

# 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery

is pleased to present

## BACK TO DANCE

Gian Paolo Barbieri | Greg Gorman | Silvia Lelli and Roberto Masotti

Curated by Giovanni Peloso

from May 26<sup>th</sup> to July 25<sup>th</sup> 2020



From May 26<sup>th</sup> to July 25<sup>th</sup> 2020, 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery in Milan (via San Vittore 13) will present the exhibition "Back To Dance", curated by Giovanni Peloso and focused on the theme of movement and dance through an unprecedented selection of vintage and contemporary works by gallery artists Gian Paolo Barbieri, Greg Gorman, Silvia Lelli and Roberto Masotti.

Although dealing with the same theme, artists embody movement with their distinctive vision, reaching different results while sharing the highest levels of photographic excellence.

One of the principal highlights of the exhibition is **Gian Paolo Barbieri** and his unique vintage works from his Rudolf Nureyev's series dated 1969 along with a second series that celebrates the tribute to Nijinsky performed by dancer Maximiliano Guerra.

His photography emphasizes the idea of movement as a heartbeat and life force. As a free moment of inspiration. The artist's research is connected with documenting the balance and interplay of shapes with a delicate humanity. The magic lies in the life that races before us and in the beauty that unfolds before our eyes.

For **Silvia Lelli** the art of each composition is like a breathing out, a letting go, a release. The art is in capturing a dance step before it slips away and the photographic act is a kind of exorcism, of the incomprehensible and the elusive. Her images give the viewer the sensation of having caught the uncatchable, giving these moments physical form.

On display a selection of vintage works from three different series: some emblematic shots of Rudolf Nureyev at the height of his career, on show for the first time and realized with Roberto Masotti from 1979 to 1981, along with an

unprecedented Pina Bausch (1982-83) and an ongoing project entitled 'Inside Dance, Beyond Dance' (Danza Dentro, Danza Oltre), a narrative work from 1995 to 2014 that perfectly enhances Lelli's personal artistic research on avant-garde theatre and dance.

**Greg Gorman's** images are acts of display and synthesis. They cohabit in a frozen explosion of strength and rhythm, force and lightness. On display 'The Atherton twins', a series of four works portraying trust, focus and confidence between two brothers and gymnasts. The irrepressible exaltation of athletic movement and artistic gesture are brought together in a perfect synthesis, a suspended action that goes beyond the mere depiction of a moment in time.

### **Gian Paolo Barbieri (Milano, 1938)**

Gian Paolo Barbieri was born in 1935 in Via Mazzini, from a family of textile wholesalers.

It is in his father's textile warehouse that he acquires the competence that will become helpful in his fashion photography. He quickly moves his first steps in the theatrical field becoming an actor, operator and costume designer and he was entrusted a small non-spoken part in *Medea* by Luchino Visconti.

American noir cinema constitutes an important foundation for him, trying to figure out how the actresses could turn out to be so beautiful with the use of unique lightings making them look even more enchanting. Movies gave him the sense of movement and the chance of carrying the Italian fashion from a footboard with a white backdrop, to the outdoors, giving it a different soul.

With the opportunity to move to Rome, and thanks to the first photos shot in pure Dolce Vita climate, Barbieri accepts the offer to work in Paris since was defined talented in fashion photography. In this way, he begins his career as assistant to the photographer of Harper's Bazaar, Tom Kublin, for a brief but intense period, since Kublin will later miss for an ictus only 20 days later.

In 1964 he returns in Milan opening his first photographic studio, where he starts to work in fashion shooting simple samples and publishing photographic services on *Novità*, the magazine that subsequently, in 1966, it will become *Vogue Italia*. From that moment he begins his collaboration with *Condè Nast*, also publishing on international magazines such as *Vogue America*, *Vogue Paris* and *Vogue Germany*.

In 1968 *Stern* magazine classifies him as one of the fourteen best fashion photographers in the world panorama. Celebrities of the scene such as Diana Vreeland, Yves Saint Laurent and Richard Avedon, belong as part of his important history but also collaborating with iconic actresses of all time from Audrey Hepburn to Veruschka and Jerry Hall.

He shot advertising campaigns for several international fashion brands like Valentino, Gianni Versace, Gianfranco Ferré, Armani, Bulgari, Chanel, Yves Saint Laurent, Dolce & Gabbana, Vivienne Westwood and many more with which it has interpreted the famous creations of the 80s, in concomitance with the conquest of the Made in Italy and of the Italian prêt-à-porter.

