

Felipe Romero Beltrán



Bravo

Bravo by Felipe Romero Beltrán is the winning entry in the second edition of the KBr Photo Award, an initiative through which Fundación MAPFRE supports artistic creation and promotes the career of an artist by producing their project and an accompanying book and exhibition.

Romero Beltrán’s photographic practice is located at the limits of documentary photography and employs elements typical of this language, establishing a dialogue between them and other components closer to the artistic, pictorial and even performative. As a result, Romero Beltrán’s images have a hybrid character and transcend the strictly photographic to encompass the visual in a broader sense.



Stone and tile. Thom’s house. 2021-2024



In all his works to date Romero Beltrán has been interested in territories that have been or are scenes of tension, conflict and visual reflection. The Río Bravo (Río Grande in the US) is characterised by its dual status, both a river and at the same time the border between Mexico and the United States. Here, geography has a profound political charge that has been accumulating conflicts and tensions since the 19th century until reaching an unsustainable situation in recent years. In *Bravo* Romero Beltrán locates us in a specific terrain, an area close to the Mexican city of Monterrey. Life here revolves around waiting, something that can last for months, years or even forever. The river and those who arrive here to cross it determine everything, shaping the identity of its people and their lifestyles. This movement of people not only affects Mexican citizens and is rather a phenomenon that extends to all of Central and South America. The photographic essay *Bravo* focuses on this reality, presenting a series of images of buildings, people and landscapes that inhabit it and reveal its hybrid and liminal character.

In addition to the images, this presentation includes working process material from the project and the audiovisual work *The Crossing*, created prior to the photographs. Here Romero Beltrán expands his visual reflection on the river to show us five situations which divert or displace its border status, incorporating other uses and situations associated with its dual geographical and political nature.

Felipe Romero Beltrán was born in Bogotá, Colombia, in 1992. After completing a degree in Visual Arts in Buenos Aires, he traveled to Jerusalem on a scholarship, where he developed photographic projects in the Middle East. In 2016, he moved to Madrid to continue his studies in photography, and in 2024, he earned his PhD from the Faculty of Information Sciences at the Complutense University of Madrid with a thesis on documentary imagery.



Fundación MAPFRE
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Curator
Victoria del Val

Dates
June 5 to August 24, 2025

Opening times
Mondays (except public holidays):
2 pm to 8 pm
Tuesdays to Saturdays: 11 am to 8 pm
Sundays and public holidays: 11 am to 7 pm
(Last access: 30 minutes before closing time.
Visitors must leave the galleries 10 minutes
before closing time)




Ticket prices
Standard: 5 €
Reduced: 3 €
Free entry: Mondays
(except public holidays)

Commented tour
Brief explanation of the main artistic aspects
of the exhibition and its most outstanding works.

Hours:
Wednesdays and Thursdays: 5 pm to 8 pm
Fridays and Saturdays: 12 am to 2 pm
and 5 pm to 8 pm
Sundays and holidays: 12 am to 2 pm
No additional cost upon entry. Information at reception desk.
Not available in August.

Bookshop
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#FelipeRomeroFM

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<https://exposiciones.fundacionmapfre.org/FelipeRomeroFM>



Cover: El Friki's friend and pink wall. 2021-2024