

# Dialoghi

## Joan Fontcuberta and Paolo Gioli

Curated by Joan Fontcuberta  
With a text by di Roberta Valtorta.

25 October 2019 – 18 January 2020  
Galleria del Cembalo – Palazzo Borghese, Rome

Galleria del Cembalo is proud to present “Dialoghi – Joan Fontcuberta and Paolo Gioli”, that will be open from October 25th, 2019 until January 18th, 2020.

*For the first time their artworks will be showcased together.*

Paolo Gioli (Sarzano, Rovigo, 1942) and Joan Fontcuberta (Barcelona, 1955) have always shared an experimental approach towards the research on Nature and photographic images.

Adopting different procedures and techniques, the artists put in discussion the conventional photography’ schemes, developing an approach that leads them to create artworks whose content and aesthetic are intellectually deep and innovative.

In this occasion – as tribute for Paolo Gioli – Joan Fontcuberta, who is artist and curator of the exhibition itself, establishes boundaries between their creative processes, in order to make the observers read an inspiring dialogue between the two artists.

The entire exhibition, developed in three large rooms of the Gallery, is conceived with the aim of allowing the visitor to compare the artworks for similar contents, methods and, sometimes, similar subjects.

In the first room the visitor is welcomed by Fontcuberta’s homage to the masterpieces “View from a window” by Nicéphore Niépce (1816) and “L’origine du Monde” by Gustave Coubert (1866), which have been revisited by the Catalan photographer through the digital tool “Googlegram”.

Always referring to Niépce , Paolo Gioli’s polaroids of the Le Gras’ “window” transferred on drawing paper are showcased alongside three *Autoanatomie* whose analogue content was inspired by Courbet.

The exhibition continues in the other room, always playing the game of references between the artists, with a selection of artworks from the series of Herbarium, Trauma, Deletrix by Joan Fontcuberta put in relations with Lastre, Xsconosciuti and Vessazioni by Gioli.

All these pictures are characterized by the same attention to flora and fauna elements, using and revitalizing former photographs and to the theme of deletion and self- portrait. During the visit it is possible also to watch some videos of the artists.

**Joan Fontcuberta** (1955) is born in Barcelona. After his Communication Science degree (Autonomous University of Barcelona), the artist worked in the Marketing and Journalism fields and as university professor at the Fine Art Academy. From 1974 Fontcuberta is developing a personal creative language, alongside an intense critic, theoretical and curatorial spirit.

His production and his theoretical approach are focused on several themes such as representation, knowledge, memory, science, authenticity, ambiguity and trompe-l’oeil, exploring documentary and narrative aspects of the photographic image among others things .

Many of his publications have been awarded with international appreciations, among them: Herbarium (1985), Fauna (1988), Sputnik (1997). Recently the author also published “Landscape without Memory” (2005), “Googlegrams” (2005), “Through the Looking Glass” (2010), “Pandora’s Camera” (2010) and “The Fury of the Images” (2016), questioning the themes of Photography intersections and digital

images. Fontcuberta has been author and contributor of several volumes, regarding history, aesthetic and pedagogy of Photography.

Many exhibitions have been dedicated to this artist: to mention the most recent, Hasselblad Center (Göteborg, 2013), Maison Européenne de la Photographie (Paris, 2014), Science Museum, (London, 2014), Cosmocaixa (Barcelona, 2015), Museum Angewandte Kunst (Frankfurt, 2015), Canal de Isabel II (Madrid, 2015), Museo Universidad de Navarra (Pamplona, 2016), Museo Banco de la República (Bogotá, 2016). His artworks are present in important collection such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art (NY), San Francisco MoMA, Museum of Fine Arts (Houston), LACMA (L.A.), Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Center for Creative Photography (Tucson), International Museum of Photography at the George Eastman House (Rochester), National Gallery of Art (Ottawa), Folkwang Museum (Essen), Musée National d'Art Contemporain – Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris), Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam), MACBA (Barcelona), MNCARS (Madrid).

**Paolo Gioli** (1942) is born in Sarzano, Rovigo. During the sixties Gioli attended the Fine Art Academy of Venice, following his training as painter.

In 1967 he got a scholarship by the John Cabot Foundation and moved for one year to New York where he met Leo Castelli and Martha Jackson. During his staying in U.S.A., the artist started to get more interested on Photography but unfortunately – when his VISA expired – he didn't be able to remain there because of the restrictive laws emended after Martin Luther King and John Fitzgerald Kennedy's murders. For this reason, in 1970 he moved to Rome and attended the Cooperativa Cinema Indipendente.

Gioli presented his first films – which were produced between Rovigo and Rome – at FilmStudio, developing and printing by himself the films, inspired by the Lumière Cinema.

In the same period he realized his first photographs, using the pinhole technique. In 1967 he moved to Milan, where he dedicated himself not only to the Cinema but even to the Photography; especially in Polaroids Gioli found a surprisingly versatile and precious tool, which he used to go ahead with his research. In 1977 he is the first one that experiments transferring processes between polaroid emulsion and different media such as drawing paper, canvas, silk and wood, amplifying the possibilities of instantaneous photography and combining photography with painting.

From the early 80', Gioli has been awarded with several prestigious recognitions as well as his solo shows at Istituto Nazionale per la Grafica di Roma (1981) and at the Centre Pompidou in Paris (1983). He has been invited many times to Rencontres International de la Photographie in Arles, where they dedicated to him a retrospective exhibition at Musée Réattu (1987). In 1984 he has been featured on the front cover of AIPAD catalogue, the International Art Fair of the Photography Art Dealers.

During the 1990s, his artworks has been showcased in many international exhibitions: in 1996 he had an important retrospective at Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome plus, at that time, he often exhibited at Galérie Michèle Chomette in Paris and at the Museo per la Fotografia Contemporanea in Cinisello Balsamo.

After more than forty years, Gioli took part to the main cinematographic festivals – focused on experimental cinema – in New York, Toronto and Hong Kong.

In 2006 RaroVideo published, as a special edition(?), a doubled DVD with a selection of fourteen films by him. In 2007 Gioli was invited as artist on focus at HKIFF. In 2008 a brand new selection of his movies has been presented at Ontario Cinémathèque in Toronto.

In June 2009 the Pesaro Festival has dedicated to him a complete review of his films; during the same year, the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Rome published a monography focused on his work as filmmaker.

In 2015 Paolo Gioli was selected by Vincenzo Trione for the Italia Pavilion at the Biennale d'Arte Contemporanea in Venice. The artist is currently living and working in Lendinara (Rovigo, Italy).