

Arts & Travel Guide

SPAIN

EXHIBITIONS

» **PHOTOESPAÑA 2011** With Cuban critic and curator Gerardo Mosquera in charge for the first time, the 14th edition of the Madrid photography and visual arts festival focuses on the theme *Interfaces: Portrait and Communication*. Encompassing 70 exhibitions, this year's event features works by 370 artists and creators from 55 countries, including Cindy Sherman, Thomas Ruff, Ron Galella, Jacques Henri Lartigue, Hans-Peter Feldmann, Dayanita Singh, Kan Xuan and Nancy Burson.

PHotoEspaña 2011. Until July 24 at various venues around Madrid. Cuenca, Alcalá de Henares and Lisbon (see Portugal) will also host parts of the festival. www.phe.es

» **WORLD PRESS PHOTO** Always well worth a look, the selection of images for this year's prestigious World Press Photo competition is now on show at the Moncloa Cultural Center in Madrid. Among this year's star shots is Efe photojournalist Gustavo Cuevas' gruesome image of bullfighter Julio Aparicio being gored through the neck and mouth.

World Press Photo Madrid 2011. Until June 26 at Centro Cultural Moncloa, Plaza de la Moncloa 1, Madrid. www.worldpressphoto.org

» **THE YOUNG RIBERA** The Prado Museum's show focuses on the early career of Valencia-born artist José de Ribera (1591-1652) as he rethought the language of naturalism in Parma, Rome and Naples, forming a style based on that of the great Caravaggio. A fascinating insight into the development of one of Spain's best-known painters.

El joven Ribera. Until July 31 at Museo Nacional del Prado, C/ Ruiz de Alarcón 23, Madrid. www.museodelprado.es

» **ROBERTO MATTA** Bilbao's Museum of Fine Arts celebrates the centenary of the birth of Chilean artist Roberto Matta by bringing together 32 of his paintings dated between 1939 and 1999. A key figure in 20th-century art, Matta, who died in 2002, was a member of the surrealists and influential in the development of American abstract expressionism.

Roberto Matta. Until August 11 at Museo de Bellas Artes de Bilbao, Museo Plaza 2, Bilbao. www.museobilbao.com

» **EUGÈNE ATGET** Madrid's Mapfre Foundation presents 200 images of old Paris from the 4,000-strong archive of influential French documentary pioneer Eugène Atget (1857-1927). The enigmatic sepia scenes capture the seedier side of the City of Light through portraits of its fruit-and-veg sellers, prostitutes, oil-lamp-lit alleyways, little squares, elegant staircases and bed-and-breakfasts.

Eugene Atget. *El viejo París 1898-1924*.



Is your love darling just a mirage? (2011), by the Algerian artist Zoulikha Bouabdellah.

Flying over the Arab Spring

A show by Algerian Zoulikha Bouabdellah opens a new Madrid gallery devoted to artists from the Maghreb

FERNANDO HUICI MARCH

Contemporary works associated with contexts unconnected to Western modernity have been clamoring for attention on the international art circuit in recent decades. In this vein, Algerian gallery owner Sabrina Amrani has opened her new space in Madrid, which looks to boost the presence of work from new creators from the Maghreb and Near East on the Spanish art scene. And to set the ball rolling it is hosting a show by Amrani's compatriot Zoulikha Bouabdellah.

Born in Moscow, where her parents were studying at the time, Bouabdellah was raised in Algeria and received her artistic education in Paris, where she has lived since the 1990s. Her work displays a double axis of affiliation that is nourished, in equal measure, by her Maghreb roots and by her entry into the European cultural fabric.

Although she has already taken part in group shows in Barce-

lona and Cantabria, as well as Madrid, where one of her best-known videos, *Dançons* (2003) was included at the *Resistance(s)* cycle at Casa Árabe last December, this is Bouabdellah's first solo show in Spain. It brings together a series of her recent works, the seed of which lies in the impact provoked by the events of the so-called "Arab Spring." In that sense, the main body of the exhibition is focused on pieces of the *Mirage* cycle, which begins from the repeating of a basic symbol inspired by the namesake fighter plane used by Gaddafi's forces.

It is an ambivalent reference that from a simple emblem — a schematic silhouette of the Mirage F1 aircraft — integrates different strata of meaning, paying tribute to the epic action of the Libyan rebels in the face of the dictator's much better-armed troops at the same time as it takes a jab at democratic France — the cradle of republican freedoms that allowed the sale of combat aircraft in ex-

change for the despot's dirty money. Appealing to the literal name of the jets, it also conjures evidence of what the Arab uprisings have brought to light: that the self-proclaimed invulnerability of the ruthless oppressive power has itself turned out to be a "mirage," a deceitful illusion.

