

# EXPERIMENTOBIO

Epaimahaiak epaia / Fallo jurado / Jury verdict

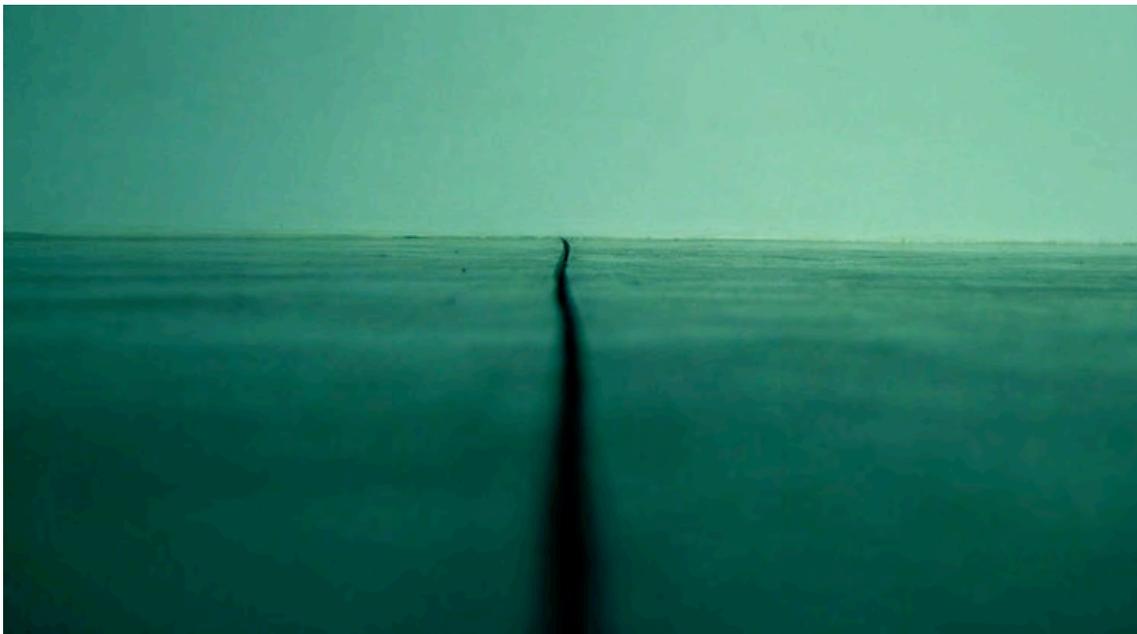
The jury of ExperimentoBio 2019, formed by Liane Lang and Txema Agiriano, has decided to award the following photographic series.

1st Prize:

**“Museum(scapes)s” Sofia Bertomeu Hojberg**

Bertomeu Hojberg's work of architectural abstraction, using low depth of field observes details and surfaces. The viewer is aware of being excluded from knowing the location, function and context. The artist however does not only play with our experience of generic space, the history of modernist photography and abstraction, she chooses museum spaces, excluding us from the main attractions. The work has multiple layers. Museum spaces are exclusive and create a space which is extremely hard to enter by artists. Bertomeu Hojberg steals her work from the claws of the establishment, making the margins the central narrative. Museums have often been described as the modern day sacred space, where cultural production becomes sanctified and obtains value, this project confronts this question laterally and with precision.

Liane Lang



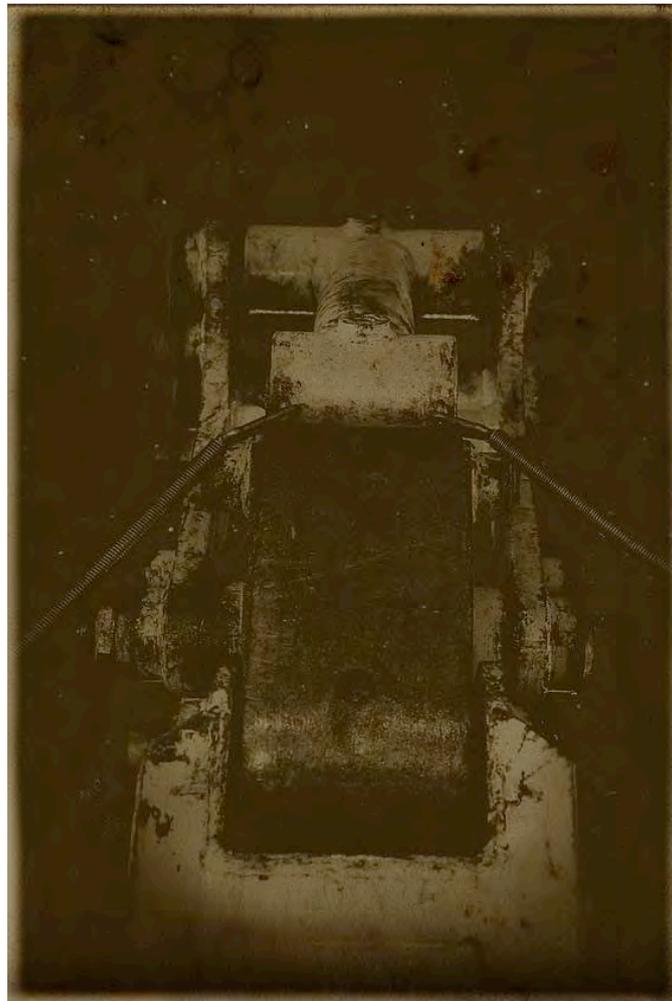
<http://www.musicaexmachina.com/experimentobio/2019/artistas/12%20sofia%20bertomeu%20hojberg/sofia.shtml>

