

4th Conference on

***Arts-based Research
and Artistic Research***

*Rethinking arts-based research, artistic research
– and global/local communities*

Art Education, Visual Images, Technologies and Cultural Contexts from José Val del Omar: an Art Based Research

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STUDENT RESEARCH IN PROGRESS PAPERS

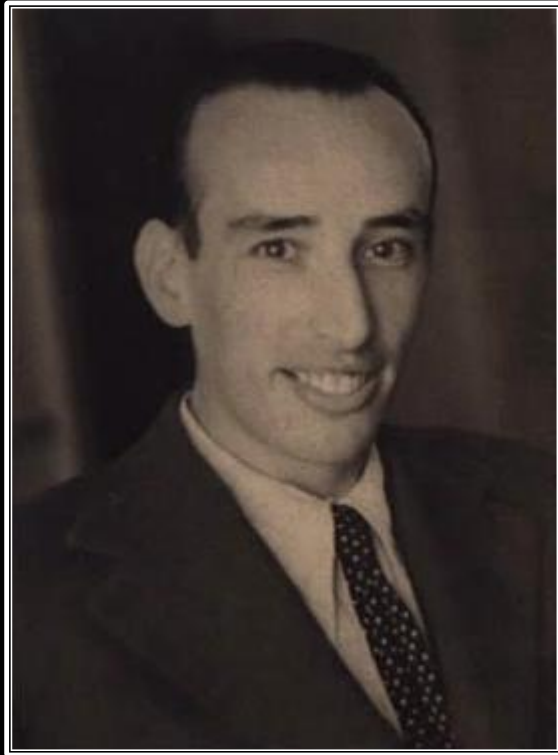
SUB-THEME: ARTS-BASED RESEARCH ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LOCAL COMMUNITY



INTRODUCTION

Author (2015) *Discovering Val del Omar's Universe*. Photo composition.

Why Val del Omar?



José Val del Omar (1904-1982) was an Spanish film maker and entrepreneur inventor who was born in Granada (Andalusia).

Cameo (2010). *Young Val del Omar*. Visual quote extracted from the Family Archive.

Why Val del Omar?

When he was only 27 years old, he participated as projectionist and documentarian at the Pedagogical Missions of the Second Republic (1931-1936).

The aim of this missions was to approach Art and Culture to the people from the most remote villages of Spain.



Cameo (2010). *Val del Omar teaching at the Pedagogical Missions*. Visual quote extracted from the Family Archive.

Why Val del Omar?

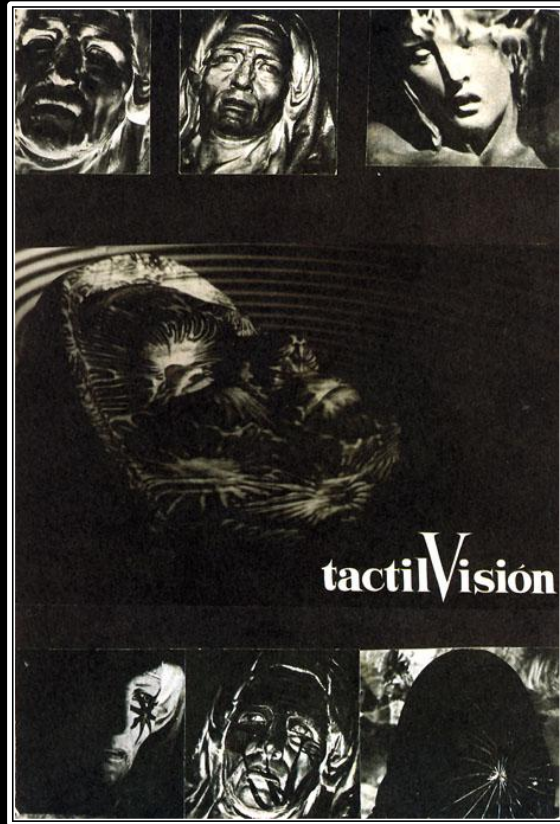
As a projectionist, Val del Omar was able to see and capture the powerful reaction of people the first time they saw a film: he discovered the pedagogical potential of cinematographic projections.

That fact marked a watershed moment at his artistic career: since then, he was always searching the way to obtain the same reactions and he found the answer on the audiovisual creation and its technologies.



Cameo (2010). *Children reaction the first time they saw a film*. **Visual quote** extracted from a photo taken by Val del Omar at the Pedagogical Missions.

