

29 Arts In Progress presents “Skin by Gian Paolo Barbieri”
Milano, 10-21 November 2015
Spazio Montebellotrenta
Via Montebello 30 - Milan



NARCISSUS, 2015 - Analog photography on Hahnemühle Fine Art Baryta 325 gr paper, cm 70x90, edition n° 1/15

Milan, 13 October 2015

29 Arts In Progress announces the upcoming photography art exhibition of the iconic Master of Photography **Gian Paolo Barbieri**: considered one of best international fashion photographer with a sublime aesthetic taste, Barbieri has experienced new artistic directions-and will be on show in Milan at the recently renovated **Spazio Montebellotrenta**, presenting an exclusive selection of international acclaimed works, together with new unpublished shots collected in his new book **Skin**, published by Silvana Editoriale.

Skin, his new work, is more introspective, almost metaphysical visions of memories, visitations, dedications, cultural experiences of which Barbieri has been a scholar and an interpreter for all his life. It is as if now he wanted to give to his beloved instrument, the camera, the opportunity to reinvent images that he has already acquired over his life, images that left a mark in the long road that he has been following for years. Hence, these are no longer snapshots of sensuality; rather, they are

descriptions of situations, moments, events stuck in his mind, memories of sensations he had in museums, experiences from night-time readings.

Skin is pure poetry, concealed in his mind for a long time.

Always firm on his 'belief', according to which the picture has to be built both inside and outside the studio, he invites us to follow an itinerary that, this time – leaving aside the solid quality that makes every picture a masterpiece – urges our mind to refresh our memories as well.

A drawing by Cocteau, a painting by Gauguin or Manet, gods and demigods from the Greek mythology, revisited by paintings or statues from the Renaissance and the Baroque, dedications to other great photographers, memories from scenes of famous films, characters that left a certain mark in our history, simulations of literary situations that develop into a range of wonders, in a gallery where his fantasy rides the Pegasus of an imagination always deeply rooted in the memory, as if he wanted to tell us that nothing in life, and especially nothing in art, is born by parthenogenesis.

In this way, Barbieri enhances his sensitivity, from the gentleness of a portrait by Bronzino to the scene in the first act of Don Giovanni, as seen from Fragonard, where you can almost hear Donna Anna singing with Mozart "non sperar se non m'uccidi ch'io ti lasci fuggir mai"; to the sensuality – hidden, but not too much – of Sergeant Bruce's paintings, to the divine amorality of Oscar Wilde's Salome painted by Léon Herbo, to the sweetness of solitude of Birdy by Alan Parker with Matthew Modine, to the shocking revolutions of Andy Warhol, to the everyday violence of Quentin Tarantino or of Danny Boyle's Trainspotting with Ewan McGregor; to real characters, such as George Brummel or La Belle Otero, often careless of the descriptive truth, going so far as to change sometimes the characters' sex or colour of the skin, such as in the Danaë, in the Minotaur or in the Adam of his Creation, in the framework of his own unique narration, where sweetness and violence blend together and reveal themselves in one single aspect: beauty.

Because beauty is the only undisputable aspect for Barbieri.

There is no temptation of trying to easily and vulgarly impress; on the contrary, everything is shaped by light, which is Barbieri's weapon of choice. Light, which he masterfully uses to paint, sculpt and create his outstanding images in the space. Images, which though shaped to the smallest detail, never lose the existence in the instant, breathe their current times and feel the pulse of life under their 'skin', after which the book is named.

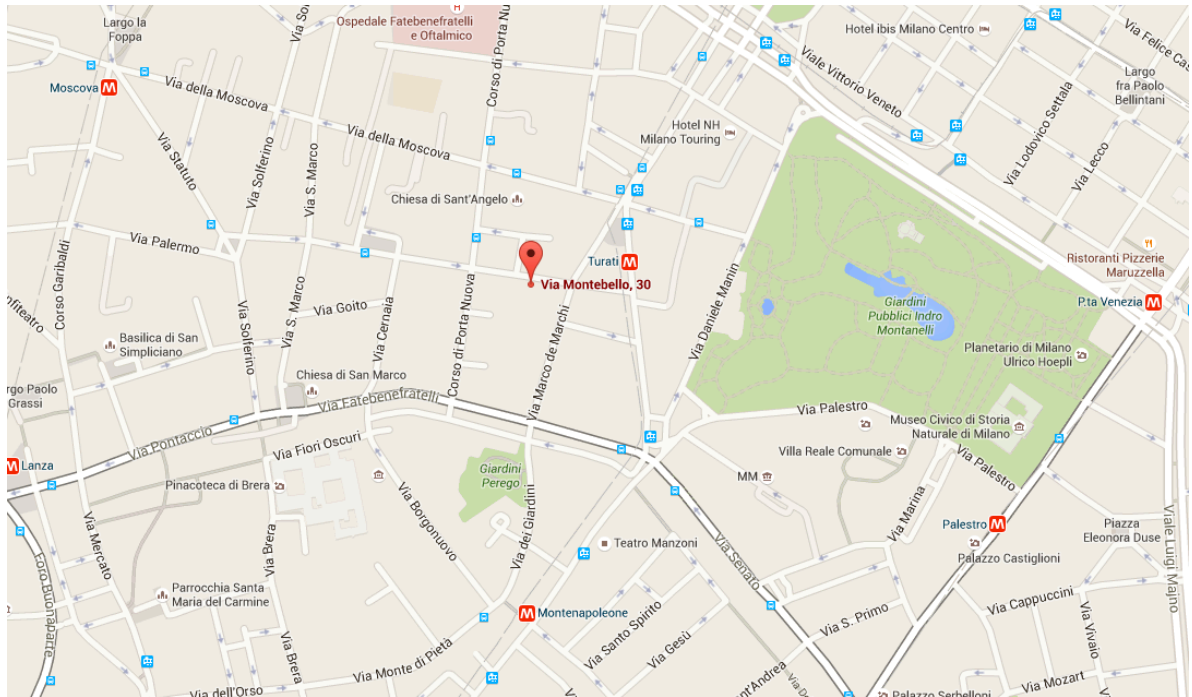
This is the touch of the master. Making the watcher recall feelings, as in a *deja vu*, dragging him into the world of his imagination, making him lose his way in a maze of double experiences, where the creator's one and the watcher's one blend together and give birth to emotions, as in a silent theatre, where the image is enough to express much more than a text read aloud.

Barbieri's touch and what ruled the Hellenic ancient times for years: beauty. In this way, the last picture of this book becomes an important witness. Like Narcissus, Barbieri also looks at himself in the mirror of water, and prefers to kill himself with his own beloved beauty, rather than betray his ideals.

In this way, the photograph of Narcissus becomes an important witness: like Narcissus, Barbieri also looks at himself in the mirror of water, and prefers to kill himself with his own beloved beauty, rather than betray his ideals.

Exhibition Details

Exhibition Title:	Skin by Gian Paolo Barbieri
Opening Event:	Tuesday 10 November 2015, from 6.00 p.m (by invitation only)
Dates and opening hours:	Monday - Friday: 11.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m. Saturday: 10.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m. Additional hours by appointment only.
Venue:	SPAZIO MONTEBELLOTRENTA Via Montebello 30, Milano



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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 lighthearted 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.

For further information: <http://www.29artsinprogress.com> , e-mail: info@29artsinprogress.com

About Spazio Montebellotrenta

The space is part of an elegant building of the early '900 located in the Brera district.

The renovation project is the work of the study **8&A architects**, founded by Anna Barile and Antonio Ottoboni - www.8ea.it -.

