

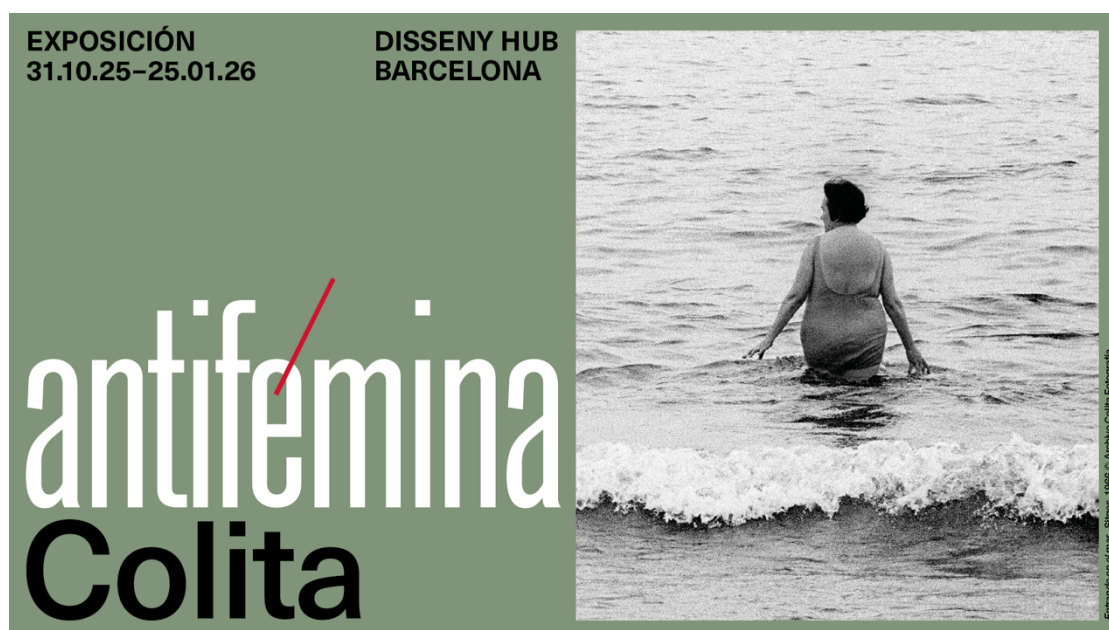
>> Press release

30 October 2025

From 31 October 2025 to 25 January 2026. Disseny Hub Barcelona (DHub)

Disseny Hub reveals Colita's sensitive, engaged perspective on women's reality in a new exhibition

- 'Colita. Antifemina' brings together the images by Barcelona photographer Colita from Antifemina, the first feminist photography book of the Spanish transition to democracy, created by Colita alongside the writer Maria Aurèlia Capmany.
- The book was published in 1977 then pulled from shelves, as it was deemed too subversive. Almost five decades later, Barcelona City Council and the publishing house Terranova rescued it from oblivion with a new edition.
- This exhibition – curated by Francesc Polop, the director of Archivo Colita – offers visitors reflections that are still relevant today about patriarchy, objectification, prostitution and the impact of old age on women.
- The exhibition showcases all the photographic dimensions of Colita's work and highlights the power of her images, achieved through a careful, modern, unembellished printing process. Capmany's voice accompanies them with profound words and a sense of humour.
- 'Colita. Antifemina', organised by Disseny Hub, La Fábrica and the Círculo de Bellas Artes, will be held in Espai A at Disseny Hub from 31 October 2025 until 25 January 2026.

Download the press kit [here](#)Download images [here](#)

From 31 October 2025 to 25 January 2026, Disseny Hub Barcelona (DHub) will be holding the exhibition **Colita. Antifémína**, an exhibition of the photographs contributed by Isabel Steva Hernández, better known as **Colita**, to a joint project with the writer *Maria Aurèlia Capmany*, which led to the publication of the **first feminist photography book of the Spanish transition to democracy**. The Barcelona-born photographer's images paint a **striking portrait of women's reality** at the time. Rather than just providing a look at the past, the exhibition offers reflections on **issues that remain highly relevant, including the persistence of the patriarchy, the objectification of women, prostitution and ageing for women**.