Why Val del Omar?



For this reason, as an inventor he devised and customized a lot of different kind of machines (mainly projection systems) that were focused on being used as pedagogical material at classrooms.

As an artist, he created some techniques derived from the experimentation with these machines and used them as a resource in his films and artistic creations.

With them, he pursues transform the audience into a more active part in the collective aesthetic experience by inviting them to learn about it through the stimulation of all senses.

Rodríguez Valcárcel (2010). *TactilVisión collage*. **Visual quote** extracted from a Val del Omar's composition with some photograms of the film "Fire in Castille" (1960).

Why Val del Omar?



At his last years , he continued creating and experimenting all alone at his *P.L.A.T.* Laboratory.

But he felt that he wanted to share all his pedagogical and artistic experiences , so he devised a project directed to approach educational community to direct experimentation with educational projection technologies and to develop the join creation of images as educational material.

Unfortunately, this project never could be carry out.

THIS RESEARCH IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE IT
POSSIBLE.

Rodriguez Valcárcel (2010). *Val del Omar at his P.L.A.T. Laboratory*. Visual quote extracted from the Family Archive.



THE RESEARCH

Status of the issue

The participation of José Val del Omar at the Pedagogical Missions has been studied at the two PhD dissertations that have been made about this artist (Rodriguez Tranche, 1995; Viver, 2010).

But there aren't a study of he influence of pedagogy at the artistic work of Val del Omar or the influence of his artistic work at educational contexts.

For this reason, it is necessary to make a study that analyze this understudied aspect at the life of this artist by using as tools his own intuition and ideas related with pedagogical issues.

General objectives

The main goal of this PhD dissertation is to study the pedagogical ideas of José Val del Omar. To achieve that, it is necessary to:

- To collect and analyze all textual, visual and audiovisual artistic production to investigate the relationship with his pedagogical ideas.
- To compare all this information with the present artistic and educational situation.
- To develop new tools and strategies that allow to approach the research using the Art Based Research perspectives.

Specific objectives

Taking into account the factors that defined the ideas of Val del Omar in relation with Art and Education, there are some specific objectives which are included at the title of this research and that shaping the focus of the research :

- **Art Education**

The aim is to compare the pedagogical ideas of this artist with the Art Education theories and his application nowadays in formal and non-formal educational contexts. Also, it is a way to approach the knowledge of this artist to the society.

- **Visual images**

Most of the educational ideas of Val del Omar that can be studied have relation with visual images.

Furthermore, thanks to the ARB, the research focus on generate new visual contents which allow know better the artist ideas

Specific objectives

- **Technologies**

It is unthinkable to analyze Val del Omar's artistic work and pedagogical ideas without paying attention to technologies. It happens the same if we want to analyze our current educational context. For this reason, the research is centred on old technologies that used the artist, but also the adaptation of his inventions to new technologies.

- **Cultural contexts**

To sum up, the idea is to take Val del Omar as a nexus to research all the topics exposed before. To do this, it is necessary an historical study of the cultural context in general to compare that will allow analyze our cultural situation nowadays.

Methodologies

The fact that makes special this research is its methodological approach.

Although it will be necessary to use qualitative tools of investigation to study the historical information, the burden will be at the analysis of the artistic production.

For this reason, the main methodology of this inquiry is the Art Based Research (Barone & Eisner, 2012).

Specifically, it is being used the Visual Art Based Educational Research (VABER) point of view (Roldán & Marín, 2012), with the objective to apply the ideas of Val del Omar to learn about him and about Art and Education starting from a constructionist point of view (Papert, 1991).

Methodology

According to these methodologies, they can be defined three sections at this research :

- One section focuses in the qualitative analysis of the films, documents and all kind of audiovisual material to detect the ideas of the artist which have relation with the Education and his cultural context.
- Another section centred on compare these educational ideas with the current Art Education theories and Education in general, searching adapt them to be used nowadays.
- And the last section, more related with the Visual Art Based Educational Research, is the most practical because pursues to connect people with the artist works (above all his visual images)by providing the required means such as his own inventions, machines used by him or the materials necessary to experiment and learn about his work, arousing the curiosity through the collective creation.



FIRST EXPERIENCES

The born of an artistic and educational project

Searching the way to obtain some empirical evidences about the pedagogical and artistic ideas of Val del Omar, it has begun an an artistic and educational research project which will give us the possibility to recover this forgotten artist by carrying on with his own research to use it with educational and artistic purposes.

