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Circa un anno fa assieme ai ragazzi del Varco è nata l’idea di organizzare un concorso fotografico. Sin da subito ho avuto la sensazione che un premio di fotografia da organizzare a Roma potesse rappresentare un’ottima occasione per tornare a lavorare insieme.

La sfida iniziale era quella di provare a fare qualcosa di diverso, soprattutto considerando il panorama estremamente vasto dei concorsi online.

Così a gennaio 2020 è nato il Passepartout Photo Prize, un concorso fotografico internazionale ideato per promuovere e dare visibilità a fotografi emergenti. Un premio a tema libero aperto ad ogni forma di sperimentazione fotografica contemporanea.

Il passe-partout, un lasciapassare che con il suo spessore di carta incornicia e dà risalto alle immagini che contiene, ci ricorda che le fotografie sono oggetti fisici. In un momento storico dove la maggior parte delle immagini fotografiche create digitalmente rimane nell’ambito del virtuale, abbiamo sentito l’esigenza di creare un concorso che desse visibilità agli autori con un’esposizione reale. Una galleria fisica dove poter osservare le fotografie non come pixel ma come immagini stampate e oggetti d’arte.

Fin da subito ho considerato questo progetto come un’opportunità di crescita all’interno del mio percorso artistico, un’occasione per riflettere sulla fotografia e per relazionarmi con altri fotografi e professionisti del settore.

La curiosità verso le persone e le loro idee, l’opportunità di instaurare un dialogo sulla natura delle immagini e la passione per la fotografia rappresentano gli elementi cardine che tengono unito questo premio.

Insieme al Varco abbiamo cercato di trovare le persone giuste per portare avanti questa idea. È grazie a tutti loro che è nato Passepartout Photo Prize e il mio primo ringraziamento va alle persone che hanno preso parte alla realizzazione di questo nuovo progetto. Last but not least, I would also like to thank all the photographers who entered their works and put themselves at stake. Without their images, both this catalogue and the entire prize could not exist.

About a year ago, together with Varco we came up with the idea of organizing a photography contest. Having known the team of Varco, I had a strong feeling that this photography contest in Rome could be an opening for yet to be known possibilities.

The initial challenge was to try to do something unique, especially considering the extremely vast panorama of online competitions.

In January 2020, Passepartout Photo Prize launched as an international photography contest designed to promote and give visibility to emerging photographers. A theme-free prize open to any form of contemporary photographic experimentation.

The passe-partout, a pass that with its thickness of paper frames and gives prominence to the images it contains, reminds us that photographs are physical objects.

Artistic Director
Olmo Amato

From the beginning, I considered this project as a possibility of growth within my artistic path, an opportunity to reflect on photography and to relate to other photographers and professionals in the field.

Curiosity about people and their ideas, the opportunity to establish a dialogue about the nature of images and the passion for photography are the key elements that hold this prize together.

Together with Varco, we have tried to find the right people to carry out this idea. With the collaboration among all of them, Passepartout Photo Prize was born and my first thanks go to the people who took part in the realization of this new project.
Ho iniziato il mio viaggio con Passepartout Photo Prize nel 2019 in qualità di membro della giuria. Nel 2020, in occasione del lancio della seconda edizione, sono stata nominata curatrice, per me un forte motivo d’orgoglio nonché una grande responsabilità.

Partecipare in queste vesti significa dare un'impronta precisa nella scelta delle immagini che riceviamo, tenendo presente parametri fondamentali quali l'importanza del messaggio e dei contenuti, l'efficacia nell'uso delle tecniche utilizzate, l'originalità del tema e la sua realizzazione estetica.

Sono specializzata in fotografia contemporanea e grazie al lavoro in team svolto con il direttore artistico Olmo Amato, con Il Varco e con il Presidente di Giuria 2020 Richard Tuschman, ho potuto abbracciare innovazioni fotografiche a me care e aprire il contest a strade inattese.

La vincitrice di questa seconda edizione, Laura Pannack, rappresenta il connubio perfetto di tutti questi aspetti.

La serie vincitrice della giovane artista inglese racchiude emotività, intimità, vicinanza con i soggetti, empatia tra artista e pubblico. Creando un rapporto che è un continuo giratondo di emozioni e sentimenti, queste immagini abbracciano lo spettatore come fossero un prezioso cameo da custodire.

