

# PENISOLA

Spazio Punch  
presents

## **PENISOLA**

Patronage, legacy, research in publishing and photography

May 20 — August 1, 2021

On its tenth anniversary, Spazio Punch is organizing an exhibition dedicated to photography and publishing, two disciplines at the forefront of its interests and research.

The exhibition presents seven publishing projects involving Italian photographers, produced last year despite the uncertain times.

The works selected involve authors with different backgrounds and styles — the historically acclaimed **Mario Cresci** and **Paolo Roversi**, the amateur photographer **Alberto di Lenardo** and the artists **Mattia Balsamini**, **Jacopo Benassi**, **Francesca Gardini** and **Giovanna Silva** — supported by publishers that touch different areas of publishing, namely the long-standing **Rizzoli**, the independent publishing houses **bruno**, **Humboldt Books**, **Mack** and **Yard Press**, the magazine **Alla Carta** and the online platform **Cortona on the Move**.

These works narrate the history of Italy in business and industry, in family and daily life.

The exhibition features Paolo Roversi's project *Time, Light, Space* (Rizzoli, 2020), a photographic volume that celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of Poliform, the historic Italian furniture company.

For the occasion, Roversi has ventured into object portraits to create an overview of the company's collections and its innovations in the field of furniture design.

Italy's much-lauded creative ingenuity is the subject of *Togliatti. La fabbrica della Fiat* (Humboldt Books, 2020), written by Claudio Giunta and with photographs by Giovanna Silva. The book traces Fiat's journey fifty years ago to construct a model factory. Workers and technicians were sent from Turin to the USSR to establish a car manufacturing plant twice the size of Mirafiori in a town on the Volga River renamed for the Italian politician Togliatti.

The theme of industrial Italy is also in *Contingency Plans* (2020), a photographic essay by Mattia Balsamini funded by the visual narrative festival Cortona on the Move. The project focuses on factories across Italy that promptly converted or adapted their production capabilities in response to the pandemic crisis. With access to emergency manufacturing, the photographer bore witness to how production lines were repurposed to produce strategic, lifesaving goods.

The study of the medium of photography and the social reality of the peninsula continues with *Misurazioni. Fotografia e territorio - Oggetti, segni e analogie fotografiche in Basilicata* (2021) by Mario Cresci. The volume, first published in 1978, documents one of the first interventions in popular culture in Southern Italy. Conceived as a book-instrument, the publication is structured as a complex itinerary that moves between signs, the study of form and ethnographic immersion to find analogies between the objects of the region's rural and urban traditions.

This new edition of the book, redesigned by the artist with Yard Press, draws renewed attention to a milestone in Italian photography. Spazio Punch will feature a new work by Cresci that echoes the symbolism of *Misurazioni* to suggest a temporal link between his past inquiry and eventual future developments.

### **Spazio Punch**

Giudecca 800/o  
Venezia

t 348 8909065  
info@spaziopunch.com  
www.spaziopunch.com

Fermata vaporetto  
Giudecca Palanca

Another link between past and future occurs in *An Attic Full of Trains* (Mack, 2020). Carlotta di Lenardo has curated the photographic archive left by her grandfather Alberto di Lenardo (1930–2018), an amateur photographer. The collection comprises some 8,000 photographs shot in his spare time over the course of fifty years in Italy and around the world. The publication represents a monumental body of work, evocative of some of the most renowned artists in the history of Italian photography.

Research into the national editorial and photographic scene also extends to the magazine format, including *Alla Carta*. In 2020, two bi-annual issues were published, both with a distinctive Italian mood (*Arlecchino* and *Pinocchio*). The editorial staff commissioned several photographers to create different portraits of reality; among them was Francesca Gardini. On display here are the photographs from her project *Facce*, in which she portrays in the foreground a group of teenagers, witnesses of a new future.

Finally, for the occasion of the exhibition, Jacopo Benassi presents *An/architecture in Venice*, a bichromatic photographic exploration of the island of Giudecca – the industrial and manufacturing heart of Venice as well as the area in which Spazio Punch is located. In his shots, Benassi deconstructed Sacca Fisola, the working-class neighborhood of Giudecca, extracting, almost literally, some portions of the buildings' walls and then reconstructing them in the exhibition. The result of this investigation is an unpublished publication that anticipates a volume by Spazio Punch that will be realized in collaboration with the Venetian publisher bruno.

The exhibition *Penisola. Committenza, eredità, ricerca tra editoria e fotografia* (*Peninsula. Patronage, legacy, research in publishing and photography*) will be accompanied by a publication designed by Metodo Studio as well as by a series of events and meetings with the authors and publishers featured in the exhibition, while also providing a space for younger projects, publications and magazines.

The set-up, conceived and realized by Zaven, is characterized by metal structures and led lamps that draw the geography of the exhibition. Spazio Punch also features a new bookshop in which Zaven reuses and reinterprets the residual materials of the previous installations.

CURATED BY

Augusto Maurandi  
Giulia Morucchio

SET-UP

Zaven

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Metodo Studio

20.05 – 01.08.2021

Opening

May 20, 2021 12—8 pm

Spazio Punch  
Giudecca 800/o, Venezia

Tuesday—Sunday  
12—7.30pm

**Mattia Balsamini** (Pordenone, 1987)

Photographer fascinated by industrial design, architecture, artificial intelligence, technology and space. His images are elegant, often clinical, always recognizable.

After graduating with Honorable Mention from Brooks Institute, he returned to Italy where he continued his career as a photographer. Mattia has worked for several magazines and brands including Apple, Die Zeit, Eni, Esquire, Fendi, Financial Times, Prada Foundation, Mercedes Benz, Moncler, Monocle, Nike, TIME, The New York Times, The Observer, Puma, The Guardian, WIRED.