"A RAYO DIRECTO"

Author (2015). *"By direct lightning" logo*. Photo capture.

The born of an artistic and educational project

Since July 2015 until now, they have been made seven experiences with people of different ages and places. More than a hundred people have learnt about Val del Omar through creation and experimentation; and also they have helped to know more about his unfinished educational ideas.



Autora (2016). *"By direct lightning" experiences*. Photo Series composed by seven photos of each *"By direct lightning" experiences*.

The born of an artistic and educational project

All material produced at these experiences is being registered as evidences that will help to carry on with the research and would be used to help other people to know about the artist too. The archive of these experiences is available at the website of the project.

"A RAYO DIRECTO"

Un proyecto artístico basado en la proyección didáctica de José Val del Omar



Author (2016) *Website*. Photo capture.

You can visit the page at this link:

<http://arayodirecto.wix.com/valdelodidactico>



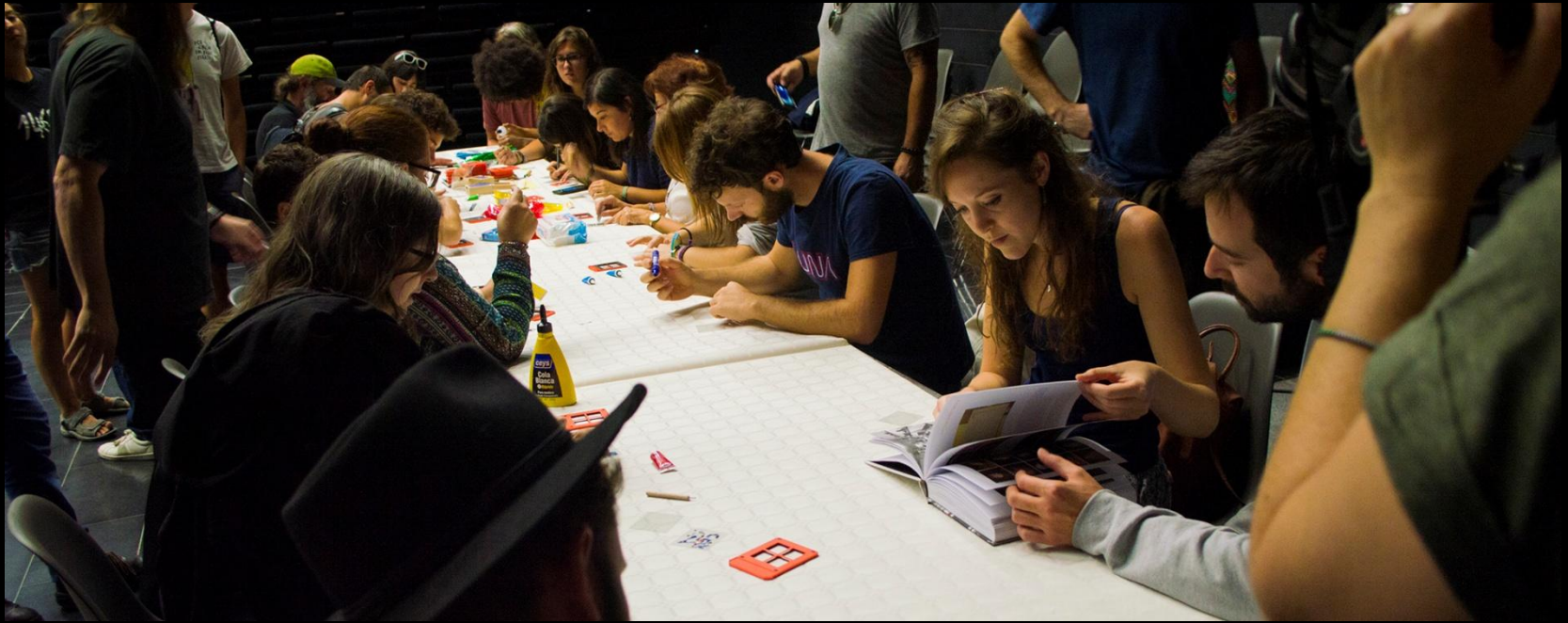
VISUAL CONCLUSION

THE MAIN IDEA IS TO SEE LEARNING AS A DISCOVERY...



