtra" Botanical Garden





The next eight photos show performances by the entities "Bandada Joaquim Ruyra", "Gigantes de Blanes" and "Fresones" on the occasion of the 38th Photography Festival





Another objective was to raise awareness of the festivities and local culture, and to achieve this, a parade was organised with the collaboration of associated groups that are part of the cultural fabric of Blanes.

To finish the festival, a night-time photographic activity was held at dusk. This comprised of four locations set up for people to take photos. Photography of light and fire was the objective of this night photo session with activities such as light painting and photography of fire juggling.

The day was a success. About 150 photographers from all over Catalonia participated and enjoyed more than 16 hours of activity and photographic friendship.



Group photo of those attending the Photography Festival