

Rodrigo, Photographer and artist, affiliated with international contemporary art platforms Artsper and Balthasart. His personal and artistic trajectory is closely linked to the conflicts that have taken place and persist in the country. Moreover, he is strongly connected to the identity of the city of Medellín, where he develops a social photographic project with disadvantaged and stigmatized communities, in collaboration with independent, private, or public structures in the city. In general, he addresses themes related to the Mediterranean, as he resides year-round in Marseille, France.

Influenced by the painter Edward Hopper and photographers Elliot Herwitt, Martin Parr, and Peter Lindghberg. His work focuses on a sociocultural and environmental axis, bringing a "pop" touch to the world of travel, urban culture, and youth. He also enjoys adding a flavor of irony, mixed with evident minimalism in his shots. He takes pleasure in reclaiming the social themes that make up our generation and dismantling some myths imposed by the dictatorship of the image in our collective thinking.

In 2019, he was curated by Klaus Fruchtnis, director of the photography department at the Paris School of Fine Arts, to represent Colombian artists living in France as part of the [Tiempo] event organized by the Consulate of Colombia. He was also the grand winner of the OFF VISA pour l'Image festival in 2020. In 2023, a screening of one of his works was organized during the Rencontres de Arles at the Fondation Rivera Ortiz.



Pierre Gondard

### Awards:

- Winner of the Grand Prize for Photojournalism at OFF du VISA pour l'Image 2020.
- Winner of the University National contest with the MadeIn Medellín project.
- Winner of the call for projects by the Consulate of Colombia in Paris.

### **Contests:**

- Wipplay x Les Rencontres économiques 2023 (winner)
- Wipplay x Festival l'homme et la mer 2023 (winner)
- Wipplay x Rencontre de la Photo du 10e 2023 (winner)
- Wipplay x JBE Books 2023 (winner)
- Winner of the Summer 2023 Contest organized by Lomography International 2023 (winner)

### Collaborations and Events:

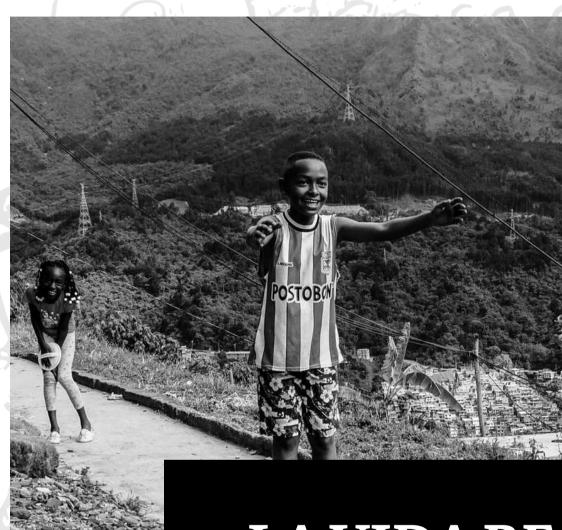
- OV School Fondation OM / Orange / Synergie Family (Marseille) 2023
- ESDAC (Design & Fashion) & IDRAC (Business School) Workshops and events (Marseille and Lyon 2023)
- Wipplay / Lomography Interview 2021-2023-2024
- Caviar Magazine 2023
- Mélanie GOMIS Haute Couture Designer 2023
- 24 Hour Project NYC & World x4
- Milan Fashion Week Milan 2023
- Esquives Radio Grenouille Friche La Belle de Mai Marseille 2023
- Object of Exile, Museum of Vieille Charité Marseille 2022

## **Major Exhibitions:**

- Projection at the Rencontre de la Photo du 10e Paris.
- Projection at the Fondation Rivera Ortiz Rencontres de Arles 2023.
- Les Rencontres Économiques Aix en Provence.
- Festival L'Homme et la Mer Le Guilvinec.
- 24 Hour Project Hamburg / Helsinki / Tehran / Hong Kong 21, 22, 23.
- VISA OFF Perpignan 2020.
- NIKON Plaza Paris 2020 2022.
- Fundacion EPM Medellín 2019/2020.
- Consulate of Colombia Paris 2019.
- Projection at the Photojournalism Festival "Face à la Mer" by Studio Hans Lucas Tangier 2019.



