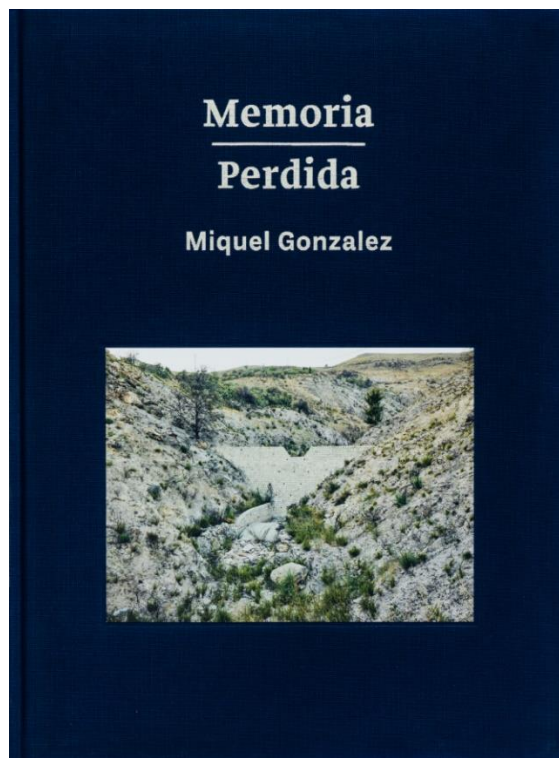


PRESS KIT

Exhibition and Photo Book

MIQUEL GONZALEZ: MEMORIA PERDIDA (Spain's Lost Memory)



- The bodies of 114,000 people "disappeared" during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) and Franco's dictatorship (1939-1975) remain in mass graves that have not yet been excavated or commemorated.
- Memoria Perdida, by photographer Miguel Gonzalez, shows images of the locations of the mass graves pits and the areas in which these atrocities took place.
- The absence of historical memory and the desire to find the truth led Miquel Gonzalez to investigate these scenes of violence and photograph them.
- From May 10 and until September 10, 2018 you can see a photographic exhibition at the Montjuïc Castle in Barcelona, which is based on the research and work done for the book.

On May 10, 2018, the **photo book Memoria Perdida (Spain's Lost Memory)**, was presented at the opening of the exhibition with the same name at the Museum Castle of Montjuïc in Barcelona, highlighting the **lack of historical memory in Spain**.

To this day the bodies of **114,000 "disappeared"** during the **Spanish Civil War (1936-1939)** and **Franco's dictatorship (1939-1975)**, lie in unmarked mass graves on roadsides, on the edges of towns and villages, in ravines or fields.

During the Civil War, more than **200,000 civilians were killed by both sides**, most of them far away from the battlefields, in areas without resistance. Three quarters of the victims, 150,000, were executed in Francoist territory and 20,000 more were shot during the weeks after Franco's victory.

Memoria Perdida, by photographer Miguel Gonzalez, comprises photographs of the **locations of these graves and related atrocity sites that have not yet been excavated or commemorated**. Many sites have been lost, hidden under new roads or buildings, or have just disappeared without any hint or sign marking their cruel past.

This **lack of historical memory and truth** led Miquel Gonzalez to dedicate himself to document those sites of atrocities and mass graves: "I wanted to approach the atrocity sites as neutrally as possible and to respond without preconceptions to what I found. I wanted what cannot be seen – the invisible past – in these photographs to become of equal importance to the visible present. If I can **provoke the viewer to imagine and ask questions, rather than suggesting answers**, this might be the way to link past, present, identity, landscape and memory."

Miquel captured each location **as close as possible to the hour, day and season of the year that the atrocity took place**. Most of the photographs were taken after sunset and before sunrise, the preferred hours for 'taking a walk' and execution. The **emptiness and silence** of those hours give the landscapes a certain serenity that belies the horrors which occurred there. Although the sites are full of human traces, it was the absence of people that struck me the most. It made me think about the victims and somehow re-established their presence in the empty landscapes.

Miquel Gonzalez

Miquel Gonzalez' photography is often socially oriented regarding the choice of subjects and the focus of the result. He is interested in the human condition and especially in the peripheral areas of both the individual and the landscape that often have been violated by civilization. Characteristic of Miquel's work is a contemplative and balanced view on the spaces and situations that he photographs inciting the viewer to further reflect on the subject.

