

# ANARCHIST GRAPHICS PHOTOGRAPHY AND SOCIAL REVOLUTION 1936-1939

## 'CNT-FAI INFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA OFFICE'

Directed by journalist Jacinto Torhyo, this organisation took on the task of spreading revolutionary ideas through the press, publishing, cinema, radio and photography. This pioneering entity, created months before the Generalitat's Propaganda Commission, built up a valuable archive of photographs. The images taken were used in various libertarian media, such as newspapers, magazines, books, postcards, exhibitions and posters, with a view to raising awareness of the social revolution among the public both nationally and internationally.

"The Photography Section of the CNT-FAI Information Office, at Vía Layetana, 32, 4º, telephone number 21615, calls all photographers and reporters to submit all their photographs of the revolutionary movement to this office. We will pay for the photos we want at our usual prices. This is a matter of interest to everyone, as we are putting together a photographic archive of the whole revolutionary movement."

"Reporter photographers", *Solidaridad Obrera*, 19/8/1936

## HORNA: THE RELENTLESS REPORTER

Kati Horna (1912-2000) became one of the most outstanding photographers at the Information and Propaganda Office from her arrival in 1937. Her reports, published in *Mujeres Libres*, *Tierra y Libertad* and especially *Umbral*, offered an intimate portrait of everyday life at the rearguard, far from the photojournalistic canon of the conflict characterised by the spectacular nature of the front line. Her unique perspective also focused on the urban landscape and portrayed the effects of horror in a strangely poetic way.

"On the winding mountain road, the skilfully driven car turns the sharp bend and starts its way up the hill. Without any similarities to Huesca, the profile of the towers of Almudévar, Francisco Ascaso's birthplace, can be seen in the distance beyond its clear roofs. On the nearby slopes are our first trench lines. Beyond these, in the deeper part, lie the terrible marshes that soaked the comrades of the Vallès Oriental through with water and mud in the November attack.

Vivancos wields the steering wheel. Next to him is Madriles, the excellent 125th Brigade war commissioner. Inside, from left to right, is the *Solidaridad Obrera* reporter, whose eyes are eager to see everything, mountain landscapes and adventure; Casanovas, the 28th Division war correspondent; and Kate Polgare, our little Hungarian comrade, a tireless graphic reporter from the CNT-FAI Offices, sporting blue militia overalls, Aragon espadrilles and a short, blond bob, straight and fair, like a girl."

"A tribute of war", *Solidaridad Obrera*, 14/8/1937

## PÉREZ DE ROZAS AND THE REVOLUTIONARY CONQUESTS

The Pérez de Rozas family's presence in the anarchist media was constant from 1937, especially in magazines like *Umbral* and *Mujeres Libres*. The highlight was a commission for weekly publication *¡¡Campo!!*: the only one of any leaning to leave an organised photographic testimony of agrarian collectivisation. From the Pyrenees to the Ebro Delta, the family's reports constitute one of the best portrayals of the importance of revolutionary conquests in Catalonia.

"We're in a hurry!" we shout, and the photographer wastes no time as we speak thus. Like a snail smelling the rain, the tripod's long legs have been deployed and a triangle screen has appeared next to the ornate figure of Pérez de Rozas, who winks as he looks through the lens."

"Granja Germinal, an example of collectivisation", *Campo*, 7/8/1937