

**LUGANO (SWITZERLAND)  
MUSEC - MUSEO DELLE CULTURE  
14 OCTOBER 2020 - 31 JANUARY 2021**

**UP20  
Unpublished Photo 2020**

The new photographic exhibition at Spazio Maraini in Villa Malpensata presents twenty-four works by six young talents of international contemporary photography. This is the first stage of a new project, which in the coming years will constitute a real archive of contemporary photography in Lugano. MUSEC thus intends to expand and consolidate its vocation towards contemporary photography and the history of photography developed and established since 2005 with the "Esovisioni" series of research and exhibitions.

Unpublished Photo is a project promoted by MUSEC and the Fondazione cultura e musei di Lugano, in collaboration with 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS Gallery in Milan, which has created the prize of the same name. Since 2018 this prize has attracted young photography talents from all over the world.

With the 2020 edition, the MUSEC aims to consolidate the initiative, giving it an institutional framework and a medium-long term development perspective, which, among other things, will lead in 2021 to the restart of the International Prize, after the pause imposed this year by the coronavirus pandemic.

Unpublished Photo intends to point out the main trends in young art photography on an international level, constituting in Lugano a real archive of contemporary photography. This archive will enrich the photographic collections of MUSEC, which already owns collections of 19<sup>th</sup> century photos and of photography of Exoticism.

The project also aims to improve the cultural interaction between Switzerland and Italy, offering an authoritative platform for international collecting. In this way, the discovery and enhancement of new trends and new languages interconnect Lugano and Milan as privileged exhibition showcases of great importance for the emerging talents of international art photography.

The exhibition which opens to the public in Lugano on October 14 presents the winners of the 2018 and 2019 editions of the Unpublished Photo Award in Milan, each of them with a portfolio of four photos.

Iranian photographer **Farnaz Damnabi** presents a series entitled *Playing is in my right*. The poetic reportage set in the villages of the Golestan province highlights the importance of carefree childhood even in the most adverse contexts.

*The Isolated Island* by **Gabriel Guerra Bianchini** (Cuba) was born from the superimposition of two dimensions: on one hand that of the dreamlike, represented by the clouds immortalized during his travels; on the other hand, that of the concreteness of the dreadful daily stories of migration, set on the sea in front of the Wall of Malecon in Havana.

Chinese artist **Jian Luo**'s *Deep Reed* was realised in China between 2006 and 2019 in the Tibet Autonomous Region and in the Tibetan agglomerations of the Sichuan and Quinghai provinces. It documents the traditional religious lifestyle through his interest for crimson red, the colour of Tibetan Buddhism.

The black and white photos by **Gabriele Milani** (Italy) integrate the contemporary phenomenon of aesthetic personalization into classical art: the artist elaborates an alternative version of the past, in which the tattoo is a part of the classical aesthetical canon, overturning the concept of the «ideal beauty» (*Compunctio Aesthetica*).

The subjects of *Irrazionali ma conscianti* [*Irrational yet conscious*] by **Matteo Piacenti** (Italy) belong to the same generation as the artist himself, but live different stories of which the photographer becomes narrator. The pictures, spontaneous and intuitive, are the result of a continuous study, where the subjects stand out from the intentionally restrained black background.

*A trip to South-East Asia* by **Francesco Soave** (Italy) expresses the search for the profound essence of countries such as Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand showing different facets of an ever-eternal day.

UP20 will be accompanied by a series of collateral events for the public, such as conferences and meetings with artists, organised by MUSEC in collaboration with the Società Ticinese di Belle Arti. The programme will be communicated further.

### Photographers' biographies

**Farnaz Damnabi (1994)** - Iranian photographer born in Teheran. After graduating in Graphic Design, she begins a career as a freelancer, which will lead her to enter the National Iranian Photographers' Society (NIPS) as ordinary member. Her participation in international exhibitions earns her numerous awards and acknowledgements. Winner of Unpublished Photo 2019, she lives and works in Teheran.

**Gabriel Guerra Bianchini (1984)** - Cuban photographer hailing from Havana, he was the first artist to hold an open-air exhibition on the most important square of the Cuban capital, that of the cathedral, during the 498th anniversary of the place of worship. A self-taught artist, Gabriel Guerra Bianchini has worked for prestigious international festivals of the visual arts, film and music. Winner of Unpublished Photo 2018, he lives and works in Cuba.

**Jian Luo (1978)** - Chinese photographer hailing from Lialong Province, he begins his activity within the documentary genre working for over a decade as a photojournalist for the press and publishing industries. After leaving China he moves to France, where he begins a new journey characterized by his deep interest for the cultural transformations caused by the increasingly globalizing dynamics of geopolitics. Winner of Unpublished Photo 2019, he currently lives and works between Paris and Beijing.