**Jacopo Benassi** (La Spezia, 1970)

Photographer, artist, performer and musician. His photographic signature is distinctive: he shoots mainly in black and white and uses flash – a stylistic limitation that confers a rawness to his photography. The varied subjects of his photographs range from underground culture and international music, to portraits of models, actresses, artists, designers; to investigations of the body including self-portraits, the documentation of sexual encounters, ancient statuary.

He has collaborated with numerous magazines in Italy and abroad, including Rolling Stone, GQ, Wired Italy, Wired U.S.A, Riders, 11 Freunde, and Crush Fanzine, Dapper Dan, Vice, Almaviva/Le Figaro, Gioia, Purple fr.

The project on display at Spazio Punch was produced with the support of Francesca Minini Milano.

**Mario Cresci** (Chiavari, 1942)

Artist and photographer. He was among the first of his generation to apply and combine the culture of design with experimentation in visual languages. During the years of his stay in Basilicata, he developed a deep interest in anthropological culture, which resulted in an innovative relationship with photography. At the same time he carries out an intense multidisciplinary activity between graphics, photography, writing and teaching.

In 1975 he published *Matera, immagini e documenti* (Edizioni Meta), one of the first site-specific photographic books dedicated to a city, and in 1979 *Misurazioni. Objects, signs and photographic analogies in Basilicata*. In 2019 he published *Segni migranti. Stories of graphics and photography* (PostCart Editions), a summary of his graphic and photographic research. He currently teaches and held workshops at the University ISIA of Urbino and the School of High Education FMAV of Modena. He lives and works in Bergamo.

The installation at Spazio Punch was produced with the support of Matèria, Rome.

**Francesca Gardini** (Lugo, 1981)

Photographer. Her images are postcards from the Italian provinces – snapshots of everyday, common landscapes, photographs as documentation that willingly accept the intrusion of an intimate gaze.

In 2019, she was selected for the exhibition *Looking on, sguardi e prospettive sulla nuova fotografia italiana*. Her photographs are part of the collection of Fondation A Stichting in Brussels.

**Alberto di Lenardo** (Udine, 1930-2018)

Amateur photographer. His photographic work reflects a joyful insight into 20th century Italian middle class lifestyle - beaches and bars, mountains, road trips, strangers, lovers and friends - half a century of life captured in vivid colors. Alberto di Lenardo always loved to photograph and continued to do so throughout his life.

In 2015, his granddaughter Carlotta dove into his archives, initiating a curatorial project that brought new life to this body of work and the recognition it deserves.

**Paolo Roversi** (Ravenna, 1947)

Photographer and photojournalist. In 1973, he moved to Paris and became interested in fashion photography. He works mainly in large format with a Polaroid 20x25 or a view camera; for this reason, all his production is done almost exclusively in studio. Roversi pays much attention to the use of light in order to recreate intimate atmospheres; the chiaroscuro in his technique is crucial.

He collaborates regularly with numerous publications: *Vogue Italy* and *England*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *L'Uomo Vogue*, *Interview*, *W*, *Arena*, *i-D*, *Marie Claire*. He has signed numerous advertising campaigns for designers: Armani, Cerruti, Comme des Garçons, Christian Dior, Alberta Ferretti, Romeo Gigli, Givenchy, Krizia, Valentino, Yves Saint Laurent, Yohji Yamamoto.

He has made commercials for Dim, Evina, Gervais, Kenzo and Woolmark.

**Giovanna Silva** (Milan, 1980)

Photographer and co-founder of the architectural magazine *San Rocco* and of the publishing house *Humboldt Books*, of which she is the editorial director. She has collaborated continuously with "Domus" and "Abitare". She sees photography as a tool with a narrative purpose and her work often takes the form of a book. She has published numerous books with several publishers. She participated in the 14th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice with the project *Nightswimming, Discotheques in Italy from the 1960s until now*. She teaches editorial photography at NABA in Milan, at IUAV in Venice and at ISIA in Urbino.

**Alla Carta**

An international bi-annual magazine on paper — hence its name — that approaches high fashion, art and design in a uniquely Italian way.

[WWW.ALLACARTA.COM](http://WWW.ALLACARTA.COM)

**bruno**

A Venice-based project that combines a graphic design studio, a publishing brand, an exhibition space and a specialized bookstore with a focus on visual communication and independent international publishers.

[WWW.B-R-U-N-O.IT](http://WWW.B-R-U-N-O.IT)

**Cortona on the Move**

An international festival of visual narratives. Its goal is to disseminate and promote contemporary photography in pursuit of new visions and innovative forms of visual communication.

[WWW.CORTONAONTHEMOVE.COM](http://WWW.CORTONAONTHEMOVE.COM)

**Humboldt Books**

A publisher specialized in travel narratives and experiences. Its interdisciplinary publishing projects cross geography, literature, photography and art.

[WWW.HUMBOLDTBOOKS.COM](http://WWW.HUMBOLDTBOOKS.COM)

**MACK Books**

An independent publisher focusing primarily on photography and, most recently, on art, literature and critical studies. MACK works with some of the world's foremost cutting-edge creative minds and institutions. Its mission is to make new, established, and largely unavailable books accessible to all.

[WWW.MACKBOOKS.CO.UK](http://WWW.MACKBOOKS.CO.UK)

**Rizzoli**

A world-renowned publishing house established in 1927. Last year, it published the catalog *Time, light, space* celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of Poliform, a historic Italian brand among the most significant in the international furniture sector.

[WWW.RIZZOLILIBRI.IT](http://WWW.RIZZOLILIBRI.IT)

**Yard Press**

Independent publishers in Rome specialized in experimental publications and underground cultures, recently expanded to include contemporary art.

[WWW.YARDPRESS.IT](http://WWW.YARDPRESS.IT)