

RESISTANCE & SENSIBILITY

COLLEZIONE DONATA PIZZI: WOMEN PHOTOGRAPHERS FROM ITALY

PAOLA AGOSTI (*1947, Turin, Italy)

Agosti is a self-taught photographer who in 1968 turned her gaze on the strengths of women: photographing workers, participants of the Italian Resistance and comrades of the feminist movement. She published a feminist book *Riprendiamoci la vita* (1976), and later some books about immigration and emigration, *Immagine del "mondo dei vinti"* (1979) and *El Paraiso: entrada provisoria* (2011). Together with Giovanna Borgese she produced *Il volto delle parole* (2007) about the most important European writers, poets and intellectuals of the 20th century. She lives and works in Turin.

PIPPA BACCA (*1974, Milan – 2008, Gebze, Turkey)

The feminist artist chose the path of performative art already in 1997. The leitmotif of her art was the transformation of objects into other objects, generally with the simple use of scissors. Bacca often hitchhiked for her work taking photographs of those who gave her a ride in the car. She would then cut up these photos in the form of transport vehicles. Bacca was killed during the traveling performance *Spose in Viaggio* in 2008, while hitchhiking through 11 countries, wearing a wedding dress, to promote peace and trust.

MARTINA BACIGALUPO (*1978, Genoa, Italy)

Living and working between continents, Martina Bacigalupo is a visual narrator of social activism. In her style, the rigor of documentary photography converges with the flair of personal aesthetic. She works as a freelancer with international NGO's such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and Doctors Without Borders. In 2010 she received the Canon Female Photojournalist Award. Bacigalupo is a member of Agence VU and lives between Africa and Paris.

ISABELLA BALENA (*1965, Rimini, Italy)

As a photojournalist, Balena has been creating photo features on war regions including Iraq, Kenya, Sudan, Chiapas and Albania since 1991, and has been covering the Israeli- Palestine conflict for many years. In addition to photojournalism she has participated in literary and civic projects. In 2003 she received the Photography for Peace and Freedom Atri City Prize. She lives and works in Milan.

MARINA BALLO CHARMET (*1952, Milan, Italy)

Ballo Charmet has been creating photo and video series since the 1980s. In line with her background in philosophy, psychoanalysis and child psychotherapy, her work explores the relationships between people. The correlation and the perception of the body with natural, urban or domestic environments also plays an important role in her work. She lives and works in Milan.

LILIANA BARCHIESI (*1945, Milan, Italy)

Creating independent photojournalism since the early 1970s, Barchiesi focuses on the world of women. As an activist she has documented street protests for divorce, the labor world, feminist groups and made photo features for both activist and mainstream media. Today, through photography and documentary film, she continues to denounce and fight gender stereotypes and highlights similarities and differences of the contemporary female. She lives and works in Milan.

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LETIZIA BATTAGLIA (*1935, Palermo, Italy)

As one of the first women photojournalists in Italy, Battaglia directed the photography team of the Communist newspaper L'ORA in Palermo from 1974 to 1991 and founded the agency Informazione Fotografica. With the passion of an activist but far from the clamour often associated with the news, her images depict the bloody years of the Sicilian Mafia. She won numerous awards, including the W. Eugene Smith Grant for Humanistic Photography and the Cornell Capa Infinity Award from the International Center of Photography. She lives and works in Palermo.

TOMASO BINGA (Bianca Pucciarelli in Menna) (*1931, Salerno, Italy)

The artist took a male name in the 1970s as a protest against the inequality that characterized the relationship between men and women. As the author of visual, sound and performance poetry, she has participated in numerous solo and collective exhibitions, including feminist shows curated by Romana Loda. She lives and works in Rome and Salerno.

GIOVANNA BORGESE (*1939, Milan, Italy)

As in her book *Un Paese in tribunale: Italia 1980 – 1983* uses a journalistic, political, socio-cultural and personal approach in her photography. Borgese represents people and existences normally at the margins of history: her work has been defined as an “archeology of the present” for its anthropological themes and style. Her book *I luoghi dei rifiuti. Italia (1989)* is one of the first works protesting the phenomenon of ecological degradation. She lives and works in Milan.

