

PAOLA DE PIETRI

QUESTA PIANURA

Two parts exhibition :
3rd to 26th September
And 10th to 24th October 2015



Sans titre, Questa Pianura series

PAOLA DE PIETRI

1st opening on Thursday 3rd September, 6 PM > 9 PM

2nd opening on Saturday 10th October, 3 PM > 8 PM



Sans titre
Questa Pianura series

Questa Pianura

Paola de Pietri is a major figure in Italian photography. Apart from her recent collaborations to Fotografia Europea de Reggio Emilia and to main exhibitions of Linea di Confine, for which she realized several territorial commissions, Paola de Pietri has participated these past decades to numerous of exhibitions under the aegis of the

most important Italian and European institutions dedicated to photography and contemporary art. She has received the prestigious Albert Renger-Patzsch Prize in 2009 for her series *To Face*, and has benefited from several monographic exhibitions, one of whom in MAXXI in Roma. Lately in France, she has been exhibited in the Photographic Center of Ile-de-France (CPIF) in Pontault-Combault and in Musée de l'Image in Epinal.

In parallel with her last series, *Istanbul New Stories* - which addresses the transformations in Istanbul suburbs - and *To Face* - revealing the stigmata of the First World War on the Italian Alps' landscapes - Paola de Pietri again focused on a landscape she often worked on, and which is very familiar to her: the Pô Plain, around Reggio Emilia. For this unpublished series, *Questa Pianura* (2004/2014/2015...), she roamed through this wide plain of her childhood, where she still lives and which remains an agricultural territory, even though it has suffered drastic transformations these past fifty years - between agrarian restructuring and intensive suburban development.

To make this « flat country » (*Questa Pianura*) visible, she took portraits of what is still living there: old farms remains and a few lone trees, that she chose to document through large images tinted with elegant shades of grey. This wide landscape, where the horizon in endless, seems haunted by the mankind history and by remote past, told through these abandoned architectures.

In contrapposto, in order to emphasize the ephemeral compared to the eternal: a few color images of the fallow nature punctuate her work.



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« It is the Pô Plain. I have always known this landscape and its changes are closely linked to the economic development of the post-war period. Two series of photographs are intertwined in this project: the first in black and white and large format represents trees and now inhabited farms, most of them in ruins. Their arrangement in space is not aleatory, it reveals their past agricultural, economic and social functions, which existed only forty years ago.

To these « totemic » images of trees and houses are juxtaposed smaller format color images of shores, herbs, cultures, birds, wild flowers, etc., where the perception of the plain is linked to a sensorial, vital, disordered, atmospheric dimension and to the annual nature's cycle.

From now on, I perceive these landscapes as the fragment of a speech whom it is not possible to find the meaning of, even if the disappearing, the loss and the ruin are obvious. Trees deprived of their function are free to develop following their natural anchoring and not in a utilitarian perspective anymore. »



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PAOLA DE PIETRI

Born in 1960

She lives and works in Italy

She has been awarded the Albert Renger-Patzsch Prize in 2009

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (selection)

- 2015** *Nigh Stories*, CPIF, Pontault-Combault, France
To Face, Museo del Cinema, Turin, Italy
- 2014** Seccomidofuoco, Linea di Confine per la Fotografia Contemporanea, L' Ospitale Rubiera, Italy
To Face, commissaire : Martine Sadion, Musée de l'image, Epinal, France
Istanbul New Stories, Galleria Alberto Peola Arte Contemporanea, Turin, Italy
- 2013** *To Face*, curator : Roberta Valtorta, Triennale, Milan, Italy
- 2012** *To Face*, curator : Francesca Fabiani, MAXXI, Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI secolo, Rome, Italy
Istanbul new stories, Fotografia Europea 2012, Chiostris di San Pietro, Reggio Emilia, Italie
- 2008** *Un altro tempo, un altro da me*, commissaire : Sergio Risaliti, Galleria Alberto Peola Arte Contemporanea, Turin, Italy
- 2007** *Io parto*, Museo di Fotografia Contemporanea, Cinisello Balsamo Milan, Italy
Temporal, Galerie Les Filles du Calvaire, Brussels, Belgium
- 2006** *La nuova casa*, Centro Internazionale Loris Malaguzzi, Reggio Emilia, Italy
The Green Fuse, avec Paola Di Bello, commissaire : Marinella Paderni, Galleria G7, Bologna, Italy

GROUPE EXHIBITIONS (selection)

- 2015** *Italia Inside Out*, curator: Giovanna Calvenzi, Palazzo della Ragione, Milan, Italy
Faces Now, curator : Frits Gierstberg, Nederlandsfotomuseum, Rotterdam, Netherlands
Faces Now, curator: Frits Gierstberg, BOZAR, Brussels, Belgium
- 2014** *Facts and Fictions*, curator : Walter Guadagnini, Contemporary Photography from the Unicredit Art Collection, Multimedia Art Museum, Moscou, Russia
The war which is coming is not the first one Great war 1914-2014, MART museum, Italy
AND YET THERE WAS ART!, Leopold Museum, Wien, Austria
Historia, miradas de artistas, curator : Oliva Maria Rubio, Centro de Historias, Zaragoza, Spain
Historia, miradas de artistas, curator: O. M. Rubio, MARCO, Vigo, Spain
- 2013** *Paysage-Document IV*, curator: Christine Ollier, Galerie Les filles du calvaire, Paris
Paysage-Document, curator: C. Ollier, Artothèque de Vitry, France
Histoire, Regards d'artistes, curator: O. M. Rubio, Hôtel des Arts de Toulon, France
Paysage Politique, curator: C. Ollier, Maison des arts Solange-Baudoux de la ville d'Evreux, France
Paysages-document 2, curator: C. Ollier, Arsenal, Metz, France
- 2012** *6ème Biennale d'Art Contemporain de Bourges*, Musée du Berry, Bourges, France
Paysage-Document, curator: C. Ollier, Musée de La Roche-sur-Yon, France
Duplices paesaggio, Spazio Museale di Palazzo Tornielli, Ameno, Italy
- 2011** *Topographie de la guerre*, curators: Jean-Yves Jouannais and Diane Dufour, LE BAL, Paris

COLLECTIONS

Gallerie d'Arte Moderna, Bologna, Italy
Fondazione italiana per la Fotografia, Turin, Italy
Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebanudengo, Turin, Italy
Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Turin, Italy
Musei Civici, Reggio Emilia, Italy
Linea di Confine, Rubiera, Italy
Canadian Center for Architecture, Montreal, Canada
Museo di Fotografia Contemporanea, Cinisello, Milan, Italy

FRAC Centre, France
Credito Italiano, Italy
Banca del Gottardo, Bergamo, Italy
Goldman Sachs, London, United Kingdom
Musée de l'Image, Epinal, France
Artothèque d'Angers, France
Musée de la Roche-sur-Yon, France

GALERIE
LES FILLES
DU CALVAIRE