







# INTER-LIBRARY PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT

in 3 actions

Action 1. The quest (Photo sessions)

Action 2. Knowing themselves through the others (Local exhibitions)

Action 3. The Library Soul

(International travelling exhibition and book)

Despite the proliferation of smartphone games and people in growing numbers being constantly connected to social networks sites, there are still many people who read on the train, the bus, on the beach or in parks. And when we see them, many of us wonder what the book is. About is it being read with the eyes or the mind or the heart. With what part of the body does one read? Perhaps, it is with the whole body.

There are millions of books, novels, essays, plays, biographies, comics, etc. There are millions of people. All different, and, at the same time, all the same. That difference and that similarity reflected in **portraits of readers posing with their favorite book**. And including, a paragraph of the book chosen by the reader.

"The Library Soul" is a project that wants to find out what us through books and in the best place for it: a public library. The one open community space and source of wisdom, knowledge and culture. We are now in a world where (almost) everything can be found on the internet, yet it may very well be the best time to reclaim something that libraries offer: personal relationships, between users and between the reader and the book.

"The Library Soul" aims for the impossible: to reflect on the individual and on the sense of community simultaneously. The act of reading a book can be one of the most intimate actions of an individual, which at the same time is explicitly an act that is shared, if it has to do with books checked out of a public library.

It is also shared in two different ways. The library is a public space in which the community shares culture, often providing a forum of book comments and recommendations. But, beyond the library, all the readers who have read the same book will have something in common.

The Library Soul" is a project that has taken their first steps in

- Ivan Vazov and several chitalishta: Plovdiv (Bulgaria)
- Stockholms Stadsbibliotek: Estocolmo (Suecia)
- Eugenio Trías: Madrid (España)

And it has no boundaries. It can continue at any library, in any country, in any language.

Our project, "The library soul", will be a book of recommended books and a large exhibition integrated by readers of all ages and nationalities, libraries of different kinds, sizes and from different countries and many, many books.







### Action 1 - The photo session

To carry out this session, in the library, it will be announced that a photographer will take portraits to those who wish it, the only requirement is that they pose with their favorite book and choose a paragraph.

The entire photographic project is being directed by the photographer María Jato Román to create the adequate harmony and unifying motif required by this all-encompassing enterprise. The photographer travels with her team to a library to make portraits. This way, the light, composition and photographic treatment are uniform, allowing the spotlight to always be on the reader who brings forth his/her own distinct qualities to form "The library soul."

The library only has to provide a space of around 3x2 meters in which to set up portable study.

David Sanz Frías welcomes the participants writting down the favorite books and the paragraphs chosen. He establishes contact with readers by collecting anecdotes and stories about the books for the realization of the reading guide book "The library soul".





¿Destino? ¡Oh absoluto Presente!

**DESNUDO** de Jorge Guillén Cántico, 1928-1950 Antología de la Poesía Española







FROM: DIRECTOR OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY EUGENIO TRÍAS "CASA DE FIERAS" AREA OF ARTS CITY COUNCIL OF MADRID





Biblioteca Pública Municipal Eugenio Trías. Casa de fieras Paseo Fernán Núñez, 24. 28009 Madrid

Z8009 Madrid Tfno. 914804838.

Inaugurated in 2013, the Eugenio Trías "Casa de Fieras" library has become in a very short time a benchmark for the cultural activity of the district as well as the city of Madrid. It now boasts of being the library with the most book loans throughout the municipal system.

Your personal contribution to the library by creating and developing the magnificent project and exhibit "The Library Soul", which has been on display in recent months, has not only enabled better quality service, but has contrived a more dynamic space where readers can enjoy the innovative cultural events that make up a modern leading-edge library.

What I wanted to highlight in particular about your project is the great range of possibilities it furnishes, which fulfill completely the most relevant characteristics of what a library can offer within a major city by introducing a very important innovative feature, the personalization of the reader-book experience. The most notable satisfaction by those who use the library facilities is that they have felt as protagonists and participants in a cultural event relevant to them. They have connected at a more personal level with an author and his/her work, and have been able to deepen their relationship with and appreciation of literature, the creative process and the library setting.

The very success the exhibit has reached as a revitalization element makes it very viable to now be extended to the rest of the 30 libraries in the system, which have already expressed their growing interest in the project. We are very grateful to you for bestowing on us the great fortune of being the pioneer in an event of such notable features and possibilities for the literary world.

#### Signed.

Estela Gonzalo Muñoz

LIBRARY DIRECTOR OF EUGENIO TRÍAS. "CASA DE FIERAS"

Madrid, JANUARY 9, 2015.