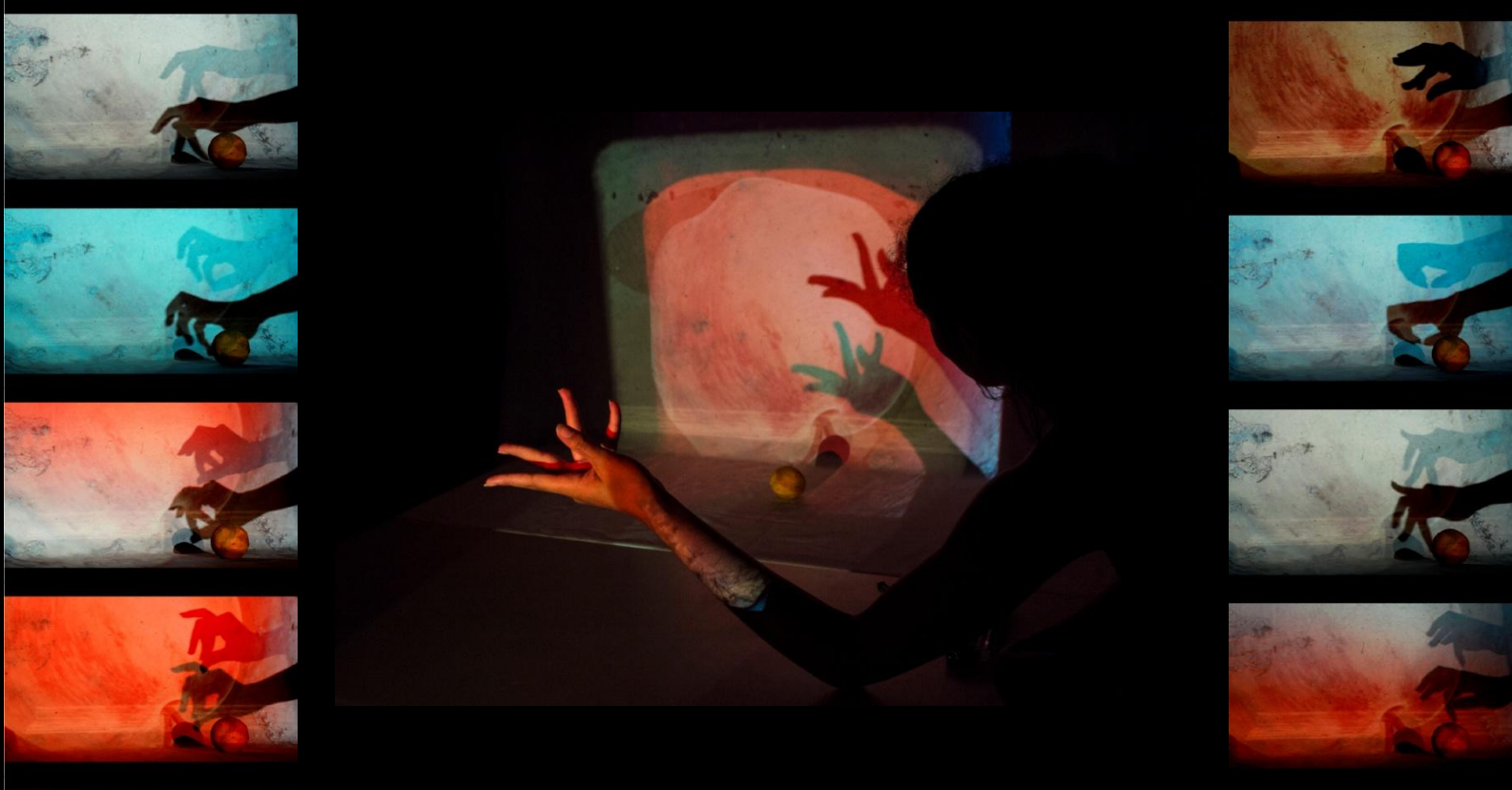
Author (2016) *The timeless nexus of Discovery*. **Photo Essay** composed with a visual quote from a Val del Omar's photo of the Educational Missions (Cameo, 2010) and a photo of one of the "By direct lightning" experiences (author, 2016).

...AS A DIRECT INQUIRY...