Next to this series, Bouabdellah recovers an older work linked to her most feminist discourse, but now also charged with a no-less-true resonance: a piece of Islamic calligraphy that reproduces, with reflective tiles, a line from a famous song by Egyptian musician Oum Kalthoum, *Al Atlal* (or, *The Ruins*). A passionate verse that proclaims: "Give me my freedom; undo my chains" and from which the long-awaited deep roar that fills the squares of the Arab Spring today undoubtedly inhales vigorous meaning.

Zoulikha Bouabdellah. *Mirage*. Until July 20 at Galería Sabrina Amrani, C/ Madera 23, Madrid. <http://sabrinaamrani.com>

lombia is a little-explored archaeological treasure trove and among the myriad beautiful objects on show, which are on loan from Bogotá's Gold Museum, is a palm-shaped brooch dating from 100 to 400 BC from the Calima-Malagana zone, which was only unearthed in 1992.

Sacred Gold. Pre-Hispanic Art in Colombia. Until September 4 at the Museo de Bellas Artes de Bilbao. www.museobilbao.com

MUSIC

» **SÓNAR 2011** Again taking place in A Coruña as well as Barcelona this year, the Sónar electronic music and multimedia art festival is set to feature performances from, among many others, Underworld, M.I.A., Aphex Twin, Magnetic Man, Die Antwoord, The Human League, Dizzee Rascal and Cut Copy.

Sónar Barcelona 2011. Until June 18 at (day) CCCB / MACBA, Montalegre 5, Barcelona and (night) Fira Gran Via (M2) L'Hospitalet, Av. Botànica, 62 — Polígon Pedrosa, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Barcelona and other venues around the city. Sónar Galicia 2011. June 17 & 18 at EXPOCoruña, Avda da Universidade s/n, A Coruña. <http://2011.sonar.es>

» **DÍA DE LA MÚSICA** Something of a misnomer, Madrid's Heineken Music Day is in fact three days of concerts and other activities, with Vetusta Morla, The Pains of Being Pure At Heart and Crystal Fighters among those playing Matadero Madrid on Saturday June 18; Glasvegas, Russian Red and others at the same venue the following day; and gigs by Supersubmarina and The Last Dandies in Circo Price on Tuesday June 21.

Día de la Música Heineken. June 18 and 19 at Matadero Madrid, Paseo de

la Chopera, Madrid. June 21 at Teatro Circo Price, Ronda de Atocha 35, Madrid. www.diadelamusica.com

» **AZKENA ROCK FESTIVAL** Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2011, the heavy metal extravaganza that is the Basque Country's Azkena Rock Festival is set to feature Ozzy Osbourne, Queens of the Stone Age, Brian Setzer's Rockabilly Riot, Eels, Greg Allman, Rob Zombie, Paul Weller and The Cult.

Azkena Rock Festival. June 23 to 25 at Recinto Mendizabala, C/ Mendizabala, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Álava. www.azkenarockfestival.com

» **SUMA FLAMENCA 2011** The Madrid region's annual series of flamenco concerts this year includes performances from singer Diego "El Cigala" in Teatros del Canal and guitarist Tomatito, who presents *Luz de guía*, a tribute to the great Camarón de la Isla, in Buitrago de Lozoya.

Suma Flamenca 2011. Until July 2 at various venues around the Madrid region. www.madrid.org/sumaflamenca

» **BILBAO BBK LIVE** A strong line-up at this year's Bilbao BBK Live festival sees Amy Winehouse, Coldplay, Blondie, Kaiser Chiefs, Liam Gallagher's Beady Eye, The Black Crowes, Jack Johnson, The Chemical Brothers and Crystal Castles all heading to the Basque capital in July.

Bilbao BBK Live. July 7 to 9 at Kobetamendi, Bilbao. www.bilbaobbklive.com

» **PABLO ALBORÁN** Spain's latest pop sensation, 22-year-old Malagueño Pablo Alborán, built his career up on the social networks, before releasing first single *Solamente tú* at the end of 2010 and his massively popular, self-titled debut album in February.

Pablo Alborán. Until July 7 at various venues throughout Spain. www.ticketmaster.es

» **THE BLACK EYED PEAS** As if their mind-paralyzing "I Gotta Feeling" anthem hadn't been played enough in soccer stadiums around the globe, Californian hip-hoppers The Black Eyed Peas have announced they'll be here in person to deliver it — plus other greatest hits and tracks from their sixth album, *The Beginning* — at Atlético Madrid's Estadio Vicente Calderón on July 14.

The Black Eyed Peas. July 14 at Estadio Vicente Calderón, Paseo Virgen del Puerto 67, Madrid. www.ticketmaster.es

» **FIB 2011** Already confirmed for this year's edition of the massive annual Benicàssim Festival are Arcade Fire, The Strokes, Arctic Monkeys, Mumford & Sons, Portishead, Elbow, The Streets, and Primal Scream playing its *Screamadelica* album live.

FIB 2011. July 14 to 17 at Benicàssim, Castelló, Valencia. <http://fiberfib.com>

» **GEORGE MICHAEL** After a 2010 he'd no doubt rather forget — he served four weeks in jail after driving his car into the