Lumina
galeria

Witnessing Life, by American photojournalist Paula Bronstein, opens on 21 November 2026, presenting a selection of 30 photographs chosen by the artist with American curator Maria Mann. The exhibition marks the first time Bronstein's work has been shown in Portugal.

Celebrating its first anniversary, Lumina Galeria is expanding its programme to include international photography with an exhibition by a photojournalist who has spent more than four decades documenting some of the major conflicts and humanitarian crises of our time. Dedicated to documentary and fine art photography, Lumina Galeria opened its doors in November 2025. During its first year, it presented the work of six contemporary Portuguese photographers – Luís Vasconcelos, Inês Gonçalves, Ana Paganini, João Miguel Barros, João Mariano and Luísa Ferreira – offering audiences a diverse range of photographic perspectives and approaches.

Paula Bronstein has devoted much of her career to Afghanistan and Ukraine, where she has spent extended periods documenting the consequences of war, political conflict, social injustice and humanitarian emergencies. Her work, however, extends beyond the realities of conflict. Through her lens, she also captures everyday life, moments of joy and intimacy, and people's capacity to endure, revealing the many dimensions of the human experience.

"My insatiable curiosity about the world continues to lead me, as it did at the beginning of my long career, to document the humanity that endures in each person in the face of tragedy, and their unwavering will to live," she says.

"My life has unfolded as an ongoing conversation with photojournalism. I gave myself entirely to it and, in return, it has profoundly shaped the person I am today. My unwavering commitment has always been to bear witness to defining moments, to create images capable of inspiring genuine empathy and, above all, to give a visual voice to those whose stories might otherwise remain unseen by the world," the photographer writes in the introduction to *Witnessing Life*, a book of the same name that brings together a significant body of work from her career.

The book was launched last September at Visa pour l'Image, the leading international festival of photojournalism, held in Perpignan, France.

At the same time, **Le Mur**, a space dedicated to other visual arts practices and curated by **Rute Reimão**, presents *Para onde vão as coisas perdidas? (Where Do Lost Things Go?)*, a painting exhibition by **Beatriz Leão**. The exhibition invites visitors to encounter what remains when function, place and identity change. This presentation continues Le Mur's programme, which, during Lumina Galeria's first year, featured work by António Faria, Sebastião Castelo Lopes, Paulo Canilhas, Luísa Pacheco and Paulo Robalo.

As part of the exhibition programme, a special presentation of the book *Witnessing Life* will take place at **Cinema Ideal on Wednesday, 25 November, at 7 pm**. The event will include a projection of photographs from the book, followed by a conversation with Paula Bronstein and curator Maria Mann. Admission is free.

Thank you in advance for your interest and for helping us share this initiative. Attached are high-resolution photographs of the exhibitions, suitable for print publication. We are available to provide any further information, arrange interviews with the photographer or organise visits to the gallery.

LUMINA GALERIA

Rua Actor Vale, 52 Lisbon | Wednesday to Friday, 3 pm–7 pm; Saturday, 3 pm–8 pm **|** 21 November 2026 – 16 January 2027 (Closed from 20 December 2026 to 5 January 2027)

CINEMA IDEAL

Conversation with **Paula Bronstein** and **Maria Mann |** Wednesday, 25 November, at 7 pm **|** Free admission, subject to collection of a ticket at the venue **|** Age rating: 16+ **| Rua do Loreto, 15–17, Lisbon**