

IAF Grant Report: Experimental Photography Festival, Barcelona
Anastasia Comelli

I am deeply grateful to have received funding from IAF; this enabled me to attend the Experimental Photo Festival in Barcelona. This opportunity was incredibly valuable to my artistic development and allowed me to engage with a global community of experimental photographers. Being in Spain also offered a rich cultural immersion that deepened my appreciation for the diverse artistic perspectives present at the festival—Barcelona’s vibrant art scene and history of avant-garde experimentation became a powerful backdrop for creative exchange and inspiration.

The festival created a space where I could immerse myself in new techniques and approaches that are rarely covered in traditional photography programs. It encouraged risk-taking, play, and process-driven exploration—something that is often sidelined in more conventional educational settings. Being surrounded by like-minded artists and thinkers allowed me to deepen my practice and challenge the boundaries of how I work with photography.

Through workshops, artist talks, and collaborative sessions, I gained insight into alternative photographic processes, including analog manipulation, chemigrams, and hybrid digital-analog techniques. I returned with not just new skills, but also a renewed sense of creative direction and a deeper commitment to pushing the limits of the photographic image. This experience has already made my practice stronger, more intentional, and more experimental—and it’s something I’m excited to bring back and share within the creative community in Adelaide.

Thank you to IAF for supporting this journey and investing in experimental, non-traditional practices. This experience will have a lasting impact on my work and the ways I engage with photography moving forward.

Following are some photos taken during the workshop.



A bunch of dried leaves from a clothes line



A person's head in water



A close-up of a bush