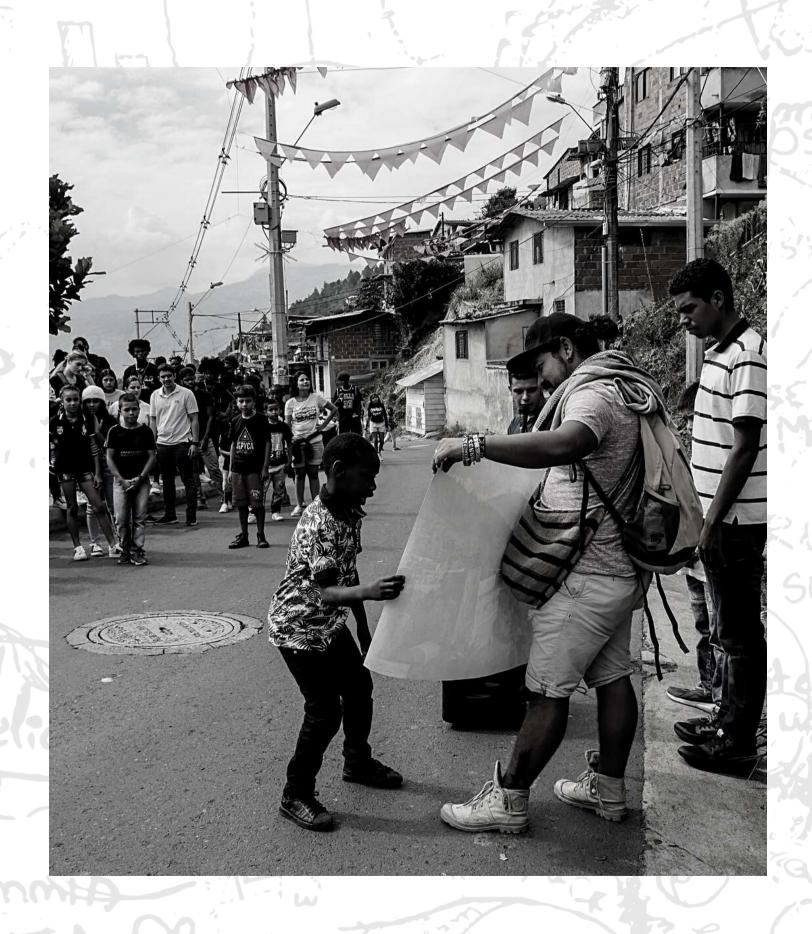
# MAJOR PROJECTS



# LA VIDA REAL

I propose, playing with the notion of visible and invisible boundaries, a black and white urban exploration in the favelas of Medellín. This exploration focuses on their fragmented territories, whether integrated or not, among themselves, with their respective histories and communities. Additionally, I draw on my personal memories, dreams, and documentary research to convey in the best possible way a fragile reality of Colombian society.





# My social mission

In a society where the dictatorship of the image reigns supreme, with true power to feed, convey, and even deceive the opinions and reflections of each individual. In a society where ideological and communal disorders divide and dominate our civilization. In a society grappling with social crises, climate disruptions highlighted by global warming, and the collapse of biodiversity.

I use one of these mediums: photography, to reclaim social themes that shape our generation and dismantle some myths imposed by the dictatorship of the image in our collective thinking. I develop, organize, and promote projects and/or events through visual and sound arts. This is done through workshops, exhibitions, conferences, travels, etc., both in France and abroad.



With a narrative-autobiographical foundation and a consciousness intertwined with the quest for truths, "[La Vida Real]" represents my documentary contribution to a collective and innovative photographic project carried out in Colombia in 2019.

Playing with the notion of visible and invisible boundaries, it proposes a black and white urban exploration in the neighborhoods of Medellín, in their fragmented, integrated, or non-integrated territories, with their respective stories and communities.

This project also relies on my personal memories, dreams, and documentary research, with the aim of faithfully transcribing a fragile reality of Colombian society. I seek to rehabilitate the image of my home country by immortalizing the daily life that unfolds and/or transforms. The choice of the city of Medellín for undertaking this documentary rests on the myth it has generated.