MARCELLA CAMPAGNANO (*1941, Milan, Italy)

Campagnano is the author of *L'invenzione del femminile*, among the most notable testimonies of the Italian feminist movement. Photographing with the Rolleiflex she has long specialized on female identity, developing series about social models imposed on women and interpreted with a sense of irony. She lives and works in Como.

LISETTA CARMİ (*1924, Genoa, Italy)

Lisetta Carmi began taking pictures in the 1960s, after giving up a musical career. Her first project was to portray the Genoese transgender community, which resulted in her famous and scandalous book *I Travestiti* (1972). She won the Niepce prize in 1966 and the World Book Award in Leipzig for her book *Acque di Sicilia*. She lives in Apulia where she founded an Ashram.

MONICA CAROCCI (*1966, Rome, Italy)

Carocci uses the medium of photography to create images that transform reality through arched perspectives, shadows and light, blurs and reverse printing for example. Her black and white photographic works have appeared in numerous exhibitions since the 1990s. She lives and works in Turin.

GEA CASOLARO (1956, Rome, Italy)

With her non-conformist visual style that brings together art and current affairs, Casolaro offers a new reading of reality and of existing images. In recent years, through projects and residencies, she has explored environmental themes, working on the relationship between natural and urban landscapes and the experiences of the people who inhabit them. She lives and works between Rome and Paris.

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FRANCESCA CATASTINI (*1982, Lucca, Italy)

Catastini uses photography to create work that brings together her childhood enthusiasm for ethology and medicine. The tools of her colourful stories include self-portraits and staging spaces, using the ambiguity of the medium photography to ironically address her subjects. She recently won the ViennaPhotoBookAward. Catastini lives and works in Tuscany.

CARLA CERATI (*1926, Bergamo, Italy – 2016, Milan, Italy)

Beginning her career as a theatre stage photographer in the 1950s, her camera always represented her conquest of personal freedom. She later focused on photojournalism, working in black and white for stories about the feminist protests, massacres and trials during the troubled years of terrorism in the 1970s or on the bourgeois society in Milan during the economic boom. She turned to writing at the end of the 1980s.

MARGHERITA CHIARVA (*1985, Milan, Italy)

The artist Chiarva studied at London's Central Saint Martins, then moved to Istanbul to form an artist collective in 2014. Back in Milan, she specialized in silver salts print research, manually working on filmstrips with the use of chemicals and other processes. Her photographic journey is founded in the analogue process and personal investigation. She lives and works in Milan.

MARTINA CIRESE (*1988, Rome, Italy)

After her studies at the ISFCI (Institute of Photography, Rome), Cirese was given a scholarship in 2011 to complete a Master's degree in Contemporary History at the Sorbonne University in Paris. She focused her studies on the rise of Totalitarian regimes. For her long-term project Asankoyo she received several award nominations and in 2014 was awarded a year-long scholarship at FABRICA. Her work has been exhibited across Europe and featured in international publications. She lives and works in Rome.

DANIELA COMANI (*1965, Bologna, Italy)

A multi-faceted artist, Comani focuses on the themes of history, gender identity and social stereotypes. Her multimedia works uses photography, texts, drawings, archival material, newspaper clippings, television clips, books and video installations. She lives and works in Berlin.

MARILISA COSELLO (*1978, Salerno, Italy)

After completing a Visual Arts degree in England, Cosello went to study Film History and Photography in Milan and France. She worked for five years as a photojournalist before she began an artistic journey using photography that featured the effect of alienation. Creating sets and performances with herself as the performer or director, she deconstructs the concepts of limitation, power and identity. She lives and works in Milan.

AGNESE DE DONATO (*1927, Bari, Italy – 2017, Milan, Italy)

De Donato got into photography in 1968 after a degree in law, three marriages and her important role in the cultural life of Rome. She founded a bookshop-gallery Il Ferro di cavallo and she took part in the creation of the feminist magazine Effe. She also worked as an investigative journalist for both Italian and international media.

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MARTINA DELLA VALLE (*1981, Florence, Italy)

She graduated in 2003 from the Istituto Europeo di Design in Milan. Her research starts from the basis of the photographic technique. She is fascinated by the physical traces left by the light, through time and space. By using different visual languages and forms, such as photos, videos, books she often creates site-specific installations. Her work POST-IT is a series of photographs created from pages of a found book on which a mysterious author has intervened by covering the bodies. She lives and works in Germany.

