

## 1. Introduction.

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The goals and objectives of the *Museo Nacional de Arqueología Subacuática*<sup>1</sup> (National Museum of Underwater Archaeology, or ARQVA from the Spanish acronym) include preserving, documenting and disseminating information about underwater cultural heritage, as well as driving research projects and incorporating all of the resources offered by new technology in the exploration, documentation, conservation and dissemination of information regarding underwater cultural heritage.

**Photography** is a fundamental pillar for archaeological science in two very important aspects: documentation and dissemination.

In terms of documentation, to excavate a site is to irreversibly alter it, and only thorough documentation can ensure that the process is meticulous and that all the necessary information is extracted. To this point, photography proves to be an essential tool because of its quality, immediacy and accuracy. After an excavation, it will be the drawings and photos taken by the archaeologists that will allow the original condition of the site to be reconstructed and are the only things preserving the context in which the pieces were found.

It is also fundamental for dissemination, both scientifically and generally. As the idiom “a picture is worth a thousand words” states, it is true that the expressiveness, exactitude and beauty of photography are a wonderful vehicle for valuing heritage. Because it is not only crucial when used in conjunction with articles or publications, but rather it has the necessary strength and robustness on its own to drive the comprehension, dissemination and awareness raising regarding underwater cultural heritage and the work of the professionals involved.

It is for that reason that the **Museum**, and with the collaboration of AdARQUA, its friends’ association for organising the event, has created the initiative for this underwater photography contest.

Part of what the contest aims to do is bring to light all photographs taken at sites which have not appeared in publications and to increase the Museum’s document and photograph repositories. The other part is to raise awareness on two fronts: in

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<sup>1</sup> <http://museoarqua.mcu.es/>

society towards underwater cultural heritage and in the professional community to encourage healthy competition and the desire for improvement in capturing photographs which, while continuing to meet scientific criteria, also pursue artistic excellence.

The contest is targeted to participants from all countries (professionals or amateurs), but the photographs must be of Spanish underwater cultural heritage . The judges are composed of renowned figures who will evaluate the scientific, technical and artistic aspects of the photographs. Different categories will be established, and there will be one winning photo per category whose owner will receive an award along with a cash prize. The contest will conclude with an exhibition of the selected photographs in the temporary exhibit rooms of the Museum and, once the exhibition has ended, will remain in the repositories of the Association for the rest of the year, available to other centres who request them.

## 2. Theme.

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The general theme of the contest will be **“Spanish Underwater Cultural Heritage.”** According to the Unesco, “Underwater cultural heritage” means all traces of human existence having a cultural, historical or archaeological character which have been partially or totally under water, periodically or continuously, for at least 100 years such as:

- I. sites, structures, buildings, artefacts and human remains, together with their archaeological and natural context;
- II. vessels, aircraft, other vehicles or any part thereof, their cargo or other contents, together with their archaeological and natural context; and
- III. objects of prehistoric character.

## 3. Objectives and Goals.

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The objectives and goals of this contest are the following:

- Take advantage of the descriptive capabilities of a photo depicting the spectacular nature of underwater archaeology and the environment in which it occurs to increase the appreciation of UCH (underwater cultural heritage).
- Bring the UCH closer to the public which cannot directly access it.
- Show the UCH in its context.
- Bring to light the rich photographic heritage of Spanish underwater excavations. In recent years, numerous underwater archaeological excavations have been carried out, but many of the photos documenting these excavations have not been included in publications. It is time to see the most stunning photographs.
- Appreciate photographic documentation as yet another element of UCH. Sometimes, a photograph is the only thing that remains of the context and the overall state in which the archaeological item was found.
- Host a temporary exhibition with the photographs selected as winners. The exhibited photos may be requested by outside entities and institutions, and they may publish a small catalogue containing said photos.

## 4. Entry

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### Entry fee:

Participants must pay €25 (€18 for Association members) via bank transfer to AdARQUA using the following account information:

**Bank: "La Caixa": 2100-4076-19-2200157222**

For: Photography Contest

And attach the receipt to the completed entry form and send it to the following e-mail address: [adarqua.fotosub@gmail.com](mailto:adarqua.fotosub@gmail.com). Subject: Photography Contest.

100% of the entry fee will go to pay for printing the photos for the exhibition (DIN-A1, foam core board at least 5 mm. thick), publication of the catalogue and organizational expenses.

### Entry Requirements:

Participation is open to any person of any nationality. Participants who are minors must present the appropriate authorization signed by one of their parents or guardians.

Participation in this contest implies full acceptance of these conditions and agreement with decisions of the judges and the organization.

### Photograph Requirements:

- Participants may enter up to 5 photographs per person.
- Photographs will only be accepted in digital format.
- Each photograph must be accompanied by text describing its scientific or historical significance.
- The text accompanying each photograph must contain the title of the photograph, the author's name, the date, and the site at which the photograph was taken or the project to which it pertains, as well as a brief descriptive explanation. There is a length limit of 1000 characters (not including spaces) for all of this information.
- Participants must enter their photographs into one of the specified categories.