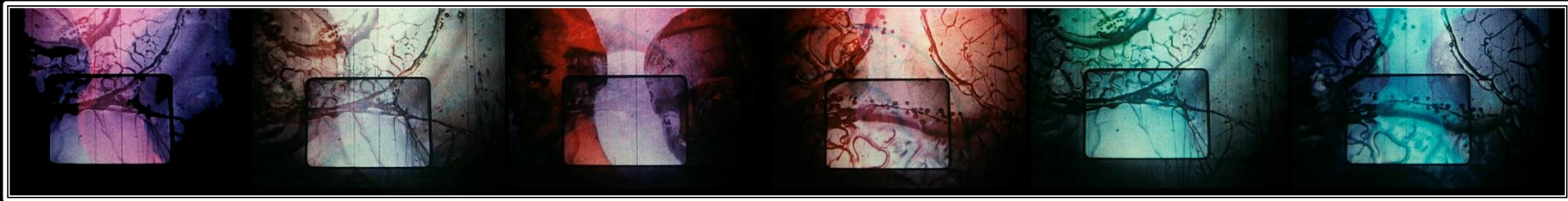
Author (2015) *Val del Omar Based Experiments*. Independent photo taken at one of the “By direct lightning” experiences.

...AS A CREATION...



Author (2016) *Variations on Thyphanie's lemon*. Photo Essay composed by a photo (at the middle) of Thyphanie's experiments (Author, 2015) and a photo series that includes eight photograms of the resulting video (Idem).

...STARTING FROM THE SEARCHING OF AN ARTIST...



Author (2016) *Adiscope's experiments*. **Photo Essay** composed with six visual quotes from a video recorded by Val del Omar at seventies (Cameo, 2010).

...AND CHANGING OUR EDUCATIONAL CONTEXT...



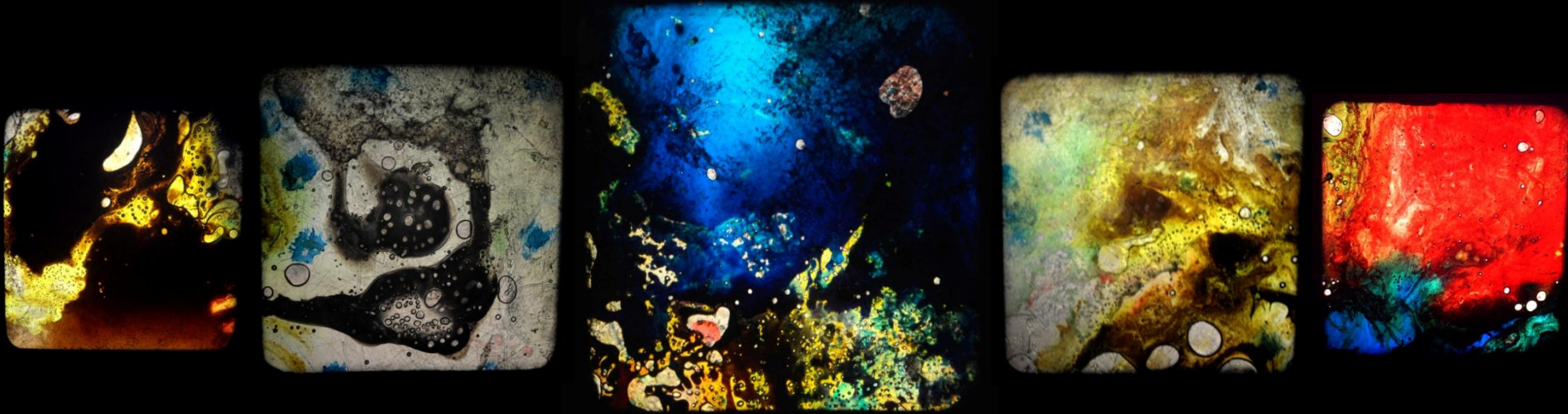
Author (2016) *A projected classroom*. Independent photo that was taken in one “By direct lightning” experience with children of seven years old .

...THANKS TO ART BASED RESEARCH.



Author (2015) *"By direct lightning" experimentation spaces. Photo Essay* composed by (at the left) a photo of a part of the Val del Omar's P.L.A.T. Laboratory reconstruction (author, 2014) and another photo of the recreation of the space for one of the *"By direct lightning" experiences* (2015).

AND THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING...



Author (2016) *Creating Val del Omar's Universe*. **Photo Essay** composed by five photos of slides created by people of different ages and projected with the Adiscope (author, 2015-2016).

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THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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