PAOLA DE PIETRI (*1960, Reggio Emilia, Italy)

The artist has been making photo series and videos on the visible and invisible transformation of existence. She explores the relations and influences of inhabited space in the development of personal and group identity. With her long-term project To Face about the places of the battles along the Italo-Austrian front of WW1, she won the Renger Patzsch Award in 2019. Based in Reggio Emilia, her themes are transience and the effects of time on urban and natural areas.

PAOLA DI BELLO (*1961, Naples, Italy)

Di Bello is a photographer and video-maker committed to exploring the socio-political problems of the contemporary city. She shows the potential for changing reality through work that brings together the global dimension and local life. She created photographic campaigns about urban fringes, from the favelas of South America to Roma communities. She lives and works in Milan.

RÄ DI MARTINO (*1975, Rome, Italy)

Di Martino draws on the symbolic language of the cinema in her own videos, photography, film and performance. Her narratives involve divergences between reality and fiction. Her projects take shape in a sequence of combinations and photograms fused into the same film, such as Authentic News of Invisible Things (2014) about the ploys used to trick the enemy during the two world wars. She lives and works between Turin and Rome.

ANNA DI PROSPERO (*1987, Rome, Italy)

The artist came to photography through the discovery of digital cameras – and attracted by the tools of creative sharing. She studied photography at the Istituto Europeo di Design in Rome and at the School of Visual Arts in New York. Her projects explore everyday life and the relationship between human and environment. Di Prospero's awards include the Sony World Photography Award in Portrait category, the People Photographer of the Year of the International Photography Awards and the Discovery of the Year of the Lucie Awards 2011.

BRUNA ESPOSITO (*1960, Rome, Italy)

Working in videos, sculptures and installations, Esposito prefers formal rigor to spectacular effects. She creates works that enact what is transitory, where everyday materials take on new meanings and open up a vision of reality that is in equilibrium between power and simplicity. She has collaborated with other artists such as Donald Judd and Batya Zamir. Her work was part of the Documenta, Kassel 1997 and won ex-aequo the Leone d'Oro at the Venice Biennale (1999). She lives and works in Rome.

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EVA FRAPICCINI (*1978, Recanati, Italy)

Frapiccini superimposes fictitious stories onto a backdrop, reflecting on the relationship between power, history and the reliability of sources. With a conceptual and documentary style she analyses the construction, deformation and perception of personal and collective memory. Staged photography to video installations, writing, cinema and performance are all part of her artistic process. She lives and works between Turin and the U.K.

VITTORIA GERARDI (*1996, Venice, Italy)

The London based experimental photographer studied at the International Center of Photography in New York. She creates collages of light and shadow, working experimentally with analogue photography by using negatives unusually to create surreal compositions.

SIMONA GHIZZONI (*1977, Reggio Emilia, Italy)

With her photography the artist explores themes linked to female identity and submerged contemporary realities. After graduating in the History of Photography and at ISFAV (Istituto di Fotografia e Arti Visive) in Padua, she attended the Giorgia Fiori's Reflexions Masterclass and the Joop Swart Masterclass. Working on long-term projects her themes vary, with a focus on personal and social subjects such as eating disorders, she is also making political works on refugees and on genital mutilation with the journalist Emanuela Zuccalà. She lives and works in Rome.

BRUNA GINAMMI (*1964, Bergamo, Italy)

Ginammi has an eclectic style capable of interchanging expressive codes through the use of different visual languages. She reflects on the themes of identity, change and relationships, with images that have the body and interpersonal ties as their subject. In 1995 she received the European Kodak Panorama Award, and the same year her work was shown at the Venice Biennale. She lives and works in Milan.

ELENA GIVONE (*1979, Turin, Italy)

Combining photography with artistic practice and social activism, Givone conducts teaching programmes in Italy and abroad. Using video and photography she works with NGOs in Africa, Brazil, India and Sri Lanka. In 2006 she won the award Attenzione Nuovo Talento Fotografico FNAC for her work Pazi-Mine (Sarajevo 2006) in which she photographed the generation of adolescents born during the conflict between 1992 and 1996. She lives and works between Turin and Amsterdam.

LUISA LAMBRI (*1969, Como, Italy)

The Los Angeles based artist explores the spaces of contemporary residential architecture by interpreting it abstractly. She began her career in the 1990s, creating photographs of the most iconic buildings of the 20th century masters of Modernism, Neo-Concretism and Minimalism. Inside a world built mostly by men, her female gaze transforms the details of the spaces to more delicate experiences.

