



**1. What type of spaces are Espai19 (Barcelona) and Shishishi (Taipei)? How long have they been operating? Tell us a little about your space.**

**Espai19:** Espai19 is an independent and self-managed gallery created to generate debate on multidisciplinary artistic practice and contemporary culture through dialogue between young artists and established artists. It presents works from different fields, mediums, and contexts to highlight artistic value above canons and trends. We have been operating since January 2023, when we inaugurated with a photographic exhibition by the artist Lara Amat. Espai19 is currently developing a solid program aimed at promoting its artists in the contemporary scene and making them known both nationally and internationally, combining these exhibition projects with various significant events that go beyond the conventional exhibition format.

**Shishishi:** Shishishi is an artist-run project driven by artists, curators, and thinkers interested in experimenting with various forms of collaboration. It began as an artist book publishing project and has been running for four years. It operates as a transnational initiative, exploring the concept of collaboration through a decentralized structure. Our focus is on observations from everyday life, expanding those reflections into interdisciplinary and intercultural discussions.

**2. How is your relationship with the institutional environment? And with the artistic context?**

**Espai19:** As a relatively new gallery, our relationships with institutions are still few; in fairs like SWAB is where the gallery gets closest. Within the artistic context, we are establishing a place for ourselves and achieving good results; the community likes our program, and we have received positive feedback.

**Shishishi:** We have 15 collaborators based primarily in Asia and Europe. Our relationships have been shaped through shared experiences—working, living, and even cooking together.

Shishishi brings us closer, with three club-driven platforms where we playfully contribute and explore ideas. By sharing observations and maintaining fluid, non-hierarchical connections, we aim to preserve our creative energy and avoid the traps of the conventional art world.

### **3. What are the main difficulties faced by a space like yours? And the advantages?**

**Espai19:** One of the main difficulties is the funding of projects and the approach to the market, whether from institutional funds or collectors. The advantages include creating ties between the gallery, the artists, and the cultural world.

**Shishishi:** One of the challenges is forgetting traditional roles as artists and resisting established routines, so we can respond to the evolving demands of the art world. Collaboration is a long process, and the creation of a book is just one part of it. One advantage is the deep connections we form—both collaborative and personal—allowing us to build meaningful relationships and friendships.

### **4. How do you think dialogue and collaboration between different cultures and territories can continue to be fostered in the field of contemporary art?**

**Espai19:** Through collaborations between countries, whether through art fairs or between galleries.

**Shishishi:** There's no set formula for collaboration. Open dialogue and a shared process naturally reveal new ways of making art. We're all facing similar global issues—political, economic, and social—so there's common ground. Different cultures give us fresh perspectives, helping us observe and respond to these challenges in new ways.

### **5. Do you think the dialogue between artists from Barcelona and Taipei contributes to the internationalization of local proposals?**

**Espai19:** Yes. At least it helps to bring the culture and arts of the invited country closer to the country of origin, connecting them to both the market and the local culture.

**Shishishi:** Artist-run spaces in both cities reflect distinct local histories, but artists and their work are mobile, enabling deeper cultural exchanges. This mobility is not just about importing, exporting, or hosting projects—it's about building interwoven relationships that allow us to articulate unique perspectives through artistic practice. We look forward to fostering conversations and collaborations that bridge cultural boundaries and offer fresh insights, enhancing both local and global contexts.