



07_02_2026 / 10.15 a 16.30h
Palacio de Villa Suso
Pz del matxete, 1.
Vitoria-Gasteiz, Álava

**UMBRA LAB FESTIVALS
AND LIGHT ART
AAIV
UNITED BY LIGHT**

09:50 – 10:15 | **Guest reception**

10:15 – 10:30 | **Official opening**

Welcome and introduction

- **CARLOS TORRIJOS** (Co-Director and curator, Umbra Light Festival)
- **ANTONIO ARRABAL** (Lighting Designer, Technical Director, AAV Treasurer)
- Hosted by: **Ricardo Morcillo** (Artist and Light Art critic)

10:30 – 12:15 | **SECTION I: Bringing communities together and a vision for the future**

- **MARKO BOLKOVIC**
Director of Visualia Festival (Pula - Croatia)
Connecting Communities: neighbours · visitors · artists · international networks.
How does a festival bring different communities together?: artistic, neighbourhood, institutional and international. Strategies to strengthen bonds within global platforms such as ILO – International Light Festivals Organisation.
- **JOSH MCAULIFFE**
Artist and member of Beamhacker (Australia)
Uniting Futures: tendencies · aesthetics · technology · sustainability
In which direction is light art heading?: new tools, new sensitivities, environmental impact, emerging aesthetics and creative horizons.
- **MARKUS APFELBACHER**
Director of RE.LIGHT International Light Art Festival (Regensburg - Germany)
Uniting Futures: tendencies · aesthetics · technology · sustainability
In which direction is light art heading?: new tools, new sensitivities, environmental impact, emerging aesthetics and creative horizons.
- **NOEMI SCHIPFER - TAKAMI NAKAMOTO**
Artists and members of NONOTAK studio (France - Japan)
- **ELOI MADUELL - SANTI VILANOVA**
Artists and members of PLAYMODES (Spain)

12:15 – 12:30 | **COFFEE BREAK**

12:30 – 13:45 | **SECTION II: bringing together environments and light narratives**

- **LORETO ALBA**
Curator of Zaragoza Luce and Co-founder of Antídoto x ART
(Madrid/Zaragoza - Spain)
Uniting environments: artwork-architecture interaction · location · city · site-specific works. Relationship between the piece, the space and the city. How do architecture, scale and place condition or enhance light experiences.
- **ANDER UGARTEMENDIA - JONE VIZCAINO**
Artists and members of Hotaru Visual Guerrilla (Spain)
- **JONAS EKEBÄCKE**
Director of Alt! ljus på (Uppsala - Sweden)
Connecting narratives: curatorial narrative · identity · annual theme · coherence
How does a festival construct its narrative?: curatorial criteria, narrative lines, aesthetic decisions and the articulation of a unique discourse for each edition.
- **GUILLAUME MARMIN**
Artist (France)

13:45 – 15:15 | **“PINTXOS” (Networking Lunch)**

15:15 – 16:30 | **PANEL DISCUSSION:
Connecting Perspectives: Challenges and Horizons of Light Festivals**

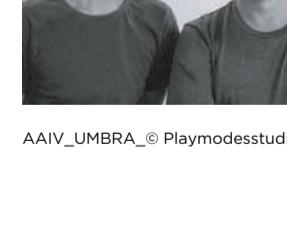
- **MARKO BOLKOVIC**
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- **MARKUS APFELBACHER**
Director of RE.LIGHT International Light Art Festival (Regensburg - Germany)
- **CURRO MELERO**
Director of Zaragoza Luce and Co-founder of Antídoto x ART (Zaragoza - Spain)
- **JONAS EKEBÄCKE**
Director and Project Manager of Uppsala Light Festival (Uppsala - Sweden)
- **CARLOS TORRIJOS**
Co-Director and curator of Umbra Light Festival (Vitoria-Gasteiz - Spain)
- Moderates: **Ricardo Morcillo** (Artist and Light Art critic)

16:30 | **Farewell and closing**

PARTICIPANTS

ANTONIO ARRABAL

Lighting Designer, Technical Director, Treasurer of the AAV (Málaga - Spain)



AAIV_UMBRA_© Antonio Arrabal

Lighting designer and technical director with a well-established career since 1987 in the performing arts, live music, and corporate events. Since 2005, he has served as Technical Director of the Teatro Cánovas and coordinates technical programmes for the Junta de Andalucía, including the Bienal de Flamenco and the Roman Theatre of Málaga. Throughout his career, he has designed the lighting for numerous theatre and dance companies, receiving various recognitions such as the Best Lighting Award at the Feria de Palma del Río and a nomination for the 2022 Lorca Awards. Committed to training and the professionalisation of the sector, he teaches courses on new technologies and is a member of the Board of Directors of the AAV (Association of Lighting and Video Scene Authors), where he serves as Treasurer.

