

29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery

is pleased to present the solo exhibition of

Gian Paolo Barbieri

POLAROIDS AND MORE

Curated by Giovanni Pelloso

10 May - 27 July 2019



© Gian Paolo Barbieri, Lynn Coester, Milano 1991 - Polaroid Type 55 Positive. Courtesy of 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery

From May 10th to July 27th 2019, 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery in Milan (Via San Vittore 13) will host the exhibition “Polaroids and more” by renowned fashion photographer Gian Paolo Barbieri, 2018 Lucie Awards Honoree for Outstanding Achievement in Fashion. Curated by Giovanni Pelloso, this special exhibition traces Gian Paolo Barbieri’s use of instant photography and comprises more than 120 Polaroid photographs never exhibited before and taken in the last 30 years.

A first series of portraits and figure studies depict the world of fashion and its protagonists, an exciting and insightful behind-the-scenes work.

According to Barbieri, fashion photography has to reflect a scene, a performance, theatre, as close to reality as it might be.

It has to channel beauty, metaphor, reality. Standing right at the centre of that scene is a woman, often animated by a playful, irreverent irony. A woman who is able to convey an upsetting deal of ambiguity and mystery, which on the other hand spare her a miserable reduction to object.

Pictured as she is, this woman is no myth. It's a "real" picture and reflects Barbieri's own great belief: women's real essence is a secret, strongly aiming to remain secret.

This view explains Barbieri's admiration for Women's everlasting yet ever-changing beauty, but also his awareness of how rich and full of infinite metamorphosis the female personality is.

Barbieri's shots are stunning and magic, dreamlike and playful, ironic and theatrical. Seducing shots. The plain surface of the picture turns into a "seducing object", an exciting invitation to imagine and fantasise. A whole territory full of mysteries, ready for the eye to explore, and discover.

Viewers can peek behind the lens to see the making of fashion photography in Gian Paolo Barbieri work able to describe the most human side of his subjects, be they iconic top models or Polynesian natives. A second body of works is indeed dedicated to indigenous people in their natural environment, to captivating nudes often conceived as preparatory works, and to flowers, the great passion of the artist.

Sixty years before smartphones and Instagram, Gian Paolo Barbieri was using his Polaroid camera to capture on-the-spot impressions from life that he could later incorporate into his art.

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.

Another great preview will be a selection of **new works** inspired by the work of **William Shakespeare**, which Barbieri has been working on for about three years, in the fourth centenary of his death: «As I've always liked to do - Barbieri says - drawing on the past and looking to the future».

Gian Paolo Barbieri (Milano, 1938) - Biography.

Gian Paolo Barbieri was born in 1938 in via Mazzini, in the very centre of Milan, to a family of fabric wholesalers. It was in his father's fabric warehouse that he learned the skills that were to be so invaluable to him in his career as a fashion photographer.

He quickly moves his first steps in the theatrical field becoming an actor, operator and costume designer. 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.

Seizing a chance to go to Rome at the height of the Dolce Vita, he earned his keep by photographing up-and-coming starlets, but not for long before he then moved to Paris, where he met the Harper's Bazaar photographer Tom Kublin, whose assistant he became for a short but intense period.

In 1964, he opened his own studio in Milan and started working in fashion, making sample books and succeeding in getting his photography work published in Novità, the magazine that subsequently became Vogue Italia in 1966.

From that time on, he started working with the publisher Condé Nast, with his work also featuring in Vogue Paris, Vogue America and Vogue Germany.

In 1968, he won the Biancamano Award for best Italian photographer, while the German weekly magazine Stern included him in its listing of the world's fourteen best international fashion photographers.

In the meantime, he also started working on advertising campaigns for such major brands as Yves Saint Laurent, Chanel, Dolce & Gabbana, Mikimoto and many others, managing to transform what he portrayed into ideal images, with continuous references to the silver screen of the thirties and forties.

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.

A fundamental milestone in his career came from his experience with Vogue Italia and the great Italian fashion designers, including Valentino, Versace, Ferré and Armani, whose creations he interpreted in the eighties, years when Italian prêt-à-porter and Made in Italy set out and conquered the world.

The work of Gian Paolo Barbieri has been displayed in major international museums worldwide, including: the Victoria & Albert Museum and 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 collections, including The Nicola Erni Collection in Switzerland.
Gian Paolo Barbieri is the 2018 recipient of the distinguished Lucie Award for Outstanding Achievement in Fashion.

About 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery

29 ARTS IN PROGRESS is a leading photography gallery located in the historic area of Sant'Ambrogio, Milan. The gallery represents the work of internationally renowned photographers and organises between five and six exhibitions a year. Alongside contemporary and modern masters, the gallery represents a select group of emerging photographers. Its annual exhibition Unpublished Photo searches for talented as yet undiscovered artists. Since its inception, the gallery has curated exhibitions in partnership with public and private museums including: Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow; Erarta Museum of Contemporary Art, Saint Petersburg; and Palazzo Reale and La Triennale in Milan.

POLAROIDS AND MORE

Gian Paolo Barbieri

29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery - Via San Vittore 13, Milan

May 10th - July 27th 2019

Opening: Thursday 9th May 2019, from 7 pm

Opening hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 11am - 7pm
Other days and hours by appointment

Free entry

Contact details: tel. +39 02 94387188
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Press release and images available at www.29artsinprogress.com

29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery

presenta

dal 10 maggio al 27 luglio 2019
la mostra di

Gian Paolo Barbieri

POLAROIDS AND MORE

A cura di Giovanni Pellosso



© Gian Paolo Barbieri, Lynn Coester, Milano 1991 - Polaroid Type 55 Positive. Courtesy of 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery

Dal 10 maggio al 27 luglio 2019, 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery di Milano (Via San Vittore 13) presenta in prima assoluta la più vasta retrospettiva sulla fotografia istantanea di Gian Paolo Barbieri intitolata "Polaroids and more", a pochi mesi dal premio ricevuto ai Lucie Awards 2018 di New York come miglior Fotografo di Moda Internazionale.

