

PRESS RELEASE

Paolo Simonazzi
So near, so far

8 May – 31 July 2016



Collezione Maramotti presents *So near, so far*, a photography exhibition by Paolo Simonazzi, on the occasion of Fotografia Europea 2016.

The photographer is well known for his research linked to the idea of seriality: he has used his camera lens to explore and investigate a subject, a theme, through time, and in different circumstances and contexts.

The exhibition presents another approach to his work, moving beyond the idea of the series and the “consistent uniformity” of the object being investigated. A view attempting to bring into focus his gaze on our territory, meant as a crossroads of semantic, cultural, language, visual communications, through a series of shots covering twenty years of his work (from the mid-Nineties to 2014).

In our territory one may find a very peculiar osmosis with the rest of the world: objects, words, ways of being together reveal a tension towards an otherness which is re-visited and re-invented while keeping true to a genuinely “local” flavour. Everything looks driven by the awareness and the desire to recognize oneself in an already globalised world, while never foregoing social rituality, the special relationship with time and space bringing and linking one back to solid local roots.

Simonazzi's pictures tell us how what is extraneous, the other, is merging with the domestic, the everyday life in the province, often

with a rural flavour; they do not portray kitsch postures, but rather bringing a smile on one's lips for their intrinsic, naive spontaneity. His photographs move from more rarefied and almost floating visions – where time turns into space in the landscape and images – to images speaking of daily exchanges in a self-assured territory, with a conspiratorial and at the same time ironic look.

The exhibition is a short emotional journey across our country where the road also becomes a stylistic element of the display. The photographs are carefully pinned on an horizontal plane on a mounting looking like a pavement. Visitors are invited to walk alongside it and find one's bearings, as is the case when we take a stroll, or bike or drive leisurely across our countryside.

The exhibition is accompanied by a text by Gina Costa, photography critic and independent curator living and working in Chicago.

Private view by invitation: 7 May 2016, at 6.00 pm. The photographer will be present.

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The exhibition, admission free, can be visited during the opening hours of the permanent collection.

Thursday and Friday 2.30pm – 6.30pm

Saturday and Sunday 10.30am – 6.30pm

Info

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Short biography

Paolo Simonazzi (Reggio Emilia, 1961) divides his life between his activities as a physician and photography, which he pursues with passion.

His latest project *Icons of Liscio*, portraying the icons of ballroom dance in Emilia, was exhibited at The Other Art Fair, Turin in 2015.

In 2014 he exhibited his work *Cose ritrovate* during Fotografia Europea, in Reggio Emilia and in 2015 in Rimini (Museo della Città): a visionary journey inspired by Ermanno Cavazzoni's and Raffaello Baldini's literary texts (Marsilio catalogue, 2014).

The exhibition *Bell'Italia* (cat. Silvana Editoriale, 2014) was presented as a preview at Fotografia Europea 2011, to later tour Sydney and Melbourne (2012) and Tokyo (2014).

From 2006 to 2010 he worked on *Mondo Piccolo*, a rediscovery of places so dear to writer Guareschi, places belonging more to the soul than geography (cat. Umberto Allemandi, 2010), touring several Italian cities.

Tra la Via Emilia e il West (cat. Baldini Castoldi Dalai, 2007) is the title of the exhibition held at Villa delle Rose – MAMbo, Bologna (2007); and later in other Italian cities and abroad, including the shows held in New York and San Francisco.

In 2006 he explored the issue of social distress with the project *La casa degli angeli*, presented during the 1st edition of Fotografia Europea and later at the 7th edition of FotoGrafia – Festival Internazionale di Roma (2007).

Circo Bidone, one of his first photographic projects, tells the story of a small circus which has survived in a time marked by multimedia and special effects (cat. Zoolibri, 2003, with introduction by Moni Ovadia).