

Course title: Home Alone with Almudena Romero (and Laia Abril)

Subtitle: Sustainable Photographic Processes



Course instructors:

Almudena Romero, Laia Abril

Course code:

B-KH-401-MI-20222301-04

M-KH-101-MI-20222301-04

M-KH-E-101-MI-20222301-02

Course description:

In this 5 days course students will produce a living photographic piece using plants' photosynthesis. Workshop attendants will get a deep understanding and hands-on experience of producing living photographic work.

In the workshop participants and artist Almudena Romero will build a canvas for the seeds and discuss the technicalities of the process and the logistics of producing in situ. We will look at the impact of light wavelengths on the production of living photographic work, as well as other technical aspects/challenges (focal distance, reciprocity failure and pixelation) of this photographic technique. In the next phase we will select the image to print and

discuss the relevance of the work and its critical context. We will expose the cress print and monitor its evolution.

The end of the workshop will be dedicated to reflecting on the work produced and the further possibilities it can take, while in the afternoon the outcome will be shared with the general public.

Application: Photography BA and MA: 9 participants, Media Institute: 2 participants, Design Institute and Institute of Architecture: 1-1 participants

Maximum number of participant: 12

Schedule:

- **Monday 17th: Workshop starts at 9 am. Production of the living cress photograph.**
- **Tuesday 18th afternoon: Day off while seeds grow / Portfolio reviews / Gallery visit to TOBE Gallery / Opening of Almudena Romero exhibition**
- **Wednesday 19th morning: Workshop continuation. Production of the digital file for exposure.**
- **Wednesday 19th afternoon 5 pm: Open artist talk on my practice**
- **Thursday 20th morning: Open lecture on sustainable photographic techniques Chlorophyll, anthotype, and alternative darkroom chemistry**
- **Thursday 20th October afternoon: Workshop continuation: Exposure of the cress living photograph**
- **Friday 21st morning 11 am: Open artist talk of Laia Abril / meeting the artist**
- **Friday 21st afternoon 2 pm: Open event. Revealing the final cress print**

Outcomes:

This workshop is designed so attendants feel confident to work with living plant-based matter and produce photographic work using this and other sustainable photographic processes.

Lecture on Sustainable Photographic Processes:

Description: In this lecture, students will be introduced to a range of sustainable photographic processes, and their contemporary practice, history, science and critical context

Structure: The lecture can be structured in a 3h presentation with a break short break, and 30min for questions at the end.

Content:

1. Intro to sustainable photographic techniques: chlorophyll, anthotype, starch dyeing, and other printing methods: history, science, and contemporary artists.
2. Timings and aspects of organic processes.
3. Equipment and materials.
4. Printing on paper transparencies and transparent surfaces.

5. Processes step by step
6. Considerations on fixing, framing, archiving, and the art industry
7. Expanded possibilities
8. Troubleshooting, common mistakes

Artist Bio

Almudena Romero (b. in Madrid in 1986) is a British/Spanish visual artist based in London and Valencia. Her practice uses photographic processes to reflect on issues relating to identity, representation and ideology. Romero's works focus on how perception affects existence and how photography contributes to organizing perception.

Romero's practice has been exhibited at international public institutions including the Victoria and Albert Museum (UK), National Portrait Gallery (UK), TATE Modern-TATE Exchange (UK), The Photographers' Gallery (UK), Tsinghua Art Museum (CH), Le Cent-Quatre Paris (FR), University of the Arts London (UK) and international photography festivals such as Unseen Amsterdam (NL), Les Rencontres d'Arles (FR), Paris Photo (FR), PhotoLondon (UK), Circulations (FR), Belfast Photo Festival (UK) and Brighton Photo Biennale (UK). She has received grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Creative Europe Fund, Arts Council England (2018, 2020,2021), London Community Foundation (2019), a-n Bursaries (2019, 2018), and awards from private foundations such as the Richard and Siobhán Coward Foundation, The Harnisch Foundation and BMW France Culture.

Romero was nominated for the Prix Pictet in 2021, and has been awarded prestigious international residencies at the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute (China), Penumbra Foundation (USA), ISCP New York(US), BMW -Gobelins (France), Lucy Art Residency (Greece), Whitechapel Gallery(UK) and National Portrait Gallery (UK).

Romero has received public art commissions from Wellcome Trust, Emergency Exit Artist, Team London Bridge, Southwark Council and Bow Arts Trust for the London Festival of Architecture. Her practice has been published in monographs by the Photography Archive and Research Centre at the University of the Arts London and by Fisheye (upcoming) and featured in BBC Four, BBC Two, FOAM Magazine, EL PAIS, Liberation, VOGUE, Radio France Internationale and other international media.

Romero holds an MA in Photography from the University of the Arts London and a Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice in Art, Design and Communication (university teaching qualifications). She is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and has delivered courses, lectures and talks at universities, museums, and institutions internationally.

Course recommendation

This course is for you:

- if you are interested in alternative photographic techniques.
- if you care for the environment and want to produce artworks that are friendly to the environment.

- if you like to create something beautiful together with a group.
- if you think that the essence of art is the creative process and not only the lasting result.
- if you want to meet internationally renowned artists and learn about their methods.

Links:

<https://www.almudenaromero.co.uk/>

<https://www.laiaabril.com/>