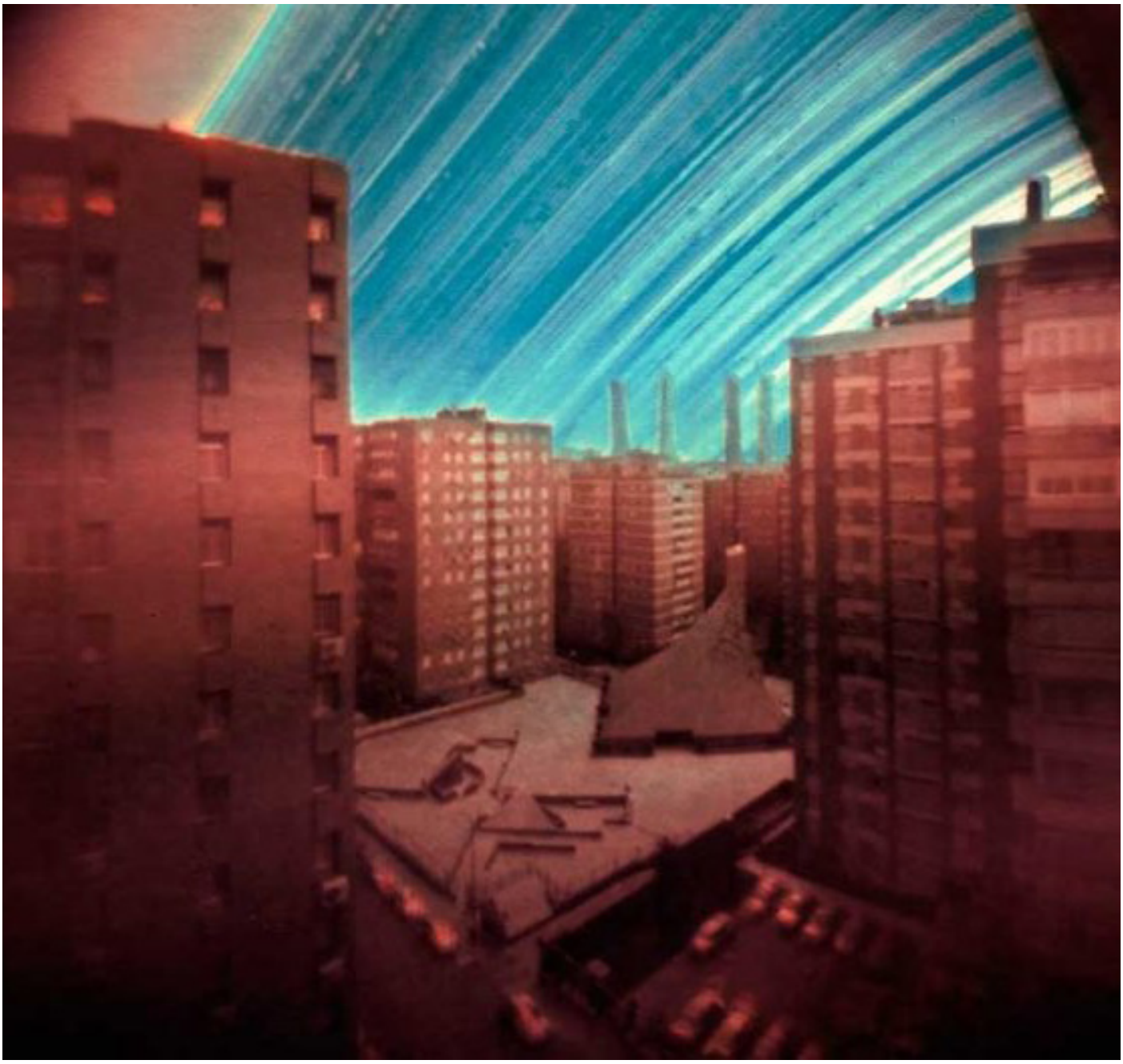
SOLARIGRAPHY WORKSHOP



“Art does not reproduce what we see; rather, it makes us see.”
Paul Klee - 1920.

ipa | switxboard

BIOGRAPHY
DIEGO LOPEZ CALVIN

Independent photographer and visual artist based in Madrid, Spain, he carries out editorial commissions and photojournalism for different media, producers and advertising agencies.

His works are published regularly in the main newspapers and magazines of the country and abroad. Photography teacher at the Public University Rey Juan Carlos of Madrid from 2013 to 2016.

