

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, AAIV 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)
- **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 Allt 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**
Director of Visualia Festival (Pula - Croatia)
- **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 AAIV (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 AAIV (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)

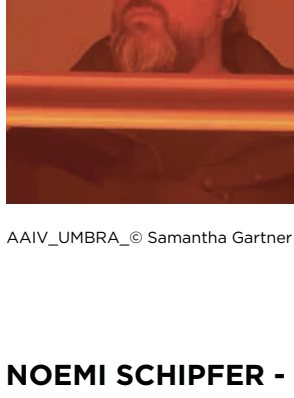


AAIV_UMBRA_© Nacho Arias

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 AAIV (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)

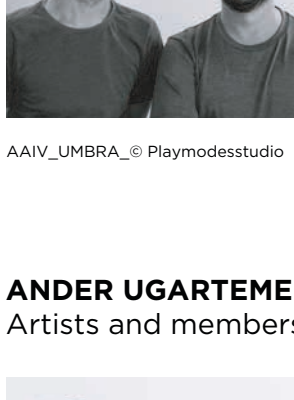


AAIV_UMBRA_© Teodor Korodi

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 of Regensburg. With a solid background in cultural management and urban development, he has succeeded in positioning his city —a UNESCO World Heritage Site— as a leading centre for digital arts and technical innovation. Under his leadership, the festival has specialised in integrating high-tech installations and cutting-edge projections into historic settings, working closely with international festival networks.

LORETO ALBA

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



AAIV_UMBRA_© AntidotoxART

With over 20 years of experience in cultural management, her career has been closely linked to the performing arts, music, and urban landscapes. She has developed her work in management and programming for leading institutions such as Teatro Circo Price, Centro de Cultura Contemporánea Conde Duque, and Teatro Español. Since 2016, she has specialised in public art and light art projects, taking part in high-impact initiatives such as Veranos de la Villa and La Noche en Blanco (White Night). In 2024, together with Curro Melero, she founded Antídoto x ART, where she leads the development of cutting-edge proposals in the fields of lighting and digital arts. 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_© AntidotoxART

A specialist in the technical direction of large-scale events, he is also a cultural consultant with over a decade of experience in both public and light art projects. Throughout his career, he has excelled in the technical management of major festivals, large-scale music tours, and international city events. In 2024, he achieved a strategic milestone in his career by launching Antídoto x ART alongside Loreto Alba—a project centred on the creation and production of innovative digital and visual art proposals that seek to establish an essential dialogue between technological intervention, public space, and nature. Since 2025, he has led the curation and organisation of the Zaragoza Luce festival.

JONAS EKEBÄCKE

Director of Allt ljus på (Uppsala - Sweden)

AAIV_UMBRA_© Alex Giacomini

Director of Allt ljus på Uppsala (Uppsala Light Festival), one of the longest-running and most prestigious light art festivals in Scandinavia. He has extensive experience in producing cultural events and managing urban projects, having led the transformation of this Swedish city into a cutting-edge scene that fascinates thousands of visitors every winter. His professional career is characterised by a strong strategic and operational vision, highlighting his ability to coordinate synergies between artists, public institutions, and private collaborators. Under his leadership, the Uppsala festival has established itself through its excellence in integrating interactive installations and visual narratives into the city's historic fabric, always prioritising accessibility and strengthening the connection between artistic practice and the public.

JOSH MCAULIFFE

Artist and member of Beamhacker (Australia)

AAIV_UMBRA_© Samantha Gartner

The Beamhacker journey began by creating countless bespoke stage and venue installations for music events. What began with a more lo-fi / set design aesthetic, increasingly evolved into new technologies and DIY lighting techniques, incorporating LEDs, Fibre Optics, EL Wire, Lasers, VR, and interactive sensors, always with a strong focus on immersion. Beamhacker has led the design, build and programming of multiple temporary and permanent lighting installations across Australia. 2025 marked Beamhacker's international debut with festival appearances in the USA, Singapore, UK, and New Zealand.

NOEMI SCHIPFER - TAKAMI NAKAMOTO

Artists and members of NONOTAK studio (France - Japan)

AAIV_UMBRA_© Mitsuru Wakabayashi

NONOTAK is a creative duo conceived in late 2011 by visual artist Noemi Schipfer and sound artist Takami Nakamoto. NONOTAK develops installations and performances that create ethereal and immersive environments, drawing on Nakamoto's focus on space and sound, and Schipfer's experience in kinetic art. The result is a series of installations that combine light, sound and space to offer the audience a unique visual experience. Their wide range of projects has allowed them to experiment across various artistic fields: including architecture, music, visual arts, digital arts, scenography, theatre, film, dance and fashion.

ELOI MADUELL - SANTI VILANOVA

Artists and members of PLAYMODES (Spain)

AAIV_UMBRA_© Playmodesstudio

Playmodes is an audiovisual research duo, a workshop of digital artists comprising engineers, musicians, and designers. Specialising in off-screen media, they treat space as a canvas for immersive experiences that engage the senses. Drawing inspiration from sci-fi, abstract art, and techno, they develop works linking architecture, light, and perception. By creating bespoke software, they have extended their algorithmic reach into new territories beyond the pixel and the beat—exploring drawing, sculpture, and toy design. Their multidisciplinary approach subverts traditional formats, transforming mathematical logic into visceral, poetic environments that challenge how we perceive our surroundings.

ANDER UGARTEMENDIA - JONE VIZCAINO

Artists and members of Hotaru Visual Guerrilla (Spain)

AAIV_UMBRA_© Hotaru Visual Guerrilla

Ander Ugartemendia and Jone Vizcaino are digital art and design specialists based in Donostia and directors of the independent studio Hotaru Visual Guerrilla. Their work focuses on creating audiovisual experiences that blend futuristic aesthetics with an experimental approach. They investigate the confluence of science, nature, and technology, seeking a harmony between the organic and the digital that invites the audience to imagine new realities. Their award-winning projects have been exhibited internationally in countries including Australia, China, Korea, the UAE, the USA, Japan, Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the Czech Republic.

GUILLAUME MARMIN

Artist (France)

AAIV_UMBRA_© Maxime Brochier

Guillaume Marmin creates installations and performances that explore the relationships between light, sound, and space. His work represents a revival of visual creation, free from the constraints of conventional storytelling and traditional media. Guillaume seeks a shared language between image and sound: a synaesthetic alphabet composed of rhythm, contrast, and minimalist forms in motion. Whether investigating scientific concepts through collaborations with researchers or depicting mysterious symbolism, his creations shine a light on our profound relationship with the intangible. His immersive works transform the viewer's perception, turning complex phenomena into visceral, sensory experiences.

RICARDO MORCILLO

Artist and Light Art critic (Spain)

AAIV_UMBRA_© Ruben Serralle

Creator and promoter of Light Art, he explores light as an expressive language and a tool for collective reflection through artistic creations and critical analysis. He holds a degree in Architecture from the University of Alicante and he is also a lighting designer by the Hogeschool van Amsterdam. He combines his creative practice with teaching at institutions such as IED, La Salle Ramón Llull, UPM, and UPC School. He is a senior professional member of APDI as well as a content manager of Lightecture, from where he promotes new perspectives and critical thinking about light culture and lighting design.