- High-quality photographs must be sent as JPG files to the designated e-mail address. The photographs must have a minimum size of 1,800 x 1,800 pixels, with a resolution greater than 300 dpi, and files must not exceed 10 MB in size.
- Photographs entered into the contest must not have been previously published or selected as winners in contests.
- Photographs which have been manipulated are strictly prohibited. The judges will disqualify any photograph which they believe has been subjected to manipulation such as adding, removing or moving visual elements from the photograph or which does not correspond to a photo taken at a specific place and time.

**Entry:**

Participants must enter by completing the form available on the Association's website in which they must include their personal information, as well as information about the photograph(s) which they will enter into the contest, selecting the category in which each photo will be entered and the title of each photo. Remember that each participant may submit up to five photographs, regardless of the category to which they belong.

**Registration Period:**

The period for entering photographs will begin on 15 agosto 2013 and will end on 15 November 2013 at 20:00 (GMT +01:00).

Entry of photographs and their corresponding text must be done using the entry form available at the contest's website: [www.amigosmuseoarqua.com/fotosub.html](http://www.amigosmuseoarqua.com/fotosub.html)

Photographs which do not meet these requirements will not be accepted. The organisation reserves the right to decide if the quality and content meet the contest's requirements.

**5. Categories.**

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### **1. Shipwrecks and naval architecture:**

In this category, participants may submit photos in which the main theme is shipwrecks or naval structures, regardless of the historical and cultural period of the ship.

### **2. Objects and goods on board:**

In this category, participants may submit photos containing objects which at their time formed part of the cargo or equipment of a ship.

### **3. Closeups**

In this category, participants may submit detailed or broad photos related to the theme of the contest.

### **4. Ecosystems**

In this category, participants may submit photos depicting the relationship between the marine ecosystem and underwater sites.

### **5. Underwater sites on land.**

In this category, participants may submit photos of sites or other archaeological objects which, although they would normally appear underwater, have been documented on land.

### **6. Panoramic**

Wide views of sites.

## **6. Prizes.**

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- A cash prize of 500 euros for the winning photograph.
- One honorable mention per category.
- A special mention for a photograph chosen by popular vote on Facebook, which will be the photo for the flyer for next year's contest.

The winning photo and those receiving honorable mentions will be exhibited together with the finalists in the temporary exposition room of the National Underwater Archaeology Museum. ARQVA.

## **7. Judges.**

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The judges, who will be announced in advance, will be professionals selected by the organisation and will evaluate different aspects related to the technical and artistic quality, originality, and the scientific and educational content of the photo and the text.

## **8. Exhibition, travelling exhibition and catalogue.**

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The judges, together with the organisation, will choose a series of photos (and their respective texts) to be included in a catalogue (not for sale) and a public exhibition. The chosen photographs may be used in designing stationery items, calendars or other products which are part of said exhibition.

Once the exhibition has finished, it may become a travelling exhibition if requested by other institutions or organisations. All request information will be available on the official contest website, where loan conditions will be specified.

## 9. Authorship.

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Authors guarantee that their photographs are original, that they are the rightful owners of all inherent rights to said photographs, and that the photos do not violate the rights of third parties. AdARQUA is not liable for any damages which violation of the aforementioned rights may imply, and may take the appropriate legal action in order to compensate for damages caused.

### **Intellectual property rights.**

In accordance with the Intellectual Property Law, **the authors of submitted photographs**, without prejudice to the moral rights pertaining to them, share the rights to exploit the photographs with the AdARQUA Association and the ARQVA Museum.

These rights include the exploitation of winning photographs for non-profit purposes, and the AdARQUA Association and ARQVA Museum may freely and without monetary compensation go forward with the reproduction, distribution, public announcement or transformation in any medium or format, whether presently known or not, including publication in the catalogue, travelling expositions and promotion of the contest itself and other activities of the aforementioned entities in furtherance of their general objectives. Notifying the author of the photo at all times of said reproduction and acknowledging him or her in the credits.

Participation in this Underwater Photography Contest implies acceptance of the terms and conditions, which can be found at:  
[www.amigosmuseoarqua.com/fotosub.html](http://www.amigosmuseoarqua.com/fotosub.html)

- **Participation and more information:**  
[www.amigosmuseoarqua.com/fotosub.html](http://www.amigosmuseoarqua.com/fotosub.html)
- **Questions:** [adarqua.fotosub@gmail.com](mailto:adarqua.fotosub@gmail.com)

The organising entities are exempt from any responsibility which may stem from the undue and illicit use of the exhibited works by third parties.

Participants whose photos have been exhibited and wish to claim them as a memento must pay for printing costs (€35) so that the organisation can reprint them and thus keep a copy for the exhibition.