He started Solarigraphy with Slawomir Decyk and Paweł Kula in 2000 as an invented word and photographic concept to compare and share from the Arctic Circle to the Equatorial Line the different positions of the Sun in its apparent movement over the sky.
His latest exhibitions and projects exploring boundaries of photography where he feels out of the comfort zone of conventional rules on photography in order to show things that can't be perceived with our natural vision.

His personal work has been exhibited in Spain, Poland, France, UK, EE.UU, Australia, Chile, Finland, Palestine, Israel, Egypt Jordan, Syria, and Dubai.


"UN FILM ATTESO 25 ANNI"
Hollywood.com
"È GILLIAM ALLO STATO PURO"
Le Nouvel Observateur
ADAM DRIVER
JONATHAN PRYCE
L'UOMO CHE UCCISE
donChisciotte
UN FILM DI
TERRY GILLIAM
OFFICIAL SELECTION
STELLAN SKARSGÅRD
OLGA KURYLENKO
JOANA RIBEIRO
DAL 27 SETTEMBRE AL CINEMA

HISTORY OF SOLARIGRAPHY

The term Photography comes from the Greek *phōs* (light) and *graphé* (scratch, draw, write) which together, means “write/record with light.” Nicéphore Niépce (1765-1833), known as the inventor of photography, had first baptised his invention Heliography using the Greek word *Helios* (the sun).

Between the years 2000 to 2002, Diego López Calvín, Slawomir Decyk, and Paweł Kula started a global and synchronised photography work called “Solaris Project”. This project merged art, science, and internet to record the apparent movement of the sun using pinhole cameras and very long exposures.

The Solaris Project arose in Stechin (Poland) promoted by a group of students from the Academy of Fine Arts of Poznan whom worked synchronisely with several Spanish photographers in Madrid, Burgos, Almería, and Barcelona.

The project started with the hypothesis that depending on the latitude that an observer occupies over the Earth’s surface, they will perceive the apparent movement of the sun differently.

It’s from this project that emerged the word Solarigrafia.
The modern terms *solar* and *grafia* were preferred because they worked well in Spanish and in Polish while maintaining the reference to the “writing of the Sun”.
Between the two words, they added the “i” to remind the use of “Internet” to disseminate the concept, and “international” for its vocation to become a global participation.


color spray

PROCESS OF SOLARIGRAPHY

Solarigraphs are images that show us something that we cannot see with naked eyes. They frame the apparent moving trajectory of the sun on the celestial vault due to the earth turning on its axis.

They are mostly made with pinhole cameras and very long exposures of time, ranging from one day to six months, sometimes more. There have been well-formed solarigraphs with ten years of exposure and other open cameras from the beginning of the Solaris Project with more than 20 years of exposure.

This project was inspired by the XIXs technique carried out by W. Fox Talbot, who developed the first light-sensitive photographic paper. Solarigraphs work in a similar way than salted paper, rubber bichromate, cyanotype, platinotype, modern papers P.O.P. (printed out paper) ...

The main feature of the solarigraphs is that, thanks to its long exposure times, the image is formed by direct blackening of the light-sensitive paper loaded inside the camera which is, then, directly scanned and processed for internet publication.

The result is a negative of the sun trajectories and all the standing still elements that were framed on the picture.
The image won't show elements that are alive and/or moving, such as people, animals, and moving vehicles. It will blur the trees, flatten the sea, and give a ghost effect to structures that appeared or disappeared during the process. It can also give us information about the weather if the sun's path disappears from the image because of the clouds.

As a philosophical approach, solarigraphs can help us to discover a new way of seeing the world and observe time and landscapes through the eyes of a stone or a tree. It shows the temporality of our existence as a species compared to nature; the sun is a clock that invites us to think on the relation between space, time, and light.

LOCATION
DOUIRET

The old village of Douiret is located on a hilltop, a few hundred meters away from the new village of Douiret, and about 22 km southwest of Tataouine in a rugged mountainous region.
It consists of troglodyte houses dug in the mountain and aligned in a meandering fashion along its cliff. A path of about 3 km is lined up with abandoned dwellings mostly in ruins with the exception of the eye-catching white mosque (known as the “palm tree mosque” or “Jamaa ennakhla”) at midway and a motel to host visitors and tourists.

Comparable villages like Chenini, Guermessa, Ghomrassen, and Ras El Oued can be found in the area.