The work of Gian Paolo Barbieri has been displayed in major international museums worldwide including: the Victoria & Albert Museum and at the National Portrait Gallery of London, the Kunstforum of Wien, the MAMM in Moscow and the Erarta Museum in St.Petersburg, Palazzo Reale in Milan and the Musée du quai Branly of Paris; his photographs are part of many public and private art collections across the world.

Gian Paolo Barbieri is the 2018 recipient of the distinguished Lucie Award for Outstanding Achievement in Fashion.

### **Greg Gorman (Kansas City, 1949)**

Photographer Greg Gorman was born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1949. He currently divides his time between Los Angeles and Mendocino, California.

For over four decades, Greg Gorman has continued to master the art of photography. From celebrity portraits and advertising campaigns to magazine layouts and fine art work, Greg has developed and showcased a discriminating and unique style in his profession. Greg's work documents that peculiar obsession of the 21st century celebrity. His photography is timeless and not confined to has-beens, hot properties, and wannabes.

In 1985, through the advice of illustrator Antonio Lopez, Gorman realized that he needed a creative outlet in addition to the commercial work that launched his career. He then began to expand his personal work exploring the human form and became a notable photographer for not only his celebrity portraiture but also his figure studies of the male and female nude.

Over the past 30 years, Greg Gorman's work has been exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the world, including a recent vernissage at the Helmut Newton Museum in Berlin.

When not shooting famous faces, Greg travels for specialized photographic projects and is one of the most sought after speakers in the photographic community. As well, Greg shares his expertise in hands-on photography workshops worldwide, most notably his personal workshops at his studio in Northern California.

### **Silvia Lelli (Ravenna, 1957)**

After graduating with a degree in architecture, she started to photograph in the theatre, dance and performance art field. She had a series of works published and exhibited such as *Storia di un soldato* (1979), *Ritratti senza posa* (1985), *Neon collection / Neon installation* (1982-2017), *Flying Music* (2008), *Danza Dentro-Danza Oltre* (1998-2004), *Körper und Raum* (1999-2001), *In cammino, al bordo* (2007).

She participated in the 54th Venice Biennale in the Italian Pavilion (2011), in the exhibition *Luce* (Parma, 2015), contributed to the publication and exhibition *Parlando con voi, incontri con fotografe italiane* (2013). In 2017 she produced a video installation called *Vuoto con memoria*.

She collaborated with Salzburg and Ravenna Festivals and documented Riccardo Muti's career since 1978 and the history of La Scala Philharmonic Orchestra since 1981.

Silvia Lelli was included in *Storia d'Italia Einaudi – L'immagine fotografica 1945-2000*.

**Lelli e Masotti.** Internationally recognized photographers of theatre and the arts, Silvia Lelli and Roberto Masotti joined forces to form *Lelli e Masotti* when they began collaborating with Teatro alla Scala in 1979. They developed an aptitude for the stage and have used video as a means of multidisciplinary expression on several occasions with works devoted to nature, the landscape and theaters of Italy, orchestra conductors, John Cage and the piano. Their vast archive is an inexhaustible source of images for the publishing and recording industries.

In their work they have explored the performing arts and in particular music, producing photographs presented in exhibitions, installations and publications, participating in several international exhibitions including: *The Artist's Eye* at the Lewis Glucksman Gallery in Cork, Ireland; *Think of your ears as eyes* at Ara Art Center in Seoul, Korea; *ECM, a Cultural Archaeology* at the Haus der Kunst in Munich, Germany; *Venice's Biennale Internazionale d'Arte*; *The Freedom Principle: Experiments in Art and Music, 1965 to Now* at the MCA Chicago; *Claudio Abbado, fare musica insieme*, Teatro dell'Opera, Florence; and *Luce, scienza-cinema-arte* in Parma. Among their noteworthy shows *La vertigine del teatro* and *Musiche* promoted by the Italian Cultural Centers in Paris and Madrid, and their *Lectio magistralis* held at Milan's Triennale.

In 2019 their works have been exhibited at Palazzo Reale in Milan with the double exhibition *Musiche* and *Bianco Nero Piano Forte* and at *Palazzo delle Esposizioni* in Rome with the exhibition *Il corpo della voce*.

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May 26<sup>th</sup> – July 25<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Opening hours:** Tuesday – Saturday, 3 – 7pm  
Other days and hours by appointment  
Free entry

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