



**29 Arts In Progress presents at Arte Fiera 2016  
the solo show of Gian Paolo Barbieri:  
a celebration of elegance, the human body and sensuality.**

***Bologna, 29 January – 1 February 2015***

*29 Arts In Progress presents, within the 40<sup>th</sup> edition of Arte Fiera Bologna, a selection of new artworks from the "Skin" collection, twenty original unique Polaroids never exhibited before, together with some of iconic fashion shots that span over forty years of photography.*

**'SKIN', A DEEP TESTIMONY OF THE HUMAN CONDITION.**

The last work of Gian Paolo Barbieri, "Skin", is introspective, almost metaphysical visions of memories, visitations, dedications, cultural experiences of which he 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.

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'.

This is the touch of the master. Making the watcher recall feelings, as in a *déjà-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 Narcissus becomes an important witness: like him, 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.



Lo Sciamano, 2015

## POLAROIDS, INSIGHT INTO THE ARTTIST CAREER.

This special exhibition traces Gian Paolo Barbieri's use of instant photography with twenty Polaroids taken in the last 30 years and never exhibited before.

Included are portraits (like Monica Bellucci and Jerry Hall), figure studies, indigenous people in their environment and flowers.

Many of these small, intimate photographs convey tenderness and vulnerability, others depict a toughness and immediacy. Unlike the highly crafted images Barbieri staged in the studio and became famous for, these disarming pictures are marked by spontaneity and invention.

Together, they offer insight into the artist's great career.



Monica Bellucci, 2000

## THE HISTORICAL MASTERPIECES.

A section of the show is devoted to fashion photography and its protagonists in which the theatricality of his sets has made Barbieri one of the favourite interpreters of Made in Italy, from Valentino to Dolce & Gabbana, from Missoni to Ferré, to name a few.

Among the divas and top models we find Audrey Hepburn, Jerry Hall, Monica Bellucci.

The centrality of bodies is finally elevated in some shots taken in tropical paradises of Tahiti, Madagascar and Seychelles, in which Barbieri describes places and distant realities with his impeccable taste meaning to combine spontaneity and style.



Audrey Hepburn, Vogue Italia, Roma, 1969

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 installation of the exhibit will also include sculptures of Paolo Anselmo interacting with the photographic language of Barbieri.

## **Exhibition details**

Exhibition title Gian Paolo Barbieri @ Arte Fiera 2016

Opening event (by invitation) Thursday 28 January, noon – 9 p.m.

Dates and opening hours  
29 January – 1 February 2016  
Friday 29 – Sunday 31 January: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Monday 1 February: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Location: Hall 32 Booth B13  
Bologna Exhibition Centre  
Entrance Ovest Costituzione

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION OR PRESS MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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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. Among his last works we find "Skin" – the photography of Barbieri's uncovered bodies – where taking pictures means looking life right in the face, turning one's own existence into a work of art.

### **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](mailto:info@29artsinprogress.com)