

Galleria del Cembalo

ROME

in exhibition at the Galleria del Cembalo
from January 24th to March 15th 2014

Doppio gioco

Photographs of Giovanni Gastel and Toni Thorimbert

Curated by Giovanna Calvenzi

The exhibition presents the artwork of two great exponents of Italian contemporary photography capable of mixing the fashion language with their own personal researches.

*“Life is eternal movement, photography is eternal stillness.
In this immense difference is its magnificence
e its destiny as creator of icons and of unreal, and almost magical, frames.”*

Giovanni Gastel

*“Photography is my muse: it seduces me
because it can embrace my interior world, my desires
transforming them in images.”*

Toni Thorimbert

From January 24th to March 15th 2014, the Galleria del Cembalo in Rome (Largo della Fontanella Borghese, 19) hosts the exhibition *Doppio gioco (Double game)*. Photographs of Giovanni Gastel and Toni Thorimbert, curated by Giovanna Calvenzi.

Inside the space dedicated to photography, inaugurated in 2013 in the heart of Rome at Palazzo Borghese upon initiative of Paola Stacchini Cavazza and Mario Peliti, the exhibition presents 52 artworks of two important exponents of the Italian contemporary photography.

Opening simultaneously with the start of the high fashion Roman shows, the exposition offers a dialogue made of cross references and recalls between the experiences of the two authors capable of mixing the fashion language with personal ideas and their researches in other photography areas. Gastel and Thorimbert surely represent two different personalities, for personal experiences and for the way of conceiving photography, which have in common accuracy, passion, mutual respect, friendship and who belong to the same generation.

The exhibition is organised in collaboration with Peliti Associati.

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This is what Giovanna Calvenzi writes in the introduction to the exhibition:

“Doppio gioco” (Double game): an adjective and a noun. If you analyse each word separately they have a very precise meaning but if you put them aside the analysis becomes less certain, almost ambiguous. At a first glance, it suggests a wilful deception or, in a broad sense, a game played by two. Both solutions apply perfectly to the way in which Giovanni Gastel and Toni Thorimbert conceived the exhibition’s visual proposal. At a distance, they played a game of two, reflecting upon each other’s portfolio and photographic experiences carried out and nurtured during the years. They secretly realized a double game by using the fashion’s world to create creative exercises that find their origin in other areas. Specifically they borrowed and blended languages and grammars and they inflected the genre’s syntax, in an improper and inappropriate way. They used cross references, fusion, irony and appeal.

They kept themselves on the verge of the allowable, contaminating the possible with the impossible, good taste with bad one, classicism with the baroque. In an exercise in which the borders are not the extreme limit but the starting point and the beginning of a new creative process, they aimed to transform their work in game, achieving their goal. In a double, shared game.

Biographies

Giovanni Gastel was born in Milan on the 27th December 1955 from Giuseppe Gastel and Ida Visconti of Modrone and was the last of seven children.

In the Seventies, he came in contact with photography for the first time. Since that moment, he started a long period of apprenticeship, until in 1975-76 he was offered the big opportunity of working with the auction house Christie’s.

The turning point was in 1981 when he met Carla Ghiglieri, who will become his agent and will introduce him to the fashion world. After the printing of his first still-life on the magazine *Annabella* in 1982, he started collaborating with *Vogue Italia* and, later on, with the magazines *Mondo Uomo* and *Donna*, thanks to the encounter with Flavio Lucchini, director of Edimoda, and Gisella Borioli. His high commitment with the photography world put him in contact with the Italian Association of Professional Photographers, of which he was President from 1996 to 1998. His artistic consecration arrived in 1997 when the *Triennale di Milano* dedicated him a solo exhibition, curated by the contemporary art historian Germano Celant.

His professional success consolidated itself in the following decade and his name appeared in specialized magazines together with major Italian photographers, such as Oliviero Toscano, Gian Paolo Barbieri, Ferdinando Scianna or by the side of Helmut Newton, Richard Avedon, Annie Leibovitz, Mario Testino and Juergen Teller.

In 2002 during the *La Kore Oscar della Moda* event, he received the Oscar for Photography. He currently is the president of the Italian Association of Professional Photographers and a permanent member of the Polaroid Museum of Chicago.

Toni Thorimbert (Losanna, 1957) started to shoot when he was very young, documenting the social and political tensions of the Seventies.

During the Eighties his close collaboration with magazines, such as *Max*, *Sette* and *Amica*, is essential for the definition of the period’s visual standard.

Being a reporter, portraitist and fashion photographer, capable of continuously reinventing his relationship with photography often forestalling trends, he holds many workshops on photography language and he was the critique curator of the exhibition *Immagini dal mondo interno*, a collective whose theme regarded feelings and human relationships in which eleven European photographers used photography as an active part of a process of self-analysis process and awareness of oneself. The exhibition was an event belonging to the *Rencontres Internationales de Photographie D’Arles 1998*.

Following the same theme, in 2000, the volume *Transfert*, edited by Baldini&Castoldi, was published as an anthology dedicated the most personal work of the artist. Since that moment he continued to collaborate with international magazines such as *Details*, *Mademoiselle*, *Wallpaper*, and Italian ones, such as *GQ*, *Rolling Stone*, *Sportweek*, *Io Donna*, *Style*, and to produce prestigious ad campaigns. In 2006 Nepente Editore published *Carta Stampata*, a prestigious volume that gathers thirty years of fashion and portrait photography, while in 2012 he published *Tabularasa*, a book on Vasco Rossi’s life made with Efrem Raimondi and edited by Mondadori.

His work has been the subject of many solo exhibitions and collectives both in Italy and abroad. His photographs were acquired by the *Collezione Fotografica della Città di Parigi* and from several museums and organisations in Italy and abroad.

Rome, January 2014

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DOPPIO GIOCO. Photographs of Giovanni Gastel and Toni Thorimbert

Rome, Galleria del Cembalo

Largo di Fontanella Borghese, 19

January 24th – March 15th 2014

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Opening hours

Tuesday to Friday: from 4 pm to 7.30 pm (in the mornings upon appointment)

Saturday: from 10.30 am to 1 pm and from 4 pm to 7.30 pm

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Toni Thorimbert
Portrait of Giovanni Gastel, 1985



Giovanni Gastel
Portrait of Toni Thorimbert, 1987

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Giovanni Gastel
VOGUE ESPANA (Lynne), 1990



Giovanni Gastel
Untitled (Gina), 1992

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Toni Thorimbert
Portogallo, 1994



Toni Thorimbert
Lanzarote, 2009