

FTL0002

Unpublished text and eleven photographs by Francesc Torres, signed and numbered.

Bilingual edition in Spanish and English.

Text composed in Didot and screen printed on Arches paper 270 gr. at Taller Vallirana

Photographs in digital, printed by EGM laboratory on Paper Hahnemühle Pearl 285 gr. from 35 mm black and white analogic negatives.

Edition of 30, each signed and numbered:

25 copies numbered from 1 to 25,

2 copies reserved for the artist numbered PA I and PA II,

2 copies reserved for the editor numbered HC I and HC II,

1 copy reserved for the National Library numbered BN

22,4" x33"

Set presented in a fabric bound case.

Printing finished in Barcelona on 7th of February of 2007

Raïña Lupa Editions

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The old town of Belchite became a battlefield during the Spanish Civil War, changing hands three times.

First it fell to the **Fascist**, later it was re-conquered by the **Republican Loyalists**, before finally being retaken by those who went on to win the war. There were many **dead**, some of whom were buried where they fell. The Loyalist attack was led by the **American** volunteers of the **Lincoln Brigade**, commanded by **Robert Hale Merriman**, a professor of Economics at **Berkeley**. He was later to die during the retreat from the battle of the **river Ebro**.

The old town of Belchite was **never rebuilt**. The government decreed that a new one be built using slave labour composed of **prisoners of war** from the defeated army.

In 1987, fifty years after the battle in which Merriman made his name, **Terry Gilliam**, founding member of **Monty Python**, directed a film called “**The adventures of Baron Munchausen**”, using the old town of Belchite as a set. He needed an old European town, destroyed by war and Belchite supplied a *ready made* set, impossible to surpass using papier mâché, but at the same time capable of being cunningly complemented where it was needed.

I was able to photograph the result of this **disgrace** the day after the shoot had ended and before they could take everything away.

These images show what I saw. The town looked like a **cadaver** with make-up, dressed as a **clown**....