These villages have the same architectural elements:
- a ksar (plural ksour) at the top of the hill with different levels of fortifications;
- troglodyte houses carved at a specific geological period and sometimes coupled with a ghorfa;
- a few olive mills built inside caves;
- a mosque, painted in white;
- one or several mausoleums, sometimes painted in white.

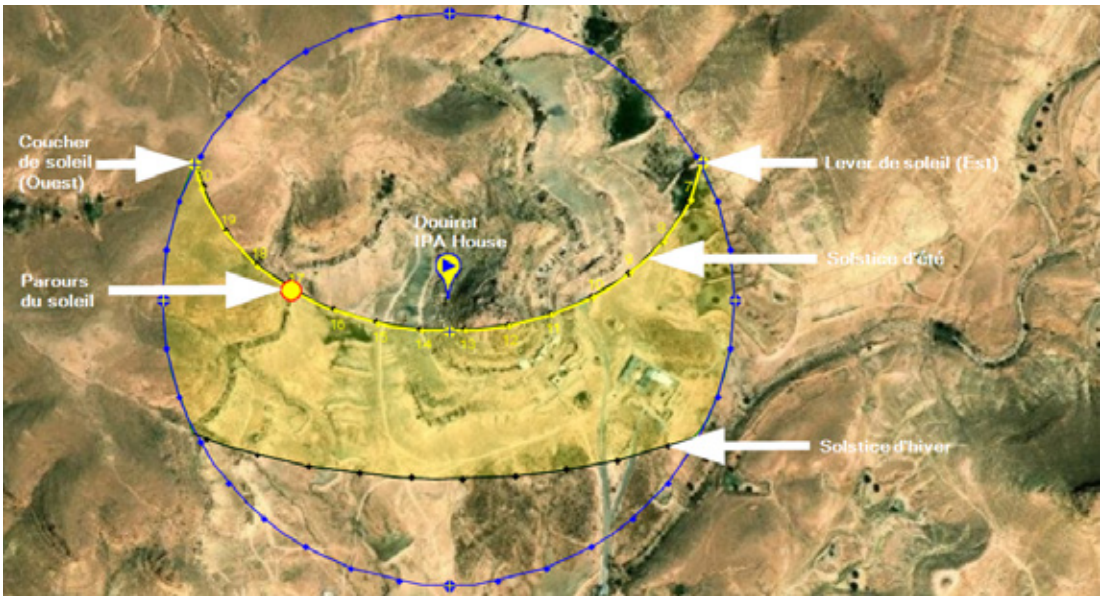
The inhabitants of earlier centuries lived as farmers and cattle breeders in a semi-nomadic way of life (transhumance), which continued into the first half of the 20th century. The terraced fields were irrigated in spring and harvested as early as the end of April; in summer, the cattle moved to higher regions of the Dahar Mountains.

In 1850, Douiret still had 3500 inhabitants but since the 1940s, this way of life has been gradually abandoned because of the increasingly dry climate and political initiatives to move the citizen to newer towns. Men also started to work in northern towns or in Djerba; their family sometimes followed them.

THE WORKSHOP

During this four-day workshop, Diego, the facilitator, will introduce solarigraphy by experimenting with the participants different techniques of pinhole cameras.
From camera obscura, to pinhole photography, and solarigraphy, this workshop will provide different methods to do photography in a low-tech, low-cost and creative way.
It will also teach you to observe the nature and the sun to plan your picture, envision the result, and hide your camera in the environment.

This workshop will be the first time that solarigraphy will be tested in Tunisia. Installing cameras on the difficult climate of Douiret will provide us with a unique experiment showcasing the resistance of these cameras while capturing the sun on this aride landscape.



WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Day 1: introduction to pinhole photography.
During the first day, we will build a human size camera obscura, by using an empty room, to study the processes of image formation.
We will discuss on the different settings to achieve a photography and experiment inside the room.
This emersive experience will help us to better plan our future photographies while discovering a unique experiment of being inside a camera.

Day 2: Pinhole photography
During the second day, we will start to practice pinhole photography.
First, we will use photosensitive paper to understand the principle of analogic photography.
Then, we will build different kind of pinhole cameras; take pinhole pictures around the classroom; develop and fix pictures to obtain the negatives; and evaluate the negatives.
This will emphasise the creativity that offers pinhole cameras as well as the technicity it requires to achieve good results.

Day 3: Introduction to Solarigraphy
On day three, Diego will have a talk to introduce the concept of solarigraphy.
Then, we will build solarigraphy cameras using different geometries such as beverage cans.
We will study the landscape and think about what we learnt the previous days in order to correctly place our solarigraphy cameras.