ELISA MAGRI (*1933, Milan, Italy – 2018, Rome, Italy)

The artist and documentarian was the first woman to be part of the Italian Mec-Art movement. Her creative process was centred around photo-painting and assembling photographic images, taken out of their original contexts as advertising and photographs of war, natural disasters, crimes and accidents; she used these ready-made images in compositions that involved a photosensitive canvas and other production techniques.

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RAFFAELA MARINIELLO (*1961, Naples, Italy)

The artist uses a process in which she balances natural with artificial light in her images and video installations to highlight the transformations and the contradictions of urban and industrial space especially in the area of Naples. Mariniello lives and works between Naples and Milan.

LUCIA MARCUCCI (*1933, Florence, Italy)

A visual poet, who has been an activist since the 1960s, Marcucci addresses the female condition and the commercialisation of the female body in contemporary society. With her provocative and sacrilegious style, she analyses the versatility and ambiguity of language through collages of words and images appropriated from the world of mass media. Her work was part of the Venice Biennale in 1972. She lives and works in Florence.

ALLEGRA MARTIN (*1980, Vittorio Veneto, Italy)

With a focus on portraiture and the transformation of contemporary landscapes, Martin pursues the idea that the identity of a place coincides with the perception of it. For her artistic documentary style, she always carries a small compact camera loaded with expired rolls of film with her. She lives and works in Milan.

PAOLA MATTIOLI (*1948, Milan, Italy)

Mattioli has been using photography since the 1960s in a narrative and conceptual manner, reflecting upon her background in philosophy. With methods derived from classic photo-journalism, she composes photographic projects where each image addresses the senses of seeing. She lives and works in Milan.

MALENA MAZZA (*Bologna, Italy)

Beginning her career in 1982, working as an assistant director to important directors such as the Taviani Brothers, Mazza is a fashion photographer who makes TV commercials and videos for fashion, beauty and design. Her work depicts the desires and contradictions of being a woman in the everyday as well as the social and mental constrictions imposed on the female gender. Mazza participated in the Venice Biennale in 1995 and in 2011. She lives and works in Milan.

LIBERA MAZZOLENI (*1949, Milan, Italy)

The artist debuted in the 1960s with experiments in sculpture, photography and performance art. These works focused on the urgencies of the feminist revolution and gender identity in opposition to the models imposed by patriarchal society. She has participated in many exhibitions, and she published the artist book *Linee Complessi Essere* in 1974. She lives and works in Milan.

GABRIELLA MERCADINI (*1940s, Venice, Italy – 2012, Rome, Italy)

The activist journalist chose photography for social and anthropological investigation and to express her political conscience. She began to work as a freelancer in 1968. Using black and white film her entire life, she photographed the struggles of workers' and students' movements and women activism.

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OTTONELLA MOCELLIN (*1966, Milan, Italy)

With recurring themes of conflict, emotions, dialogue and mis-communication in romantic and family relationships, Mocellin makes performances, photographs, installations and videos in which she is both actress and director. She lives and works in Milan.

GRUPPO DEL MERCOLEDÌ (Diane Bond, Bundi Alberti, Mercedes Cuman, Paola Mattioli, Adriana Monti, Esperanza Núñez and Silvia Truppi)

A feminist collective that chose photography to explore the connections between the body and female identity. The experience led to the photo book *Ci vediamo mercoledì. Gli altri giorni ci immaginiamo*, that dealt with the themes of the body, subjectivity, masks, the double, sisterhood, the gender inequality and the desire not to conform to the aesthetic stereotypes of the dominant culture. The Gruppo del Mercoledì dissolved in 1978.

BRIGITTE NIEDERMAIR (*1971, Merano, Italy)

Through staging the female figure, the artist's approach has become increasingly minimalist and conceptual. She works in the fashion sector, producing editorials and advertising campaigns. She lives and works between Milan and Paris.

MICHELA PALERMO (*1980, Bagnoli Irpino, Italy)

Palermo carries out long-term projects that show the destiny of wounded places and existences. She has a degree in political science from the University of Bologna and studied photography at the International Center of Photography, New York. She works as a freelance photographer for international magazines and teaches at the Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts in Istanbul. She lives and works between Naples and Palermo.

