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## **GIAN PAOLO BARBIERI IL REGISTA DELLA MODA**

A selection of photographic artworks from 1969 to 2014

On show from 13 to 20 June 2015

**Taormina - Palazzo Corvaja  
Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II**

In concomitance with the 61st edition  
TaorminaFilmFest



29 Arts In Progress presents at Palazzo Corvaja of Taormina

### **“Gian Paolo Barbieri, il regista della moda”**

An exhibition of 50 artworks organized and produced under the patronage of the municipality of Taormina, Taormina Arte and the TaorminaFilmFest now in its 61st Edition.

Considered one of the best international fashion photographers, with a sublime aesthetic taste, his photographs are in many private and public collections, among the others the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Kunstforum in Vienna and the National Portrait Gallery in London.

The selection of images is mainly devoted to fashion and its protagonists and the exhibition spans over forty years of photography in which the theatricality of his sets has made Barbieri one of the favourite interpreters of Made in Italy, from Valentino to Armani, from Missoni to Versace, from Ferré to Dolce & Gabbana.

His work for the French, American and German editions of Vogue led on to publicity work with the great fashion designers including Yves Saint Laurent and Vivienne Westwood.

The exhibition retraces the different nuances of fashion photography, from seduction to provocation, from myth to elegance.

Photographs for fashion magazines, studio portraits, shots during breaks on the set return a colourful fresco in the world of fashion and its dimension suspended between reality and imagination.

Among the divas and top models we find Audrey Hepburn, Jerry Hall, Monica Bellucci, Vivienne Westwood, Veruschka, Ann Andersen, Anjelica Huston.

A section of the show is devoted to images taken in tropical paradises of Tahiti, Madagascar and Seychelles, in which he describes places and distant realities with his impeccable taste meaning to combine the spontaneity of those people and those places with elegance and style.

The exhibition will be held at Palazzo Corvaja until June 20, 2015.

As part of the major events and exhibitions programme of the TaorminaFilmFest, hosted in the impressive Palazzo Corvaja, this show represents an unmissable opportunity to retrace the best photography could express in the fashion world and get in touch with a world of enormous charm and formal elegance.

Exhibition Title	Gian Paolo Barbieri, il regista della moda
Venue	Palazzo Corvaja Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II, Taormina (ME)
Exhibition Period	13 - 20 June 2015
Organization	29 Arts In Progress
Opening Event	Saturday 13 June, 7.30 p.m.
Opening Hours	Everyday 10.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m., 5.00 - 9.30 p.m. (Additional hours by appointment only)

With the patronage of



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#### Notes to the Editor

##### About Gian Paolo Barbieri

Gian Paolo Barbieri was born in Milan in 1938 into a wealthy family of fabric wholesalers, learning from a young age the art of knowing the fabrics, knowledge that would become very useful to his profession as a fashion photographer. But during his teenage years it would be other places to captivate his attention: theatres, in the first place, which would feed and bring out his fantastic vein; discovering, not long after, the cinema that would reveal it self to be a life long passion. Following this passion he moves to Rome in 1962.

To manage, in the meantime, he develops and prints out the pictures taken of upcoming starlets and aspiring divas. But not for long. Life would take him elsewhere, to Paris, to work as photographer Tom Kublin's assistant: Barbieri brought with him a culture of the imagination that few others could boast. And it is this experience of two "excruciating" months that would launch him into the world of photography.

In 1965 he joined Italian Vogue, and produced the cover of its first issue. His work for the Italian, French, American and German editions of Vogue led on to publicity work with the great fashion designers Valentino, Armani, Saint Laurent, Ferré, Versace and Dolce & Gabbana.

When we gaze at Gian Paolo Barbieri's photographs, created in a refined and light-hearted spirit, we come to experience a visual theatricality that will blot out the surroundings to allow only the pictures themselves to stand out.

In 1978 the German magazine Stern ranked him among the fourteen top fashion photographers.

In the 90s he made several trips to tropical paradises such as Tahiti, Madagascar, Seychelles and Polynesia, in which he describes places and distant realities with his impeccable taste meaning to combine the spontaneity of those people and those places with elegance and style.

He shoots in analogic mode and does not retouch his pictures. His photographs are on show at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Kunstforum in Vienna and the National Portrait Gallery of London.

### **About 29 Arts In Progress**

29 Arts In Progress, is a London-based gallery that provides a global platform to bring together various stakeholders in the world of art. With the philosophy and mission to actively contribute to the global development of contemporary art as ambassadors of cultural diversity, the company is committed to bring the highest organizational and artistic standards in the art business. 29 Arts In Progress fosters the development of talented contemporary artists by creating carefully curated art experiences through the permanent and temporary art exhibitions it organizes around the world. Through these experiences, it provides a platform to bring together artists, curators and art galleries, offering outstanding services to collectors, intermediaries and investors interested in buying unique works of art.

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### **About Palazzo Corvaja, Taormina**

The Arab domination lasted from the 9th to the 11th century in Sicily and, in Taormina in particular they stayed from 902 to 1079 A.D. It was precisely in the eleventh century that the Arabs strengthened the town's defences, building, among others, a tower which was none other than the main part of the actual Palazzo Corvaja.

A tower in the shape of a cube which reminded the Arabs of their sacred "Al Ka 'bah", and therefore, according to Mohammed, it was the first temple erected for God by Abraham of Mecca. The tower was enlarged at the end of the 13th century with the addition of the body of the building which is on the left after entering the entrance portal. With this new wing of the building, the access steps from the courtyard to the first floor were created. On the ground floor there are three splendid panels of Syracuse stone, sculpted in high relief, the first representing the creation of Eva, the second the original sin and the third the chasing out of Paradise. The right wing of the Palazzo was created at the beginning of 1400 for Sicilian Parliament meetings that were held there before 1411 in the great 4th century salon, in the presence of Queen Bianca of Navarra, reigning Sicily at that time.

It is for this reason that Palazzo Corvaja is also called the palace of parliament or of the queen, Bianca of Navarra. However, the palazzo takes its name from the name of the Corvaja family, one of the most ancient and noble in Taormina. A family from which came illustrious men who were literally involved in the administration of the town and also in the magistracy. Until the end of World War II, in 1945, Palazzo Corvaja was in a pitiful state of total abandonment and various families had lived there. When liberation came, in 1945, the first mayor after the war expropriated the palazzo and during 1945 to 1948, the Naples architect, Armando Dillon, renovated the entire building.

Next to the Odeon, a short distance from the Agorà and the Zecca, close to the Naumachie entrance, and a stone's throw from the Greek Roman Theatre, Palazzo Corvaja is certainly one of the obligatory points of reference for Taormina and its history. With regard to its architectonic style, it can certainly be affirmed that it is a mixture of styles considering the various eras in which it was built and added to. It begins with Arab style, then Gothic after having had Norman style additions.

The battlements of the tower are Arab, composed of a double series of square openings, surmounted by little merlons. The mullioned two-light windows of the 3rd century windows are Gothic. The 4th century salons are entirely Norman and the Sicilian Parliament meetings were held here.