Day 4
On day four, we will use a scanner to make visible the self-darkened pictures.
We will scan a few negatives of solarigraphy cameras installed by Cédric Fettouche prior the workshop.

Each day is about 4-hour course.
Number of participants: 15-20 participants

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

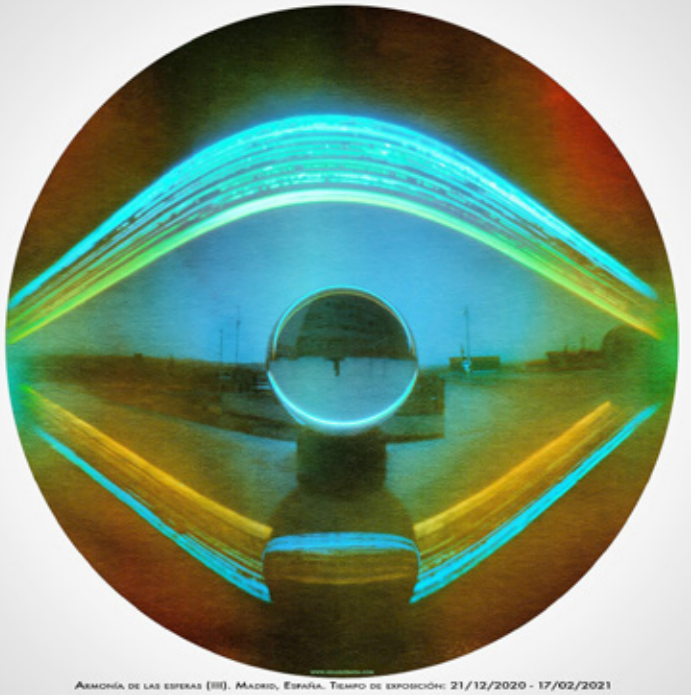
Day 1 - 27/29/2021
08:00 - Meeting at ISAMT for the bus
08:45 - Arrival in Douiret
09:00 - Workshop introduction
10:00 - Construction of a camera obscura
11:30 - Image formation
12:00 - Discussion about the camera obscura
13:00 - End of the day

Day 2: 28/09/2021
08:00 - Meeting at ISAMT for the bus
08:45 - Arrival in Douiret
09:00 - Practice with pinhole photography
10:00 - Build a camera
11:00 - The photosensitive paper
11:30 - Taking pinhole pictures
12:00 - Developed, stopped and fixed
12:30 - Evaluation of negatives
13:00 - End of the day

Day 3: 29/09/2021
08:00 - Meeting at ISAMT for the bus
08:45 - Arrival in Douiret
09:00 - Screening and talk
10:00 - Construction of a camera to make Solarigraphy
with different geometries.
11:00 - Landscape study. What should we think about before
doing a Solarigraphy?
12:00 - Placement of cameras
13:00 - End of the day

Day 4: 30/09/2021
09:00 - Using the scanner
10:00 - Scanning of negatives
11:00 - Talk and discussions
13:00 - End of the workshop

Faro del Cabo de Gata #2. Almería, España 06/07/2017 - 16/03/2018 www.solarigrafia.com



Armonía de las esferas [III]. Madrid, España. Tiempo de exposición: 21/12/2020 - 17/02/2021

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

We will welcome around 15 to 20 participants.

Price
5 Students from ISAMT: Free
5 Teachers from ISAMT: 40 DTN
5 Locals from Tataouine: 50 DTN
5 places will be open to Tunisians living outside the governorate of Tataouine. Their price will be defined directly with IPA Experience depending on their need for transport, accommodation and meals.

We may keep a waiting list in case someone is cancelling last minute. If you are not coming on day 1, we will contact the first person on the waiting list.

For the people living inside the governorate of Tataouine and with their own accomoodation, they should come to Douiret with their own mean and bring their own lunch.

ISAMT may be able to organise a bus transfer from Tataouine to Douiret. To be confirmed.

IPA Switxboard will provide to every participant, this flyer, a bottle of water per day and a table of snacks to keep our energy high during the workshop.

Contact IPA Switxboard about the workshop:
cedric@switxboard.net

Contact IPA Experience about the logistics:
mariem@switxboard.net
ala@switxboard.net

Le gîte de Raouf - Possibility to sleep there, check with IPA Experience.

IPA house, where the workshop is taking place. It includes an office room, two toilets, five caves, a kitchen, and terrasses.

MAP YOUR CAMERA