**Gabriele Milani (1986)** - Italian photographer hailing from Livorno, he studied photography at the IED in Milano. After completing his education, he returns to Livorno attracted by the multifaceted historical and cultural heritage of his city, which he hence makes into a bedrock of his artistic research. In his poetry, antique art blends with the contemporary, forming a union of shapes and patterns that cross centuries. Winner of Unpublished Photo 2018, he lives and works in Livorno.

**Matteo Piacenti (2001)** - Italian photographer hailing from Viterbo, he develops his passion for photography at the young age of ten thanks to his close friendship with a group of local photography amateurs. Most of his work is dedicated to the creation of images that bring out the essential instants, caught in events and in gazes, illustrating human beings and the diverse expressions of their actions with profound spontaneity. Winner of Unpublished Photo 2019, he currently lives in Nepi (VT) and works in nearby Rome.

**Francesco Soave (1988)** - Italian photographer hailing from Verona, he graduates in architecture in Milan and then moves to South America for work, travelling extensively and pursuing his activity as a photographer alongside his career as an architect. A long stay in Chile leads him to shoot his first reportage in the Atacama Desert. From 2017 he continues his photographic journey in South-East Asia. Winner of Unpublished Photo 2018, he lives and works in Thailand.

## General information

### **UP20. UNPUBLISHED PHOTO**

Lugano, MUSEC – Museo delle Culture | Villa Malpensata, Spazio Maraini  
**14 October 2020 – 31 January 2021**

### **Location**

MUSEC - Museo delle Culture, Villa Malpensata, Riva Caccia 5/Via G. Mazzini 5,  
Lugano (Switzerland) – main entrance through the garden.

### **Opening hours**

Daily 11.00 - 18.00. Closed on Tuesday

### **Admission rates**

Adults (16 and older): CHF 15.00

Senior; University students; FAI Swiss: CHF 10.00

Youths (6-15 years): CHF 5.00

Schools: CHF 3.00 (+ 1 teacher gratis)

Groups -10%, Holidaycard and Lugano Card – 20 (Discounts are not cumulative)

Free: children (5 and under), ICOM, VSM-AMS, Swiss Museumpass, Raiffeisen's  
Members, Swiss Travel Pass

Guided Tours: CHF 150.00 (CHF 120.00 for schools)

### **Information**

Tel. +41(0)58 866 69 60 ; info@musec.ch

### **Website**

[www.musec.ch](http://www.musec.ch)

### **Social media**

Facebook @MuseoCultureLugano

Instagram @museoculturelugano

### **Press Office**

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Farnaz Damnabi, *Playing is my right, n. 2*, 2018.  
© Farnaz Damnabi, Courtesy MUSEC / 29 ARTS IN  
PROGRESS Gallery



Farnaz Damnabi, *Playing is my right, n. 5*, 2018.  
© Farnaz Damnabi, Courtesy MUSEC / 29 ARTS IN  
PROGRESS Gallery



Gabriel Guerra Bianchini, *The Capitol*, 2016.  
© Gabriel Guerra Bianchini, Courtesy MUSEC / 29  
ARTS IN PROGRESS Gallery



Gabriel Guerra Bianchini, *The Glass Island*, 2018.  
© Gabriel Guerra Bianchini Courtesy MUSEC / 29 ARTS  
IN PROGRESS Gallery



Jian Luo, *The Maiden Nun*, 2018.  
© Jian Luo, Courtesy MUSEC / 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS  
Gallery



Jian Luo, *Pilgrimage*, 2019  
© Jian Luo, Courtesy MUSEC / 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS  
Gallery

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Gabriele Milani, *Quattro Mori, Tacca, 1623-1626 #2*, 2015.

© Gabriele Milani, Courtesy MUSEC / 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS Gallery



Gabriele Milani, *Sileno con Dioniso bambino, copia Romana II sec. a.C.*, 2018.

© Gabriele Milani, Courtesy MUSEC / 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS Gallery



Matteo Piacenti, *Senza Titolo #1*, 2018.

© Matteo Piacenti Courtesy MUSEC / 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS Gallery



Matteo Piacenti, *Senza Titolo #3*, 2020.

© Matteo Piacenti Courtesy MUSEC / 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS Gallery



Francesco Soave, *Escape from Trash Island #1*, 2019.

© Francesco Soave, Courtesy MUSEC / 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS Gallery



Francesco Soave, *Flying Kids*, 2017.

© Francesco Soave, Courtesy MUSEC / 29 ARTS IN PROGRESS Gallery