



The Formentera Council's Office of Culture has announced it will begin accepting photo submissions to the Beni Trutmann contest. Prints will be accepted through April 7. At fifteen, the competition is the longest-running of its kind on the island. Culture councillor Susana Labrador held up the event for the fervor it sparks among photography adepts of all stripes—whether their snapshots of choice are politically-steeped, landscapes or of deeply-rooted traditions.

From its outset focused on Formentera's natural surroundings—landscapes, flora and fauna, humans in nature—as a way to promote a commitment to the environment, the competition, according to Labrador, “was initially conceived as an homage to Beni Trutmann himself, who was absolutely instrumental for Formentera”. The photographer left the island with an archive of more than thirty thousand prints reflecting a deep love of Formentera's natural beauty.

Smartphone snapshots

In an effort to turn younger audiences on to the groundbreaking figure, organisers last year created a new category: smartphone snapshots. Boosted by the warm reception it received, the category returns this year. It is geared towards 12- to 18-year-olds, who are asked to email their submissions (a maximum of three) to concursfoto@conselldeformentera.cat. The initiative receives support from Polaroid, who will provide photo equipment prizes.

Colour and Black & White categories

Contenders in the Colour and Black & White categories can submit as many as three photo prints (analogue or digital), square, classic or panorama shots. They must choose whether to compete for the first, second or third prize in each category and will be eligible for €500, €300 or €200 prizes respectively.

Jury

The jury will be composed of someone from the Balearic group for ornithology and the defence of nature, a representative of Obra Cultural Balear de Formentera, three noted visual arts professionals plus a president and secretary.

Winning photos will become part of the local image and sound archive and property of the Formentera Island Council. They can additionally be used by the administration for graphic undertakings like posters, signs or for use on the Internet.

Long history

Fifteen years on, the Beni Trutmann competition has left the Council with a very valuable store of roughly 1,200 photos. Pointing to the more than 300 participants in the last five years alone, Labrador called the contest “a way for fans of the island to render Formentera as they see fit”. And with photographers hailing from Madrid, Barcelona, València, Lugo, Zaragoza and the countries of Europe, the the growth of the contest is evident.

Photo display and prizes

The contest culminates with a show of approximately fifty photos in the Council's exhibition space (Sala d'Exposicions) starting Monday April 24. It will also be the occasion to distribute prizes to the contest's winners. The display will remain open through May 6. For more information and details on participation, visit the Formentera Council website or the following link: <http://www.caib.es/eboibfront/ca/2017/10626/591827/aprovacio-de-les-bases-i-convocatoria-del-concurs->