CARLOS TORRIJOS

Co-Director and Curator of Umbra Light Festival (Vitoria-Gasteiz - Spain)



AAIV_UMBRA_© Nacho Arias

Renowned lighting designer with over three decades of experience in the performing arts, events, and architecture. As Co-Director and Curator of Umbra Light Festival, he has been essential in consolidating the event, balancing creative audacity with technological rigour. He is the founder of StudioandLight and plays an active role in the AAV (Association of Lighting and Video Scene Authors), promoting the professionalisation and development of the sector in Spain.

His work stands out for enhancing lighting culture and fostering excellence in production. Through Umbra Light Festival, he coordinates the integration of large-scale artistic installations into the historic centre of Vitoria-Gasteiz, while supporting an ongoing dialogue between lighting innovation, heritage, and the community.

MARKO BOLKOVIC

Director of Visualia Festival (Pula - Croatia)



AAIV_UMBRA_© Teodor Korodi

Lighting designer and renowned cultural manager with over 20 years of experience in the audiovisual arts. He is the founder and director of Visualia Festival in Pula, the first Light Art festival in Croatia and a European icon for new technologies and video mapping. He began his technical career at the National Theatre of Istria, later promoting the creation of the Sonitus Association and the Visualia collective. Under his leadership, the group has developed interactive installations that have been presented at more than 20 Light Art festivals worldwide, in countries such as Japan, Poland, and the Netherlands. He currently holds the position of Secretary on the Board of the International Light Festivals Organisation (ILO).

MARKUS APFELBACHER

Director of RE.LIGHT International Light Art Festival (Regensburg - Germany)



AAIV_UMBRA_© Stadt Regensburg, Stefan Effenhauser

He is the founder and director of RE.LIGHT, the international Light Art festival in Regensburg. With a solid background in cultural management and urban development, he has succeeded in positioning digital arts as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Under his leadership, the festival has specialised in integrating high-tech installations and cutting-edge projections into historic settings, working closely with

the festival's partners from the arts, culture, and technology sectors.

The festival has established a dialogue between technological intervention, public space, and the festival's partners from the arts, culture, and technology sectors.

LORETO ALBA

Curator of Zaragoza Luce and Co-founder of Antídoto x ART (Madrid/Zaragoza - Spain)



AAIV_UMBRA_© Antídoto x ART

With over 20 years of experience in cultural management, her career has been closely linked to the performing arts, music, and audiovisual arts. She has worked in leading institutions such as Teatro Circo Price, Centro de Cultura Contemporánea, Condes de Utrera, and Teatro Liceo, taking part in high-profile initiatives such as Veranos de la Villa and La Noche en Blanco (White Night). In 2024, she leads the Curro Melero, who founded Antídoto x ART, which continues the development of cutting-edge proposals in the field of lighting and organisational. She is currently responsible for the curation and organisation of the Zaragoza Luce festival.

CURRO MELERO

Director of Zaragoza Luce and Co-founder of Antídoto x ART (Zaragoza - Spain)



AAIV_UMBRA_© Antídoto x ART

A specialist in the technical direction of large-scale events, he is also a cultural light consultant. Through his career, he has excelled in both the technical management of major events, such as the festival in Zaragoza, and in his career by launching Antídoto x ART alongside Loreto Alba—a project centred on the creation and production of an essential dialogue between technological intervention, public space, and the festival's partners from the arts, culture, and technology sectors.

His work stands out for its commitment to the integration of light and sound, prioritising accessibility and the experience of the audience.

Curro Melero, who founded Antídoto x ART, which continues the development of cutting-edge proposals in the field of lighting and organisational. She is currently responsible for the curation and organisation of the Zaragoza Luce festival.

JONAS EKEBÄCKE

Director of Alt! ljus på (Uppsala - Sweden)

AAIV_UMBRA_© Alex Giacomin

Director of Alt! ljus på (Uppsala Light Festival), one of the leading light art festivals in Scandinavia. He has extensive experience in producing cultural events and managing urban projects, having seen the transformations of visitors over the years. His work is characterised by a strong commitment to operational efficiency, highlighting his ability to coordinate synergies between artists, public institutions, and private collaborators. Under his leadership, the Uppsala festival has established a dialogue between technological intervention, public space, and the festival's partners from the arts, culture, and technology sectors.

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