This fascinating image that we may have, linked to its history with drug trafficking and past or present urban wars, in this city of over 2 million inhabitants. People who have had a unilateral vision influenced by preconceived ideas, stereotypes, presented and maintained by the media, cinema, series, and even the music industry.

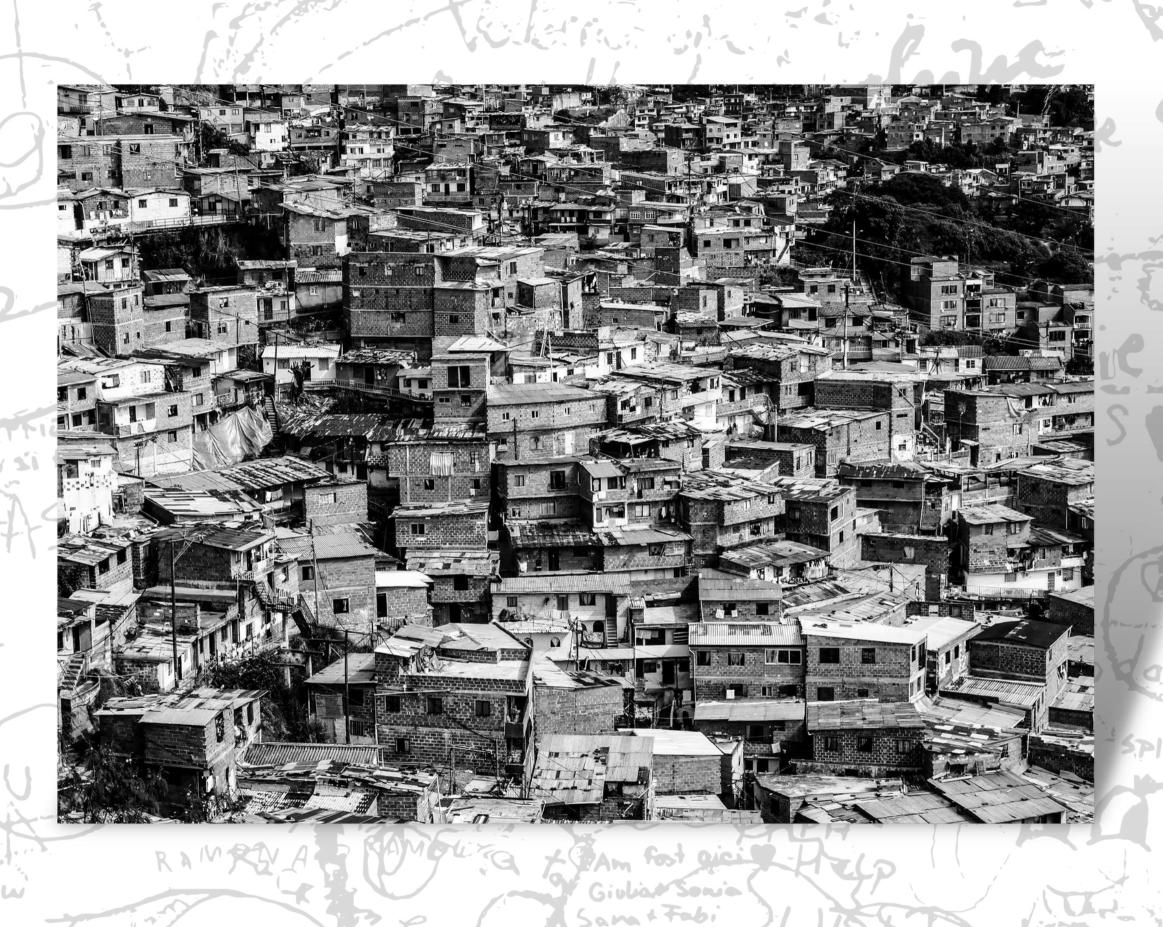
Thus, it confronts the critical gaze of each individual with a certain collective social authenticity. The project does not deny the history of violence that persists in the country and is dedicated to the victims of the armed conflict, among whom children and women are often the first forgotten victims, even today.

However, [La Vida Real] prefers to counter and emphasize the artistic and multiethnic cultural richness, resistance, the power of rebirth, the desire for revolt, and the future projections of hope of the Colombian people.



The interview on the program 'Escala en París' for RFI / France 24.