Miquel Gonzalez (1964, Germany) studied photography at the IEFEC in Barcelona and started his career as a documentary and portrait photographer in 1991. Since 2000 he lives in the Netherlands. His work has been published in a number of international

magazines including Der Spiegel, Die Zeit, GEO, NZZ, Washington Post, Stern, The Times, Wired, The New Yorker. In 2018 he published the book Memoria Perdida. Miquel is represented by De Beeldunie (Netherlands), laif Agentur für Photos & Reportagen (Germany) and REDUX (USA). His is a member of the professional Dutch photographers' associations NVJ/NVF and DuPho.

Overview of recent and current shows:

- (s) Goethe-Institut Madrid (PHotoEspaña 2019), Spain
6 June—31 August 2019
- (s) iMPACT DOC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
24 May 2019—14 June 2019
- (s) Centro Cultural O Vello Cárcere, Lugo, Spain
16 March—2 May 2019
- (s) Casa Museo Casares Quiroga, A Coruña, Spain
14 February—10 March 2019
- (s) Museum Castle of Montjuïc, Barcelona, Spain
10 May—18 November 2018

Press

- 26.06.19 [Apollo: The International Art Magazine](#)
- 19.06.19 [PhotoBook Journal](#)
- 17.06.19 [RTVE La 2 Noticias](#)
- 17.06.19 [Radio Iznájar - istopia Historia](#)
- 09.06.19 [El Diario](#)
- 05.06.19 [Telediario RTVE](#)
- 04.06.19 [El Pais](#)
- 02.06.19 [Cadena Ser](#)
- 17.03.19 [El Progreso](#)
- 17.03.19 [La Voz de Galicia](#)
- 01.03.19 [Professionele Fotografie Pf 1-2019](#)
- 22.02.19 [Radio NPO 1 Bureau Buitenland](#)
- 24.08.18 [The Washington Post](#)
- 17.08.18 [Frankfurter Allgemeine Woche](#)
- 14.08.18 [ElNacional.cat](#)
- 11.06.18 [Radio 4 - Territori clandestí](#)
- 10.05.18 [bonart revista](#)
- 23.04.18 [Neue Zürcher Zeitung NZZ](#)
- 14.03.18 [La Voz de Galicia](#)
- 13.03.18 [Clavoardiendo-Magazine](#)

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Barranco del Carrizal. Órgiva, Granada

A levee was built in 2003, officially to prevent waste from washing down the ravine into the reservoir below. Human remains surfaced during the works and keep doing so after heavy rains. On 11 August 1936, Manuel López López, deputy mayor of Lanjarón, and his sons Antonio and Félix, were shot by the Guardia Cívil and Falangists and disappeared in this ravine. A third son, Miguel, was murdered further down the valley two weeks later. Some 4,000 people were killed and buried in quicklime in this ravine.



Valle de los Caídos III (Cuelgamuros). Madrid.

The Valley of the Fallen is the site of the largest mass grave in Spain. Built by the forced labour of political prisoners, and inaugurated on 1 April 1959, it contains the remains of 33,833 people, transported from all over Spain. The bodies of 12,410 unidentified bodies were transferred here without the knowledge of their families. The relatives of Ramiro and Manuel Lapeña learned only a few years ago that they were no longer in the grave where the family had been laying flowers for more than 60 years. Rainwater has been allowed to leak through fissures in the granite cliff which the monument was carved out of, flooding parts of the mass graves and leaving wooden boxes containing bones to rot and fall apart.



Campo de la Bota I. Barcelona.

Forty-four soldiers who had taken part in the military coup were shot here by the Republican authorities on 9 and 10 October 1936. Between 1939 and 1952, 1,717 people were shot here by the Franco regime, in front of what was once a 40-m long parapet on the beach. Campo de la Bota has disappeared as it was completely redeveloped and renamed for the construction of the Parc del Fòrum. On 23 April 1939, 5:00 a.m. Carme Claramunt Bonet, 41, became the first woman to be shot here. In the following months ten more women held in the Cortes prison (Eugenia González Ramos, 20, Neus Bouza Gil, 22, Cristina Fernández Perera, 39, Ramona Peralba Sala, 35, Dolors Giorla Laribal, 27, Magdalena Nolla Montseny, 34, Elionor Malich Salvador, 60, Virginia Amposta, 50, Asumpció Puigdelloses Vila, 43, and Inés Giménez Lumbreras, 24), were also executed.