

MACRO
MUSEO D'ARTE CONTEMPORANEA ROMA



Press Release

FotoGrafia Rome, the 9th edition of the Festival will be held from September 23rd to October 24th at the MACRO Testaccio

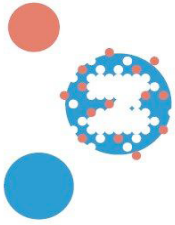
This new edition of FotoGrafia is one filled with novelties, among them a new location at the MACRO Testaccio, new dates (September 23rd – October 24th) and a team of three curators, Marc Prust (photography and publications), Valentina Tanni (photography and the new media) and Paul Wombell (photography and contemporary art) supporting all the work done by the Festival's Artistic Director, Marco Delogu.

The theme of this 9th edition of FotoGrafia is FUTURSPECTIVES, or “Can photography interpret the future?”

This paradox is instantly obvious in the work of Paul Wombell for his exhibition entitled “Bumpy ride”. One usually discusses photography in the past tense. Once a photograph has been taken, it sends one back in time and not forwards and in a some way becomes history. Some photographers, however, are beginning to question this premise, creating images that look forward in time and not backwards. These are photographers who work more like science fiction writers, using the photographic process to imagine how the future might be. “Bumpy ride” exhibits the work of contemporary photographers such as Peter Bialobrzeski, Sonja Brass, Cedric Delsaux, Jill Greenberg, Ikka Halso, Mirko Martin and O Zhang, who use both the digital and the analogical systems and are challenging our expectations of what one might see in an image.

Another attempt to answer this question and another interpretation will be provided by the research undertaken by Valentina Tanni for the ‘photography and the new media’ section. The encounter between photography and the new media lives in an eternal present. This has already happened and continues to happen. For this reason the Festival's section dedicated to this subject makes its debut with an exhibition entitled “Maps and legends”, a project aimed at mapping a territory in constant evolution. A cartography in progress on relations that photography is establishing with the on-line world, with its culture, its language, its collective imagination. In addition to the maps there are also the captions, fundamental for decoding them. But above all there are the legends, the myths and the stories. All that makes the internet a real place with a history and a culture. From the animated .gifs to photographs of virtual worlds, from the images of Google Street Views to photographs that change in real time with the data flow and the camera that captures time instead of space. Ten artists, Marco Cadioli (Italy), Martijn Hendriks (Holland), Justin Kemp (USA), Jaime Martinez (Mexico), Filippo Minelli (Italy), Sascha Pohflepp (Germany), John Rafman (Canada), Phillip Toledano (USA), Harm Van den Dorpel (Holland) and Carlo Zanni (Italy) for an exhibition attempting to peer into the future, or perhaps we should say, into the continuing present of photography .

Last but not least, there is the section on photography and publishing curated by Marc Prust. As the title allows one to sense, this exhibition entitled “unpublished – unknown”, presents a selection of as yet unpublished work. The question behind the curator's research is “can one state that a photograph seen by no one but the photographer really exists? Can one speak of a second “decisive moment” after that photographic moment described by Henri Cartier Bresson, hence the moment in which the photograph itself is published? Therefore, rather than an exhibition of previously unpublished work, it is an exhibition of not yet completed works of art, since they should, but have not yet, experienced the passage involving the second decisive moment, publication.



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With the new September date, the Festival will become the first appointment in the international season, also hosting an absolute preview of the new production by the European Month of Photography, with Mutations 3 – Public Image, Private Views, curated by Emiliano Paoletti, co-director of the Festival, also presenting the Sochi Project by Rob Hornstra and Arnold Van Bruggen, a *slowjournalism* project financed online to document change in the Russian region that in 2014 will host the Winter Olympics.

This year the 8th commission on Rome, has been entrusted to Tod Papageorge, the great American photographer of “street photograph” and heir to the great Garry Winogrand as well as the progenitor of the Yale School which has, among others, produced artists such as Gregory Crewdson and Lorca di Corcia.

This year the Festival is enriched by cooperation with the MACRO, which confirms in this case its vocation to be open to the city of Rome, presenting itself as a home for images for national and international viewers. This is also the path chosen in the choice made to totally involve the two pavilions of the MACRO Future, the Museum’s location at Testaccio, destined to host great collective events.

Among the many changes there are also a number of important confirmations. This year too there will be a circuit of art galleries to promote and valorise local artists and operators. Once again international institutes and academies will also be involved such as the American Academy in Rome, the Villa Medici-Academy of France and the Royal Spanish Academy, presenting projects created specifically for FotoGrafia. The IILA FotoGrafia Award for young South American photography has also been confirmed and will present “Empire of the Sun”, a project on Rome by the winner of last year’s edition José Manuel Castellón. Finally there will be the greatly awaited “Ecclesia” exhibition (curated by Marco Delogu) by Giuliano Matteucci, winner of the Baume & Mercier Award.

FotoGrafia is sponsored by Rome Municipality’s Department for Cultural Policies and Communication.

Zoneattive – Festival’s organising offices

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