La mostra, curata da **Giovanni Pelloso**, riunisce una selezione di **oltre 120 Polaroid inedite** e traccia per la prima volta l'uso della fotografia istantanea di Gian Paolo Barbieri negli ultimi trent'anni; un percorso articolato che abbraccia i ritratti e gli studi di figura, la moda e i suoi protagonisti, svelandone i segreti e i retroscena.

Per quanto aderente alla realtà possa essere, la fotografia di moda per Barbieri è scenario, spettacolo, teatro, bellezza, metafora e realtà.

Al centro di questa scena, animata spesso da una ludica e irriverente ironia, c'è la donna. Non mitizzata, la sua immagine rispecchia la profonda convinzione dell'autore che il mistero dell'universo femminile non debba mai essere completamente rivelato.

In questo atteggiamento vi sono il rispetto e l'ammirazione per l'eterna e, nello stesso tempo, mutevole bellezza, ma anche la consapevolezza della ricchezza della sua personalità e delle sue innumerevoli metamorfosi.

Le immagini risultano fantastiche e magiche, oniriche e ludiche, ironiche e teatrali.

Sono istantanee seducenti. La superficie bidimensionale della stampa fotografica diventa, grazie alla sensibilità del fotografo milanese, un "oggetto di fascino", uno stimolante invito all'immaginazione e alla fantasia, un territorio che cattura lo sguardo e che richiama il lettore a decifrarne i misteri.

Le Polaroid di Gian Paolo Barbieri non solo raccontano il *making of* della fotografia di moda per le più grandi maison di sempre, ma lasciano trasparire sguardi intimistici rivolti a soggetti diversi, dalla più iconica top model all'autoctono polinesiano. Un secondo corpo di opere è dedicato, infatti, agli indigeni colti nel loro habitat naturale, a nudi audaci concepiti spesso come lavori preparatori, e ai fiori, grande passione dell'artista.

Molte di queste piccole icone trasferiscono tenerezza e vulnerabilità, altre, durezza e immediatezza. A differenza delle immagini rigorosamente ideate e concepite in studio e per le quali Barbieri è diventato famoso nel mondo, queste disarmanti fotografie sono contrassegnate dalla spontaneità e dall'invenzione, offrendo nell'insieme un'inedita visione della sua straordinaria carriera.

Un'altra anteprima assoluta in mostra sarà una selezione di **nuovi lavori ispirati all'opera di William Shakespeare**, a cui Barbieri lavora da circa tre anni, nel quarto centenario della sua scomparsa: «Come mi è sempre piaciuto fare - ricorda l'autore - attingo dal passato per guardare al futuro».

Gian Paolo Barbieri (Milano, 1938) - Note biografiche.

Da quasi 60 anni, Gian Paolo Barbieri è uno dei fotografi internazionali più influenti nell'ambito della moda.

Collaborando alla realizzazione delle più grandi campagne pubblicitarie per marchi internazionali come Valentino, Gianni Versace, Gianfranco Ferré, Giorgio Armani, Bulgari, Chanel, Yves Saint Laurent, Dolce & Gabbana, Vivienne Westwood e tanti altri, il lavoro di Barbieri ha riempito, con i suoi scatti iconici e senza tempo, per interi decenni, le pagine di Vogue Italia, Vogue Paris, Vogue America, L'Officiel, GQ e Vanity Fair.

Classificato come uno dei migliori quattordici fotografi di moda dalla rivista Stern, Barbieri è un artista sempre più presente all'interno di prestigiose collezioni museali tra cui il Victoria and Albert Museum e la National Portrait Gallery di Londra, il Kunstforum di Vienna, il MAMM di Mosca e l'Erarta Contemporary Art Museum di S.Pietroburgo, il Musée du quai Branly di Parigi e la Nicola Erni Collection.

Le sue immagini sono state raccolte in molte autorevoli pubblicazioni come *Artificial* (1982), *Gian Paolo Barbieri* (1988), *Tahiti Tattoos* (1989), *Madagascar* (1997), *Equator* (1999), *A History of Fashion* (2001), *Dark Memories* (2013) e *Skin* (2015), *Fiori della mia Vita* (2016).

Nel 2018 Gian Paolo Barbieri ha ricevuto a New York il Lucie Award 2018 come Miglior Fotografo di Moda Internazionale (*Outstanding Achievement in Fashion*).

29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery

29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery è una galleria d'arte contemporanea specializzata in fotografia d'arte, situata nel cuore di Milano, accanto al Museo della Scienza e della Tecnologia Leonardo Da Vinci, nello storico quartiere di Sant'Ambrogio. 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS rappresenta il lavoro di fotografi internazionalmente riconosciuti e organizza tra cinque e sei mostre ogni anno.

La galleria rappresenta inoltre un ristretto gruppo di giovani artisti contemporanei, con una continua attenzione e spiccata sensibilità alle nuove espressioni dell'arte fotografica. Sin dalla sua apertura la galleria ha curato esposizioni in partnership con musei pubblici e privati, tra i quali: The Hong Kong Arts Centre; Multimedia Art Museum, Mosca; Erarta Museum of Contemporary Art di San Pietroburgo; Palazzo Reale e La Triennale di Milano.

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Milano, 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery - Via San Vittore 13

10 maggio - 27 luglio 2019

Inaugurazione: giovedì 9 maggio 2019, dalle ore 19.00

Orari: martedì-sabato, 11.00-19.00.

Altri giorni e orari su appuntamento

Ingresso libero

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