2nd Prize:

**“A.I.” Benna Gaeen Maris**

The images of Gaeen Maris are atmospheric and distant. We know these objects are most likely quotidian, architectural or industrial residue, fixtures and fittings, but through her process she removes them from our understanding just enough to make them mysterious and ambiguous. The works put me in mind of that strange interplay between past and future, the connections created between what we remember about predictions and the form in which they come to pass. George Orwell's *1984* written in 1949 and Margaret Atwood's *Handmaid's Tale* written in 1984, the dystopian is always a version of what we already know and experience everyday. Gaeen Maris taps into contemporary visions of man made disaster through what appears to be a historic photographic process, drawing these strands together in this body of work.

Liane Lang



<http://www.musicaexmachina.com/experimentobio/2019/artistas/02%20benna%20gaean%20maris/benna.shtml>

Special Mention:

**“Arquitectura bajo París” Irune Orbea**

Orbea's series of Underground Paris appears at first glance as straight forward architectural photography with a penchant for the liminal in Modernism: Underground car parks, underpasses, stair wells, concrete bridges and walk ways. On second glance however the viewer begins to feel more uneasy, dimly lit by neon strip lighting, dark and unpopulated, these spaces are also full of menace. These are the places we avoid at night, where we walk quickly, holding on to our valuables. Orbea wants to show us that these spaces have inherent beauty. Their minimal, utilitarian design captured perfectly in her photographic image, focusing on tonal range and composition. The work work points at the gap between who builds and own urban space and who uses it and how all of the built environment should be thus scrutinised.

Liane Lang



<http://www.musicaexmachina.com/experimentobio/2019/artistas/05%20irune%20orbea/irune.shtml>

## About the Jury:

### **Liane Lang**

Liane Lang is a London-based artist who studied at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin and completed a BA in Fine Art at Goldsmiths College followed by a Postgraduate Diploma at the Royal Academy Schools, London. She has exhibited widely both in the UK and internationally, including the Musée de Beaux Arts Calais, PS1 New York and Kunstverein Heidelberg. She won the Photofusion Award, the Tooth Travel Award at Goldsmiths College and the Cheneviere Prize at the Royal Academy Schools. She was recently shortlisted for the Cointreau Creative Crew and the Young Masters Art Prize. 2018 has seen a solo show in London at James Freeman Gallery and her work was included in From Life at the Royal Academy of Arts. She will be presenting works at Lian Zhou Foto Festival in 2018 as one of two international artist solo shows. Her work is held in numerous prestigious collections, such as Arts Council England, Royal Academy of Arts, the Saatchi Collection, Deutsche Bank, Kunstverein Bregenz, Ernst and Young and the Collection of the Kunstamt Spandau, Berlin.

<https://www.lianelang.com>

### **Txema Agiriano**

Born in Bilbao (Spain), is an university degree Expert in Art and New Technologies. He works as curator, researcher, art critic and cultural manager. He has curate exhibitions in Museums, Art Galleries, Festivals and Cultural Spaces in Spain (Museo Guggenheim, Universidad Laboral Gijón, Universidad de Valencia, Archivo Diputación de Alava, BBK Gran Vía Bilbao,...) and also in Tetouan (Morocco), Linz (Austria), Bruxelles, Amsterdam, Sydney, New York, Washington DC, Marseille, Copenhagen, Parnü (Estonia), Istanbul... In 2002 he created MEM, International Experimental Arts Festival, where he is artistic director and curator. Since 2010 he is responsible for International Photography Contest ExperimentoBio and since 2011 also for Bideodromo International Experimental Film and Video Festival. His other more outstanding project is Cultural Recipes, a program of cultural activities, meetings, lectures, debates and workshops to approach today's reality of the interdisciplinary artistic production.

<http://recetasculturales.com>