LINA PALLOTTA (*1955, San Salvatore Telesino, Italy)

Through her visual poetics dominated by movement, the photographer, teacher and curator develops long-term projects exclusively in black and white, about gender identity, women, and everyday life at the margins. She regularly holds workshops and conferences at the International Center of Photography and at the Empire State College in New York. She lives and works between Rome and New York.

LUANA PERILLI WOJACZECK (*1981, Rome, Italy)

An eclectic artist using different media, Perilli investigates relationships between individuals and collectives, nature and culture, shifting from the field of memory and narratives to science, sociobiology and social implications. She lives and works in Rome.

CLAUDIA PETRAROLI (*1987, Teramo, Italy)

After graduating from the Brera Academy in Milan in 2014, the artist's photographic work started to focus on the conceptual investigation of the image. In her digital re-workings and multimedia installations, the artist creates timeless dimensions where past and future coexist. She lives and works in Milan.

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MOIRA RICCI (*1977, Orbetello, Italy)

In her work the artist depicts personal and collective memories through staging her body into the images. She uses relationships and stories of the place she comes from, as in 20.12.52–10.08.04 (2009), where she inserted self-portraits into photographs from her late mother's youth. She lives and works between Milan and Maremma.

FRANCESCA RIVETTI (*1972, Milan, Italy)

Beginning her photography in the late 1980s, the artist has worked with advertising and design firms, handling campaigns for various brands. Since 2005 she has devoted herself to art depicting places, things and people as a visual exercise, recalling something that goes beyond the material. She now works with associations of images as opposed to her earlier commercial strategies. She lives and works in Milan.

MARIALBA RUSSO (*1947, Giugliano, Italy)

In the 1960s Russo began investigating social themes of Southern Italy, photographing living conditions, religious rites and folk festivals. Her images concentrate also on restoring the spirit and dignity of these people. She lives and works in Rome.

LORI SAMMARTINO (*1924 –1971, Rome, Italy)

The writer and photojournalist earned her law degree and began her career in journalism as a political commentator and music critic. In the 1950s and 1960s she worked for the magazine Il Mondo and other international publications documenting the Italian society of those times.

MARINELLA SENATORE (*1977, Cava de' Tirreni, Italy)

Born in 1977, she is a director and filmmaker. She involves entire communities to devise major collective events, resulting in various media works as short films, performances, books, installations, photographs, operas and drawings. She lives and works between Rome and London.

ALESSANDRA SPRANZI (*1962, Milan, Italy)

Spranzi uses ready-made photography, through a process of rediscovery of existing images. She collects manuals, books, advertising catalogues, scientific texts and magazines from which she cuts out images, that she re-photographs, enlarges and prints, with various techniques. She lives and works in Milan.

SOFIA USLENGHI (*1985, Reggio Calabria, Italy)

Conducting extensive research on photography, particularly on self-portraits, Uslenghi sees the representation of someone's own image as a result of a long and complex process. In her work she finds that it is important that the self-portrait is not immediately recognisable and she uses different photo processes to achieve this. She lives and works in Parma.

FRANCESCA VOLPI (*1985, Brescia, Italy)

Travelling from the borders of the Balkans to the east of China, Cambodia and Vietnam Volpi works with international publications on social themes and on-going conflicts. She was the youngest freelancer to follow the war of the annexation of Crimea from the first revolutionary

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movements in Kiev in 2014. Volpi graduated in journalism from the London College of Communication. She lives and works between Paris and Rome.

ALBA ZARI (*1987, Bangkok, Thailand)

The photographer who is also a director and documentary film maker, led a nomadic life that brought her to live in different cities and countries which shaped her introspective sensibility for photography. In particular her work in search for her origins resulted in the publication of the book *The Y-Research of Biological Father* (2017). She regularly collaborates with fashion brands and newspapers. She lives and works between Italy and London.

Project partners:



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The Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (FFF) is one of the leading centres of photography in Europe. As an exhibition space, institution and event forum the FFF deals with all aspects of photography. Since its founding in 1984 it has presented more than 250 exhibitions with historic and contemporary artists. Additionally, the program of the FFF comprises of regular workshops, talks and discussions with internationally renowned photographers, artists and experts. Further information available at www.fff Frankfurt.org

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