

Galleria del Cembalo

Pentti Sammallahti
Qui, altrove

Alessandro Imbriaco
Il giardino

Two different views of the nature in the new exhibitions presented by the Galleria del Cembalo

The Galleria del Cembalo, the new space dedicated to photography opened by Paola Stacchini Cavazza and Mario Peliti in the ancient heart of Rome, presents its new exhibitions.

Qui, altrove, a major retrospective dedicated to the Finnish master Pentti Sammallahti, and *Il giardino*, photographic project by the Italian Alessandro Imbriaco who won the 2012 edition of the European Publishers Award for Photography, are the two autumn appointments of the exhibition space opened last May in Palazzo Borghese.

Two views which differ for origin, culture and generation that offer a different approach to nature and on the relationship it has with us.

Qui, altrove brings for the first time in Italy a complete and organic retrospective of the art of an internationally recognized master, an observer of nature who is capable of unifying in his shots the extreme accuracy of the composition with the music of uncertainty.

Il giardino, outcome of a long-term study of temporary settlements in the city outskirts, describes a borderline experience of discomfort which gives birth to a completely unique relationship between people and nature. The two exhibitions represent the first set of appointments of the 2013-2014 calendar, which will be rich in meetings with authors, book presentations, conferences and seminars: a string of initiatives aimed to give photography a new home which can reunite people, other arts and the city.

October 17th / December 8th, 2013
From Tuesday to Friday 4 pm – 7.30 pm
Saturday 10.30 am – 1 pm and 4 pm – 7.30 pm

Paola Stacchini Cavazza has undertaken scientific studies, graduating in Physics at the University of Rome 'La Sapienza'. Between 1989 and 1992 she completed her doctoral studies at the University of Rome 'La Sapienza' University, Faculty of Engineering. Since 1992 she is Councillor of the Associazione Dimore Storiche – Sezione Lazio.

Mario Peliti, with a background as architect, founded in 1986, with his sister Francesca, 'Peliti Associati', a publishing house specialized in art photography which over the years has expanded its area of expertise becoming also a public relations agency. He created the European Publishers Award for Photography, an example of collaboration between independent publishers from different countries, which in 2013 celebrates the twentieth edition. He is the only western publisher to have commissioned a book to Helmut Newton. From 1995 to 2003 he directed the Galleria Minima Peliti Associati, an area of only twenty-three square meters, which for several years has been 'the place' of photography in Rome.

Qui, altrove

The great Finnish photographer Pentti Sammallahti in a retrospective at the Galleria del Cembalo, the new exhibition space in the ancient heart of Rome

Animals, people, nature and countries: for the first time in Italy a complete retrospective on the work of a genius of photography

The work of the great Finnish photographer Pentti Sammallahti will be the essence of the first autumn season of Galleria del Cembalo, the new exhibition space opened in May by initiative of Paola Stacchini Cavazza and Mario Peliti inside Palazzo Borghese, in the ancient heart of Rome.

Open till December 8th, *Qui, altrove* – this is the title of Sammallahti's anthology – will be set up in four of the five frescoed rooms of Galleria del Cembalo, thus occupying most of the 350-square-meters of the rich and historical location, which aims to become the point of excellency for photographic exhibitions and, overall, a key reference among the exhibition halls of the city.

Appreciated for decades at international level and exhibited for the first time in Italy in a such vast and organic way, the photographs exposed in the retrospective are the result of Pentti Sammallahti's forty years of work in forty different countries, a work whose aim is to show with simplicity and accuracy the joys and the mysteries of the world.

Defined, among other things, as "the photographic music of an animal lover" Sammallahti's work surprises and fascinates for the amazing ability to blend the extreme accuracy of the composition with the inscrutable laws of fate.

Animals, people, landscapes, glimpses of nature and cities that all add up to a visual symphony capable of grasping, with a black and white crisp narrative power, true unique moments described with intensity, irony, sometimes even comedy.

There are more than 150 works of various sizes (from 9x12 to 60x90 cm) on display at the Galleria del Cembalo and they constitute a broad overview of the work of one of the protagonists of contemporary photography: photos that show with conviction and genius how describing nature is, each time, also an opportunity of describing ourselves.

Qui, altrove will also be the occasion to present the book of the same name published by Peliti Associati: the only retrospective volume of Pentti Sammallahti's work, cured in every detail by the very photographer, whose value is recognized in all countries in which it was published – France, Spain, United Kingdom, Germany and Finland.

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Pentti Sammallahti was born in Helsinki in 1950 from a family of artisans. His grandmother, Hildur Larsson, is a Swedish born photographer. At the age of eleven, Pentti took his first photographs and made small contact prints under the guidance of his father. At thirteen, through a school club, he enrolled in the Association of photography, built an enlarger and began photographing Helsinki. In 1964 he joined the Helsinki Camera Club. In 1971 he held his first solo exhibition. In 1973 he refused military service and began civil service in the laboratory of glass fiber vessels in a prison. He then photographed other prisons for the Ministry of Justice. In 1974 he participated in the *Mullasta taivalle* exhibition organized at the Finnish Museum of Photography. He began teaching photography at the Lahti Art Institute (until 1976) and at the University of Art and Design. In 1975 he was awarded the State award for photographic art (which he will receive also in 1979, 1992 and 2009). In 1977 he held his first solo exhibition abroad. In 1979 he completed his first portfolio, *Cathleen Ni Houlihan*, which he accompanied with a traveling exhibition in many cities. The portfolio inaugurated a series of *Opus*, which now includes about fifty publications. In 1980 he received the annual award of the Finnish Association of Critics and began to experiment with new techniques for photographic reproduction and ink printing. In 1984 he began to teach printing techniques at the photography department of the University of Art and Design. In 1991 the Finnish State assigned him a 15-year-grant reserved for artists and he stopped his teaching activity. Following the solo exhibition organized in Paris in 1996 during the *Mois de la Photographie*, he regularly began to participate in exhibitions all over the world. In 2001 the University of Art and Design awarded him an honorary degree. In 2004 he took part in the inaugural exhibition of the Henri Cartier-Bresson Foundation in Paris, for which the French photographer personally chose his favourite hundred photos. In 2010, the Finnish Museum of Photography dedicated him a retrospective exhibition.