Chapterl Medellín



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# Bienvenidos



La Sierra - Medellín

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# Estudios para todos



Comuna 13 - Medellín

Lajuventud



Comuna 13 - Medellín

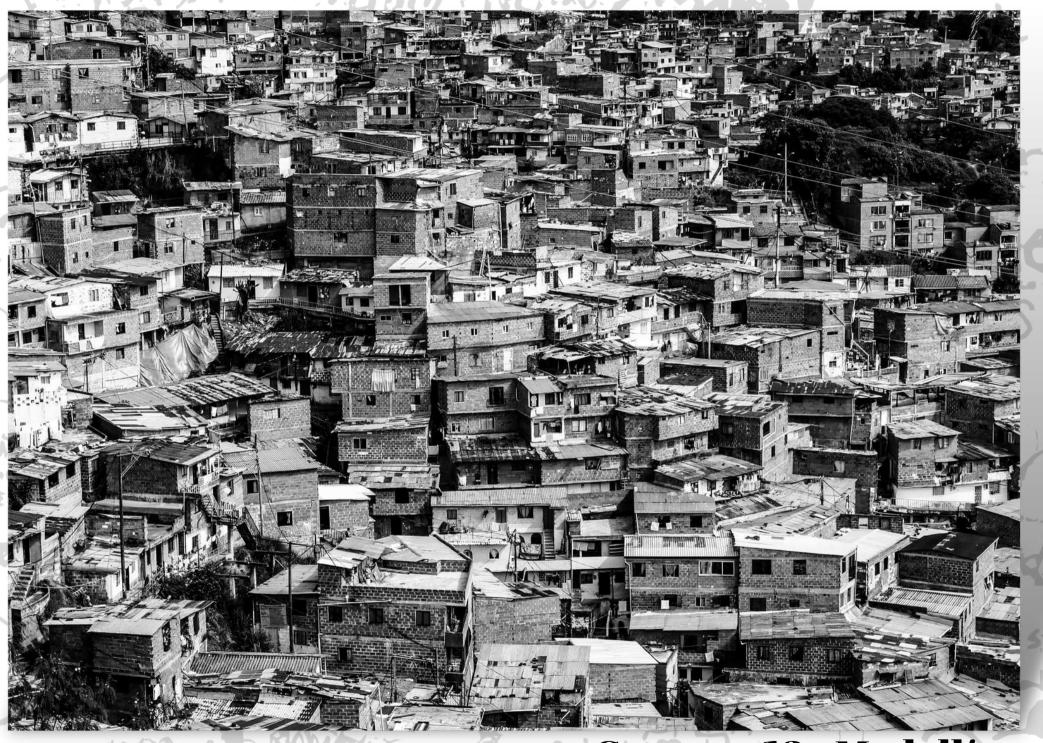
# La Sierra - Medellín

# Esto no cambiará



Comuna 13 - Medellín

# Todosjuntos



Comuna 13 - Medellín

# Raíces



Comuna 13 - Medellín

Doloroso recuerdo Métro - Medellín

# Cambio gradual



La Sierra - Medellín

# Nueva escuela



Moravia - Medellín

# No es todo bueno



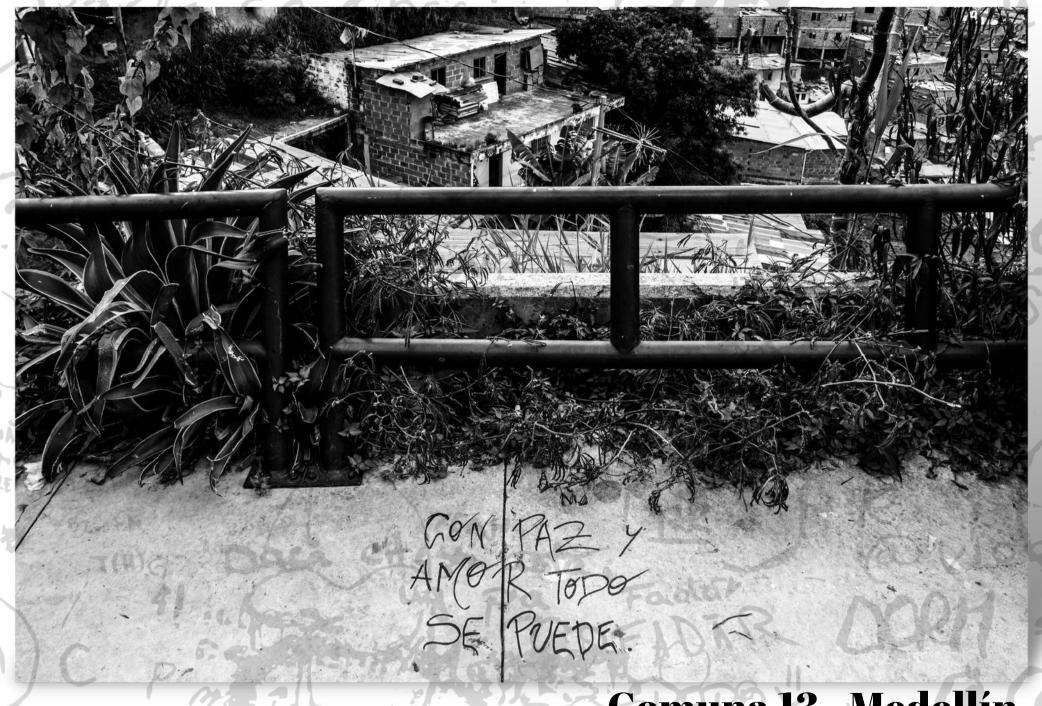
Metrocable-Medellín

# Resistencia



Moravia - Medellín

# Utopia



Comuna 13 - Medellín

# No lo juzgues



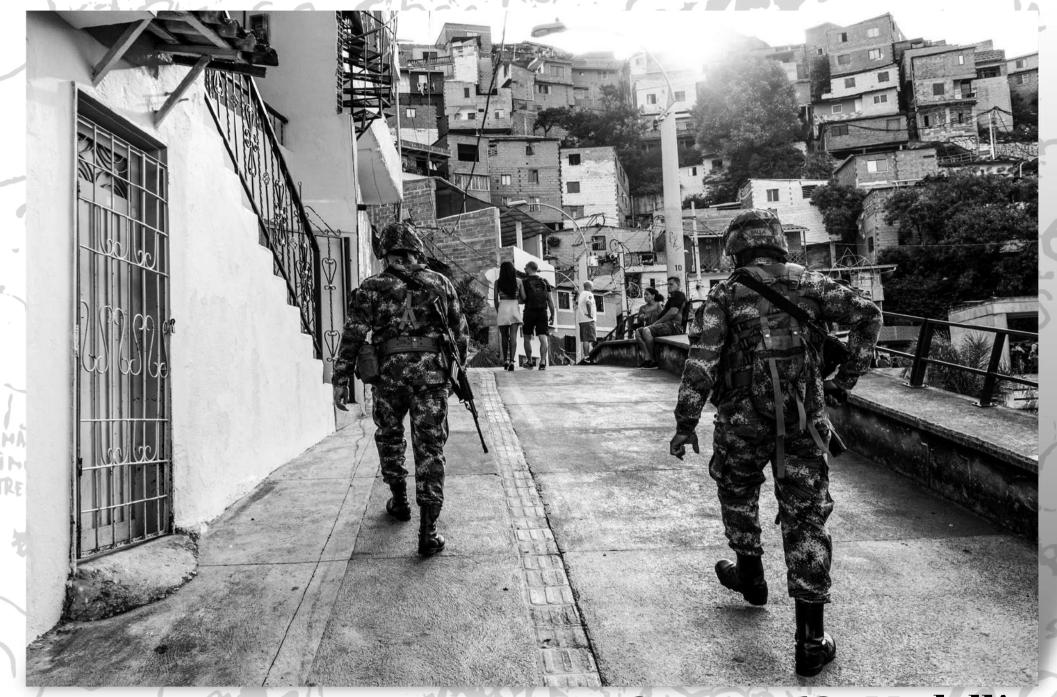
