Printing industry: prints that endure



31.10 —— 27.12.2026

Casa Vieira Guimarães —— Tomar

PLACES OF THE WORD
CONVERGÊNCIAS COLLECTIVE

EXHIBITION

Printing industry: prints that endure
31.10 – 27.12.2026
Casa Vieira Guimarães – Tomar

ORGANISATION

Municipality of Tomar
APIGRAF – Portuguese Association of Graphic Industries, Packaging and Digital Communication
Polytechnic University of Tomar

CURATORSHIP

Ana do Carmo; Miguel Sanches

SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION

Jorge Lopes; Miguel Sanches

EXECUTIVE COORDINATION

Miguel Sanches; Patrícia Romão; Ana do Carmo

EXHIBITION AND GRAPHIC DESIGN

Ana do Carmo (coord.); Catarina Félix; Juliana Galício

PROOFREADING

Manuela Sofia Silva

EXHIBITION PRINT PRODUCTION

L2 S.A.; Força Axial

SUPPORT

FESPA – Fedaration of European Screen Printers Associations
Lab.TAG – Technology and Graphic Arts Laboratory from Polytechnic University of Tomar

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AJNET, S.A.; Altix – Vaz de Carvalho & Soares, Lda.; Ancor – António Augusto Correia, Lda.; Bloco Gráfico, S.A.; Bulhosas (Irmãos), S.A.; Calheiros Embalagens, S. A.; Cartonagem Trindade, S. A.; Casa Memória Fábrica do Prado; Estúdio Gráfico 21 – Artes Gráficas, Lda.; Finieco – Indústria e Comércio de Embalagens, S. A.; Firmo – Papéis e Papelaria, S.A.; Futuresboço – Indústria de Serigrafia, Lda.; Gráfica Ideal de Águeda – Indústrias Gráficas, S. A.; Gráfica Maiadouro, S.A.; Grafivedras – Artes Gráficas, Lda.; IDEPA – Indústria de Passamanarias, Lda.; In Label – Rótulos, Etiquetas e Embalagens, Lda.; L2, S.A.; M2 – Artes Gráficas, Lda.; Manufaturas Aéme, Lda.; Mirapack, Unipessoal, Lda.; Mofitex – Sousa & Fernandes, Lda.; Norprint – A Casa do Livro.; Olegário – Packaging & Labels, S. A.; Orgal Impressores; RENOVA; Saúde, Sá & C°., Lda.; Tipografia A Persistente – César Castelão & F°s., Lda; Traços Originais – Artes Gráficas, Unip., Lda.

PRINT RUN

100 copies

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TOMAR CIDADE TEMPLÁRIA
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Polytechnic University
CENTRO DE ESTUDOS EM FOTOGRAFIA DE TOMAR
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Printing industry: prints that endure

1.

Memory is the starting point: the place where we can recognise the techniques and knowledge that lie at the root of the many different contexts in which the word is used today.

2.

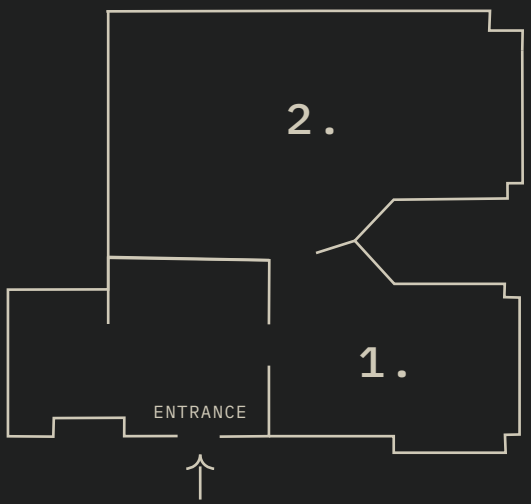
On the street, words take on a life of their own: they become public, visible and shared.

Across the pages, words take shape, develop and gain continuity. From page to page, they build narratives, convey knowledge and preserve ideas, ensuring that content produced at a particular moment remains accessible and can be revisited over time.

In our daily lives, words are an integral part of our everyday existence. They are close at hand, accompany our actions and routines, and can remain with us long after the moment they were read or written.

On the surface, the word meets the product and gives it a name, an identity and meaning. A fleeting presence to the eye, yet capable of leaving a lasting impression.

It involves, showing how graphic communication engages with the object, accompanies it and transforms its surface and materials into part of the experience. The impression remains not only in what we read, but also in what we see, touch, carry and use.



Words can be written, drawn, composed, printed and reproduced. Over time, different techniques, materials, equipment and knowledge have made it possible to give them form, multiply them and circulate them. The printing industry has been built on this ability to transform ideas, information and messages into objects that communicate, circulate and endure.

This exhibition explores some of these moments and manifestations, establishing a link between the history of print production and its contemporary expressions. From movable type, paper and mechanical printing to today's possibilities for production and communication, we find a history made up of techniques, objects, professionals and processes in constant transformation.

But the printing industry is not defined solely by its production processes. It is also defined by the places the word occupies and the different ways in which it reaches us. On the street, between the pages, close at hand, on the surface or through the objects that surround it, graphic communication integrates public and private spaces, accompanies everyday life and plays a part in how we recognise, interpret and remember the world.

The objects brought together in this exhibition constitute a representative selection of the diversity of the printing industry, bringing into dialogue different eras, processes, materials and forms of communication. The aim is not to cover the entirety of a vast and constantly evolving sector, but rather to create a journey that allows visitors to recognise some of its main manifestations and to understand the continuity between the knowledge of the past and the practices of the present.

Forming part of the 'Places of the Word – Convergências Collective' programme, this exhibition stems from a partnership between the Municipality of Tomar, APIGRAF and the Polytechnic University of Tomar, and proposes to view the printing industry as a realm where memory, technique, culture and innovation converge.