#### Action 2 - Local Exhibitions

Every portrait will be prepared in order to be exhibited in the web site "The Library soul". It will be accompanied by the text chosen by the reader. This virtual exhibition will incite the participants develop a natural understanding and intuition about the others sensitivity reflected in their particular literay choices, on other hand, it increases in the interest in the Library, as an encouraging place for reading. Optionally, a traditional exhibition can be placed within the facilities of the library.

To express our grattitude for its collaboration, we will make and offer, specially to the Library, a digital mosaic with all readers.

#### ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES

Having begun the project, we can assess the intrinsic value of these artistic initiatives for the libraries that have participated.

The photography session is itself an activity for readers to meet and exchange stories and opinions about literature and life; a gathering that encourages other readers to find their own particular book in the library and feel inspired to pose. From these sessions, friendships have blossomed between users as well as a very authentic appreciation by the participants of what it means to be an integral part of the reality of the library.

In a second assessment, thanks to the exhibit, there is a significant increase in the number of visitors and book loans. Attached is a thank you letter by Estela Gonzalo, the director of the Eugenio Trías Library in Madrid, expressing the positive resurgence of appreciation for books and the library setting due to its participation in the "The Library Soul" project.



"Everyone is my master"

Artist Biography of Chinese Opera
XIAO WEN YAN (Huai)

Jun Chen





#### Action 3

# a) International travelling exhibition

Some of the photographs will be chosen from each participating library, and they will create a grand compilation of books/readers' portraits from libraries all over the world.

This international itinerant exhibition will be showed in every participating city, so what the differences and similarities among readers of different countries could be appreciated and very participating library will be promoted abroad, providing further knowledge of its country and culture.

The intention of the final itinerant exhibition is printing the copies in a biodegradable material, **finishing the showing outdoors**, in the most northern participant city, letting the copies return to nature as a symbol of **the Library Soul**, **melting with the soul of the world**.



#### Action 3

# b) Reading guide

The books chosen by the users are a perfect recommendation, the favorite books of the real users of the public libraries and a special paragraph to present it.

Every photographed reader and every chosen book will appear in this guide with indexes for the location of authors and books. The order of the photographs will be alphabetical by the user's name, alternatting the different libraries and cities.

This book will be the representation of the soul of the library, the users and their beloved books; a sincere recommendation for the perfect reading guide.



#### We are working in this project

#### Maria Jato Román: Photographer

She studied Journalism in the Complutense University of Madrid, she got a degree in Spanish Filology by the UNED University and finished the EFTI Photography Master in 2000.

She tought photography in "Pares y Nones" school in Albacete and she was a press officer of SAFA, in the same city from 2004 to 2005. This year she co-created the audiovisual production company "Lutea" specialized in antropologic documentaries. In this time she started her owm vital project "The Eternal", secuence of travelling photographic portraits. Which her view, photographer, photographed and observer must be envolved in the whole creation act. The first exhibition of this project took place in 2008 in the Council of Toral de los Vados (León. Spain).

From 2013 she works as a photographer and as a librarian for the Madrid's City Council. Currently she is a director assistant in the Public Musical Library "Víctor Espinós" in Madrid.

She has published in the magazines "Mi Biblioteca" "Música y Educación" and "Madrid Histórico". Nowadays she is preparing the exhibition "Meidriz" for the Museo de arte contemporáneo de Madrid.

#### David Sanz Frías: Writer

He is a journalist, writer, and screenwriter. He has a Bachelor in Journalism and an undergraduate in Screenwriting for Cinema and TV. He has written for several media, magazines, and blogs about the environment, ecology, technology, cinema and theater, arts.

He directed the short film "No importa tu nombre", showed in some cinema festival in Spain.

He wrote 2 short plays for Microteatro, Madrid. He has co-written some scripts with Mexican film director Javier Matarredona.

He founded RDJ Productions in order to make promotional videos for companies. David also worked in Vinus TV (now called ScreenWine), a channel specialized on wine news.

As a guitarist, he has played in some pop-rock bands. He has worked in the production department of Musical Festivals in Spain.

Nowadays, David is producing his first screenwriting film and prepares the edition of a book of short stories. As a guitarist, he has played in some pop-rock bands. He has worked in the production department of Musical Festivals in Spain. Nowadays, David is producing his first screenwriting film and prepares the edition of a book of short stories.





# THE LIBRARY SOUL

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©María Jato Román

María Jato Román maria@mpjato.photography +34 617856769

> David Sanz Frías lavid@mpjato.photography +34 687686361

https://www.mariajato.com/the-library-sou