Il giardino

Alessandro Imbriaco's photographic project which has won the 2012 edition of the European Publishers Award for Photography is on display at the Galleria del Cembalo, the new exhibition space for photography in the centre of Rome

Il giardino, Alessandro Imbriaco's photographic project will be exposed starting from October 17th in the Galleria del Cembalo, the 350-square-meters exhibition space, together with the retrospective dedicated to the great Finnish photographer Pentti Sammallahti, with whom he shares the focus on the relationship between man and nature.

The project of Alexander Imbriaco, the fifth Italian to receive an award in the nineteen editions of the European Publishers Award for Photography, comes from a series on which the photographer has worked for several years studying the temporary living situations of immigrants, and in general of the poor, in the margins of the Italian cities.

During his exploration, Imbriaco met a six-year-old girl, born and raised in the swamp of the river Aniene, who lived with her parents under a busy overpass in the outskirts of Rome.

Il giardino describes this story, it gives a face to hidden lives that seem to recall, at the borders of the city, the life of the First Family, that of Adam and Eve after the expulsion from Paradise.

In the spaces photographed by Imbriaco there are conditions of extreme hardship and a proximity and a communion with nature that is exceptionally distant to the ordinary experience of the city.

The exhibition dedicated to *Il giardino*, which will run until December 8th, will be the occasion to present also the book of the same name, published in Italy by Peliti Associati and published simultaneously in Spain, Germany, France and the UK, as done for each winning project of the important international award.

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Alessandro Imbriaco was born in Salerno in 1980. After taking a degree in engineering, in 2004 he moved to Rome where he now lives and works. In 2007 his work was selected for the Atlas Italian award. In 2008 he won the Canon award with the project *Occupare spazi interni*. In the same year he took part in the Reflexions Masterclass edited by Giorgia Fiorio and Gabriel Bauret. In 2010 he won second place in the *Contemporary Issues Stories* section in the World Press Photo with his work *Casilino 900*. His works were selected for the PHE Ojo de Pez and for 2010 the Lumix Award. In 2011 his photographic project *Il giardino* won the Pesavento award. His works were also selected for the Talent of Foam. In the same year he was selected for the Joop Swart Masterclass of the World Press Photo. In 2012 *Corpi di reato*, with Tommaso Bonaventura and Fabio Severo, wins the Ponchielli award. In the same year, with *Il giardino*, he receives the European Publishers Award for Photography.

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La Galleria del Cembalo: description and history

In the wing of Palazzo Borghese that stretches towards the river Tiber giving to the building the unusual shape of a cymbal, on the ground floor, there is a gallery which consists of five adjoining rooms, with fresco ceilings, overlooking the nymphaeum. From the entrance of the building on Largo della Fontanella di Borghese, the view of the magnificent fountains made by Rainaldi and of the hedges encourages to uncover the peace of the garden and leads to the entrance of the gallery.

A staircase leads to the spacious rooms, all with very high ceilings and a rich golden cornice that frame the painted walls, which immediately recall the “Grand Tour” era, during which the same rooms hosted visitors from all over Europe.

During that period, around 1770, Marcantonio IV Borghese, who was the head of the household and was very ambitious and wealthy, wanted to regain the importance and fame that the Borghese family had during the time of Paul V and his nephew Cardinal Scipione. In less than a hundred years, the Borghese family became one of the most important families of the Roman aristocracy and the rooms of the ground floor overlooking the garden became a mandatory place to visit for travellers, who were welcomed in the gallery to admire the art collection, the sculptures and the paintings. The decoration of the rooms was done between 1767 and 1775 and, at the time, as it was commissioned to the most appreciated artists, it represented one of the most important decorative works of Rome in the late eighteenth.

In the first room, on the ceiling there is Francesco Caccianiga’s painting *Aurora*, which was a common theme in the aristocratic buildings, which depicts the goddess while spreading flowers in the first light of day; moving on to the princess’ antechamber, there are neoclassical decorations done by Laurent Pécheux, in which in the centre there is *Le nozze tra Cupido e Psiche* (1774) and on the side panels wedding scenes with Jupiter, Mercury and the four elements.

On Piazza Borghese’s side there is the room that once served as prince Marcantonio IV’s antechamber that hosts Ermenegildo Costantini and Pietro Rotati’s painting *Ebe rapita dal Tempo* (1769-70). From this room you then enter the Audience Hall, the largest and most outstanding room of the gallery, whose vault is decorated with Ermenegildo Costantini’s painting *Il Trionfo dei Borghese e delle Arti* (1773-74), which has been addressed by critiques as “the final rumble of the Roman Baroque”. The family emblem is depicted as if it were in Heaven crowned in a triumph of *putti* amongst the Arts - sculpture, architecture, painting and music - and the Sciences, depicted by the side with a magnificence of colours and gold decorations.

In the last room, which points towards north, there is the *Riconciliazione di Venere e Minerva* painted by Pietro Angeletti (1773-1775) surrounded by monochrome panels depicting scenes from the Trojan War.