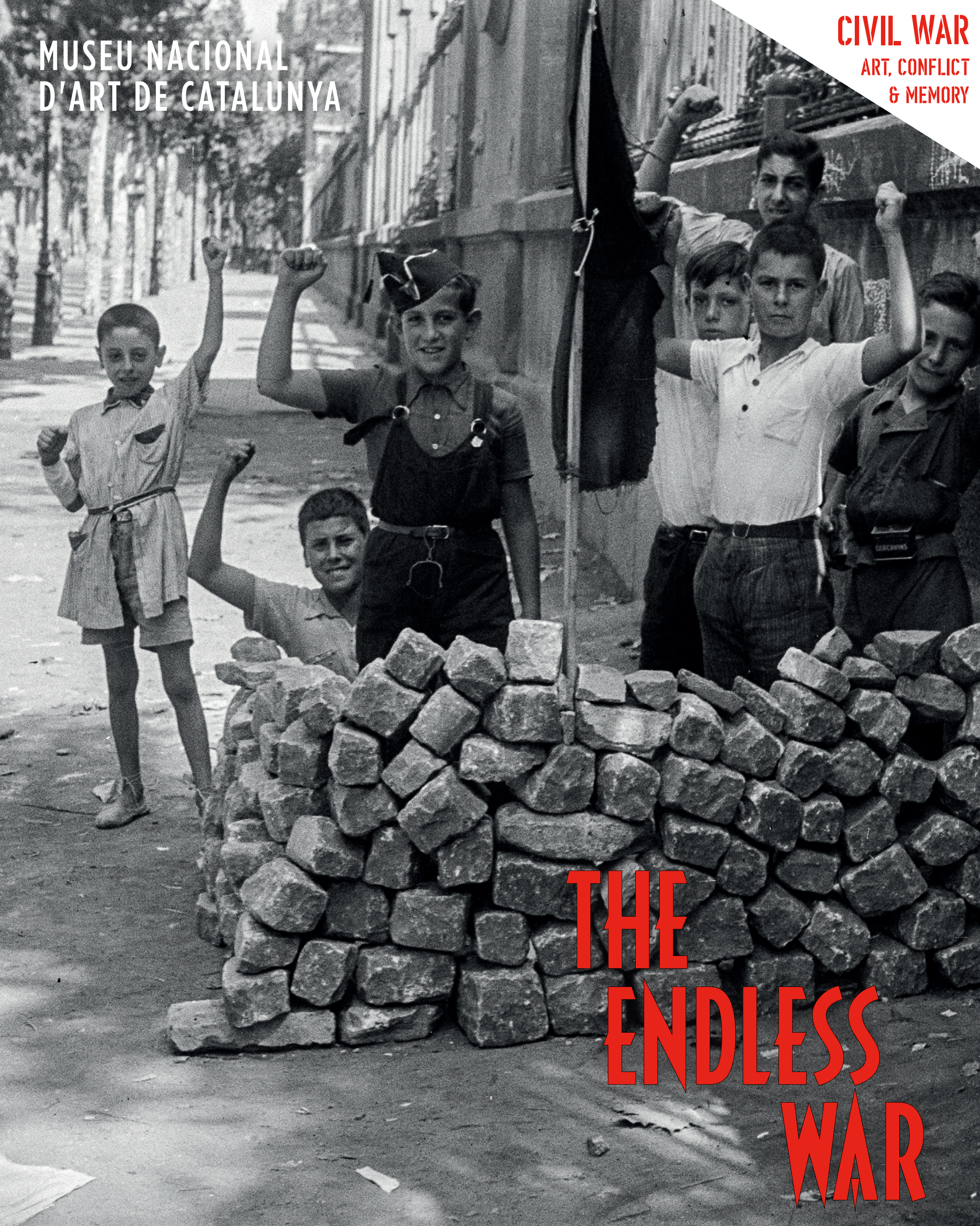


MUSEU NACIONAL
D'ART DE CATALUNYA

CIVIL WAR
ART, CONFLICT
& MEMORY



THE ENDLESS WAR

Children's barricade behind the University of Barcelona, August 1936. Arxiu Campaña

Antoni Campaña
(1906-1989)

ENG

18 March – 18 July 2021

THE ENDLESS WAR

Antoni Campaña

Tension in a Gaze (1906-1989)



1.