Comuna 13 - Medellín

# Por la gracías de díos



Comuna 13 - Medellín

# Siempre al límite



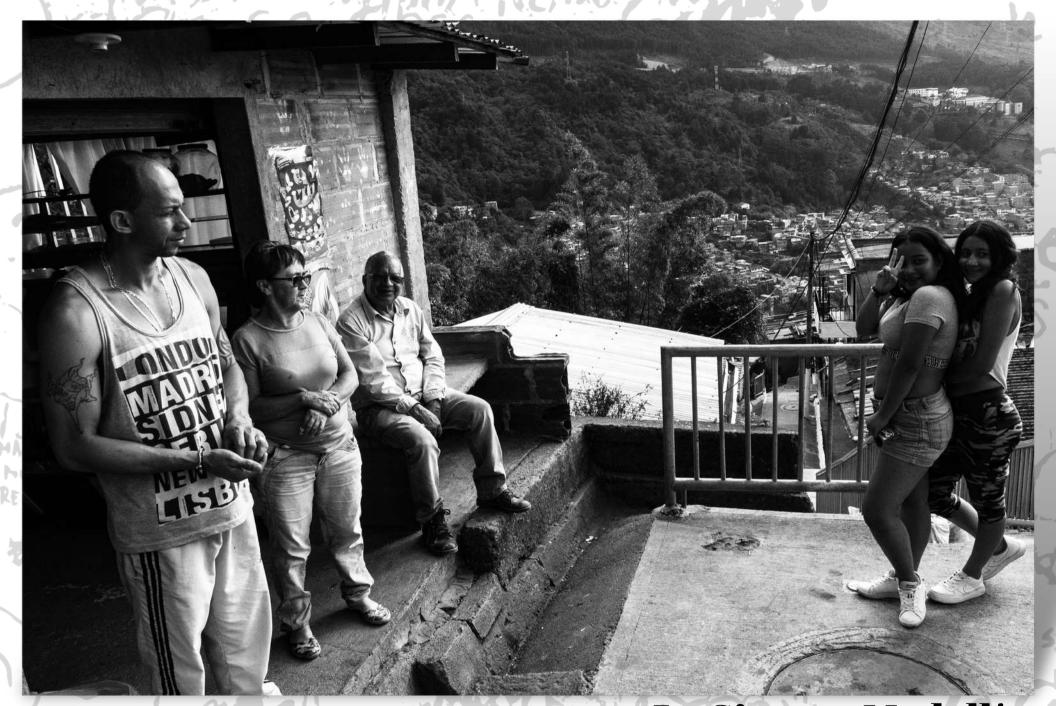
Comuna 13 - Medellín

# Ven a mi barrio



Comuna 13 - Medellín

# Charla de generación



La Sierra - Medellín

# Black lives matter



La Sierra - Medellín

# La Madre de todos



# Nueva generación



Comuna 13 - Medellín

# **Nacion Hip Hop**



La Sierra - Medellín

# Siempre de Moda



Moravia - Medellín



# El fútbol primero, la escuela esperará



La Sierra - Medellín



# ChapterII



# Poderosas

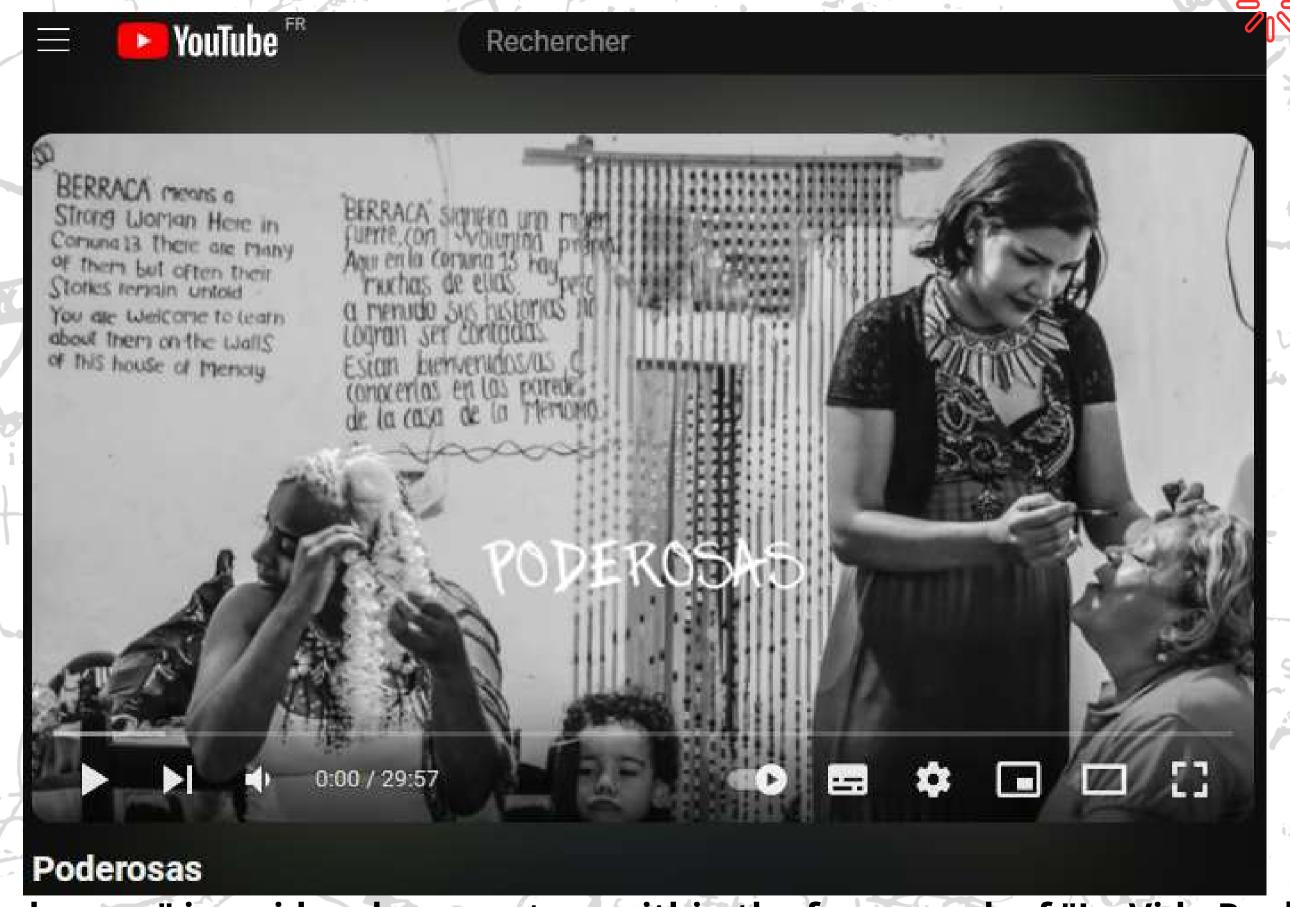
Each of them has a story to tell..

Colombia is a country with a high rate of femicides. For example, the country recorded more than 300 femicides in 6 months in 2020, not counting the over 16,000 women in the same period who suffered intra-family violence. Consistently, Colombia can be characterized as a country with a culture of "murder" associated with "machismo". However, there are several resilient women, some discreet and others expressing themselves much more, but in both cases, they fight every day to occupy an equivalent place to that of their counterparts in society.

This is why I wanted to meet some of them in Medellín, from all generations and social classes, from all backgrounds and stories. Their names are Marta, Estefanía, Claudia, Gloria, Michel, Nilsan, Helena, and María Lucila. Each of them represents a powerful female figure in her neighborhood, her city, and even at the national level. Some are accomplished artists, others are community leaders, role models in their respective fields. One of them is even involved in politics with "Estamos Listas," the first political movement composed of Colombian women in all their diversity; women from all regions of the country and from 20 countries in the Colombian diaspora.

Through each of them, my goal was to highlight the image of Colombian women, often stereotyped as sexy, easy, venal, and unstable. The women I had the privilege to meet spoke in video, representing thousands of other women, and used my photography as a tool for free expression. Each of them carried a message of resistance and love but also firm demands for the country and the world.

