

## FOTOGRAFIA EUROPEA 2022

## An invincible summer

“In the depths of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer”: so reads the quote from Albert Camus, the great French writer who has inspired the concept for Fotografia Europea 2022.

At a time of great upheaval, a moment of **transition** and **growth** that follows numerous extraordinary hardships and crises that have now come to define our era, Camus’s maxim gives us food for thought about the inner forces that drive us as individuals in what we do, in every moment of our lives, as we partially re-emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic.

A principle that intends to shed light on another facet of human nature; **the ability to push back against adversities, to not submit to momentary complications, and of course, courage**, without neglecting to mention the ability to persist, not through hope (which Camus despised for he considered it “tantamount to resignation”) but through the actual choices of the present, with all the circumstances - both favourable and unfavourable - that the world throws at us.

Based on this premise, the translation of these thematic into the language of photography, and, by natural extension, visual culture at large, focuses on **the notion of resistance as well as the different potential reactions to the onset of a new reality: journeys of different kinds that involve a process of transformation** from one state to another, chiming with Zadie Smith’s *Intimations*, a timely series of reflections brought together as a book of essays during the early months of lockdown, that posits: “When an unfamiliar world arrives, what does it reveal about the world that came before it?” As we now have a chance to re-exist it is clearly a point at which to consider the **choices about one’s role in the world**, creatively and in a myriad of ways; to be **courageous and to honour the importance of always looking at the world with open eyes** - **the will to live through the “winter” in the knowledge that “an invincible summer” is indeed within us.**

\*A. Camus “Return to Tipasa”, Lyrical and critical essays, New York, 1968