This is the first retrospective exhibition making it possible for us to explore the work of the photographer Antoni Campaña Bandranas (Arbúcies, 1906 – Sant Cugat del Vallès, 1989) in all its dimensions. Through more than 300 photographs, we discover the personality and multiple facets of the author of the famous photo of the *miliciana* (militia woman), an iconic image of the Spanish Civil War. Most of the photographs on display are period copies from the archives of the Campaña family.

The exhibition is divided into three sections: the Pictorialist period up to the 1930s, the Spanish Civil War period and, finally, the long post-war period through maturity, when Campaña worked in commercial photography and used his lens to capture the boom of the motorcar industry, sport, or tourism as the author of the first mass-market colour postcards.

This is the first time that these photographs have been displayed in a museum. Here, we can admire a selection from the so-called *Red Box*, where Campaña wanted to seal up the tragedy experienced during the war, immortalized in thousands of images of the conflict.

The Endless War and the book that has been made on the occasion of the exhibition consolidate the figure and work of Antoni Campaña as one of the most outstanding authors of 20th-century photography in Spain.

We find ourselves face to face with an intense career spanning more than 60 years, dedicated to a great passion: photography. And thanks to his passion we have a legacy that is a unique visual testimony of our recent history.

“I believe that I have an obligation to produce photographs with original perspectives, and I think it is a duty to show the world all of nature well-resolved by a divine hand.”

Tirelessly pursuing beauty

Before the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, Campaña had already made a name among the leading representatives of Pictorialist photography. He is the most award-winning Catalan photographer on an international scale and was driven by the pursuit of beauty throughout his whole life. His images show a clear artistic intent that we can also recognise in the photographs he took during the Spanish Civil War. Campaña wanted to photograph everything, without self-censorship or concessions to either side. His cause was not militant. We discover a photographer who is on a par with Agustí Centelles or Robert Capa, but with a unique humanist and artistic perspective.



2.



3.

1. Untitled [Return of Lluís Companys], 1 March 1936. Arxiu Campaña

2. *Scarecrow*, 1934. Deposit by the Campaña Capella family, 2020. Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, Barcelona

A treasure tucked away in a garage

In September 2018, the Campaña family's house in Sant Cugat del Vallès was about to be demolished. The photographer's relatives found two red boxes in the garage containing more than 5,000 unpublished photographs taken during the three years of the Spanish Civil War. The war caused Campaña intense trauma, and he did his best to overcome it using his camera's viewfinder. More than 80 years later, today we can enjoy the latest great discovery of our country's 20th-century photographic heritage.



4.



6.



8.



5.



7.

Activities

This exhibition is part of the programme **Civil War. Art, Conflict and Memory**, which will be on-going at the Museum through September. At the end of March we will inaugurate the exhibition **REPAIR** by the artist Svantje Busshoff in the educArt Space, a reflection on topics such as repair and destruction. In May we are opening **new rooms** dedicated to art produced during the Spanish Civil War, and starting in June we will host the exhibition **Art in Danger! Safeguarding the Catalan artistic heritage (1936-1939)** and the installation **Interior Flight** by the artist Francesc Torres.

The **programme of online and in-person activities** has been designed in collaboration with entities and collectives specialising in this topic. For our student audiences, we are offering tours of the exhibition and the **Art and Commitment** activity and teacher's resource pack to work on peace education with secondary school students and adult schools. For the general public, we are planning conferences, round tables, guided tours, film showings and storytelling sessions that invite us to reflect on the consequences arising from war, such as the exile and suffering of displaced persons, memory, the role of art and artists, or propaganda.

See all the updated information at www.museunacional.cat.
#AntoniCampaña

3. *Horsepower*, 1933. Deposit by the Generalitat de Catalunya. Col·lecció Nacional de Fotografia, 1999. Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, Barcelona

4. *Barricade*. Hospital Street, Barcelona, 25 July 1936. Arxiu Campaña

5. Untitled [Refugees from Malaga in Montjuïc stadium], February 1937. Arxiu Campaña

6. Untitled [Dead horses], Catalunya Square, Barcelona, 19-21 July 1936. Arxiu Campaña

7. Untitled [Italian troops in the Francoist victory parade], 21 February 1939. Arxiu Campaña

8. Untitled [Two women after an air raid], Poble Sec, Barcelona, 14 March 1937. Arxiu Campaña

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