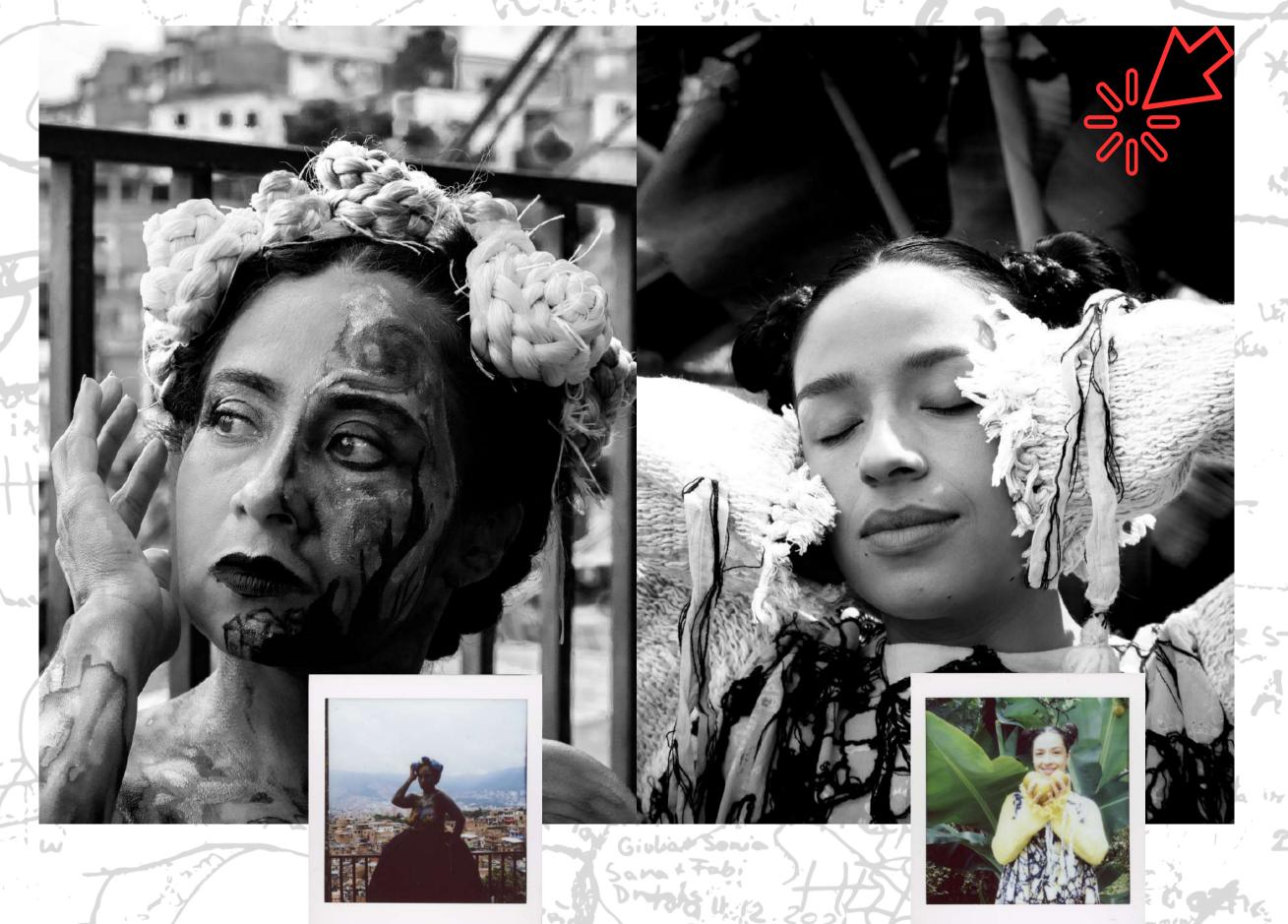
The women I wanted to meet in this part of the "La Vida Real" project can represent, through their commitment, their story, their art, or their beauty, a maternal figure that I would never know. Indeed, I am not fortunate enough to have photos of my mother, I do not remember her voice, I do not know the smell of her skin; simply put, my mother is a formidable stranger. I often say that my story is linked to that of the country: drug trafficking, civil war, poverty, lack of contraception prevention, a cocktail that left an entire generation at the mercy of many traffics. But there will always be a question among many others, a hypothesis, undoubtedly, but plausible. What if my story were linked to femicide?



"Poderosas" is a video documentary within the framework of "La Vida Real," with a screening at the Fondation Rivera Ortiz during the Rencontres de Arles in France..

# Malú

# Estefania



# Maria Lucila

# Gloria



# Michel

# Helena -



# Nilsan Claudia