Grandmother and granddaughter. Barcelona, 1976. From the 'La dona marginada en la societat' series © Archivo Colita Fotografia

Antifémína was created by Colita and Capmany in 1976. Together, they dived into the photographer's vast archive, full of pictures of **women of all ages, origins and social classes**. From there, they selected the themes and issues they wanted to **speak out about in the book**. And Colita went out with her camera to portray the themes they wanted to address that were under-represented in her archive. Her images, a reflection of her **humanistic, sensitive gaze**, and Capmany's **profound, intelligent, subversive and funny words** came together in a book that the two women designed themselves by hand.

Later, Capmany convinced her friend **Ángel Sánchez-Gijón** – the then-director of the publishing house Editora Nacional – to **publish the book in 1977**, with a print run of 3,000 copies. A few years later, after Sánchez-Gijón was dismissed, **the book was pulled from the market and the remaining copies were destroyed**. Only the copies that had already been distributed survived. Over four decades later, in 2021, **Barcelona City Council, the publisher Terranova and the Archivo Colita rescued it from oblivion** and produced a new edition, with Francesc Polop as the editor and designer. It was a resounding success and all 2,000 copies printed were sold. That's why Barcelona City Council and Disseny Hub have now released a second edition for this exhibition.

Curated by the director of the Archivo Colita, **Francesc Polop**, the exhibition showcases photographs from the book, many of which had never previously been on display. The exhibition was already held

in 2024 in Madrid, but now it is arriving in Barcelona thanks to **Disseny Hub**, **La Fábrica** and the **Círculo de Bellas Artes**, expanded to include **25 new photos that add greater depth and consistency** to the 10 sections of the exhibition, which reflect the 10 chapters in the book. In total, Disseny Hub will display **120 of the 172 photos in the original publication**.



Female workers at the factory. Barcelona, 1976. © Archivo Colita Fotografía

Social and photographic value

Women were a central theme in Colita's work. Her archive is full of portrayals of women in different situations. Polop says this is because **Colita always 'looked at [women] and saw them'**. And she did so with an **intimate, intelligent, intentional gaze, with plenty of humour**. For her, it was a way of **celebrating the importance of women's presence and image in society**.

Like the book on which it is based, this exhibition provides a **critical perspective on society before the end of Francoism and a representation of women's worlds and the prevailing patriarchal system**. Through ten chapters or sections, it presents defining aspects of women's reality at the time: **ageing, marriage, work, religion, prostitution, objectification, the double marginalisation experienced by some women, models, cat calls and costume**.

Colita. Antifémina sheds light on what has often been hidden: **women's lives**, their wishes, their desires, what oppresses them and what worries them. It is a profoundly realistic portrait, because according to Capmany herself, 'there is nothing more stimulating, more corrosive, more revolutionary than reality'. The exhibition is a **feminist demonstration without banners, without photos of protests or political slogans**.



Women on Avinguda Paral·lel. Barcelona, 1965. © Archivo Colita Fotografia

Even so, it is not just a look at the past; it also **connects with the present**. Colita's images and Capmany's words **invite the visitor to reflect on themes that remain highly relevant today, including beauty standards, the objectification of women, the persistence of the patriarchy, prostitution and the invisibility of women in old age.**

Beyond its social value, the exhibition **introduces visitors to Colita**, focusing on her role as one of the most renowned Catalan photojournalists, and to many of her works in this field. The careful, modern, unembellished printing process **highlights the power of her images and speaks directly to the viewer.**



Study session for Consol Tura. Barcelona, 1976.
From the 'L'art d'arribar a ser cosa' series © Archivo Colita Fotografia

Colita and Capmany: Artists, intellectuals, feminists

The exhibition is also a **tribute to two outstanding figures in Catalan culture** from the 20th and 21st centuries. They were two modern, empowered artists and intellectuals who held similar political beliefs and were part of a group of women who **dared to break their silence and start to talk about feminism as Franco's dictatorship came to an end**. Colita and Capmany worked together on *Vindicación Feminista*, a magazine published in Barcelona that explored and spoke up about issues in women's lives. They also took part in countless demonstrations for equality and freedoms. Over the course of their artistic careers, they championed feminism through their books and photography.



Colita at La Pedrera. Barcelona, 1978 © Archivo Colita Fotografia



Mª Aurèlia Capmany. Barcelona, 1978 © Archivo Colita Fotografia

Press contact

Paula Mateu Badenes

dhubpremsa@bcn.cat

637 39 36 67