Lavorare con Passepartout Photo Prize è stimolante e mi dà la possibilità di scoprire i lavori di tanti giovani talenti. Mi sento davvero privilegiata a poter guardare tutto questo e prendere spunto da ognuno dei partecipanti per tracciare le linee artistiche e curatoriali di questa edizione.

Possibilità che si concretizza ulteriormente con la mostra finale e, novità di quest'anno, con il catalogo che state sfogliando.

I started my journey with the project of Passepartout Photo Prize in 2019 as a member of the jury. In 2020, on the occasion of the launch of the second edition, I was appointed curator, for me a strong source of pride as well as a great responsibility. Participating in these capacities means giving a precise imprint in the choice of the images we receive, keeping in mind fundamental parameters such as the importance of the message and content, the effectiveness of the techniques used, the originality of the theme and its aesthetic realization.

I specialize in contemporary photography and as a result of strong teamwork with the artistic director Olmo Amato, Varco and 2020 Jury President Richard Tuschman, I have been able to embrace photographic innovations dear to me and open the contest to unexpected avenues.

The winner of this second edition, Laura Pannack, represents the perfect combination of all these aspects.

The winning series of the young English artist embodies emotion, intimacy, closeness to the subjects, empathy between the artist and the audience. Creating a relationship that is a continuous roundabout of emotions and feelings, these images embrace the viewers as if they were precious cameos to treasure.

They are images that remain suspended in a space-time not well defined and that with the use of colours, typical of the poetics of the author, is even more ethereal.

Working with Passepartout Photo Prize is stimulating and allows me to discover the work of many young talents. I feel truly privileged to be able to look at all of this and to take inspiration from each of the participants to trace the artistic and curatorial lines of this edition.

A possibility that is further concretized with the final exhibition and, new this year, with the catalogue that you are leafing through.

Curatrice
Roberta Fuorvia

Curator
Roberta Fuorvia
JURY

Olmo Amato
Artistic Director

Roberta Fuorvia
Curator of the Prize

Richard Tuschman
Head of the Jury
The Settlement

WINNER
CSF ADAMS
SILVIA DE GIORGI
Italy

EXHIBITION PRIZE
SILVIA DE GIORGI
Italy
Sean McGirr
Fairy Boy
United Kingdom
He made his way to a family he hadn’t seen in years.

Brenton Oechsle
Dreaming of a bright future
United States

Francesco Reffo
Highway 61 Revisited
Italy
Giorgio Coen Cagli
Angelus Novus
Italy

Alessandro Parolli
Portami Via
Italy

Giorgio Coen Cagli
Angelus Novus
Italy
EXHIBITION
PRIZE
SARA PETRAGLIA
Italy
WINNER
SARA PETRAGLIA
Ragazzo
Italy
At the age of 16 Baruch chose to leave his Orthodox Jewish community and to study at university. The dramatic and challenging decision forced him to question his identity and future.

At 15 Baruch had never known life beyond the constraints of his orthodox community. With his focus entirely on studying the Torah he had no time for distractions and his life was dedicated entirely to the rules of his faith. Every decision was dictated by his parents. He found safety in this inclusive lifestyle but soon became curious of what existed outside of it.

On his 16th birthday Baruch was snuck a podcast. The topic was the science of evolution. The notion ignited his curiosity and he secretly researched further. Soon science and maths seduced him and his desire to study lead him to step outside of his mandatory routine and obligations. He rebelled against conforming to the orthodox lifestyle but knew that in many ways he wanted to belong and please his parents.

When I met him in 2019 he danced between two worlds. One, a monochrome orthodox life built on the values of tradition and community, the other, a limitless world buzzing with technology and exploration. He wanted both. He wore his Jewish identity with pride and patriotism but craved the freedom to make his own decisions. Most of all he wanted to learn.

Einstein says: “The important thing is to not stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing”.

The project explores how we choose our paths in life and questions how much control we have to change who we will become.
According to travel psychology, the appearance of similarity between any two places is directly proportional to the distance between them.

What is nearest seems absolutely dissimilar, totally foreign. Often the most striking similarities are ones we find - according to travel psychology - clear on the other side of the world.

Inspired by this notion I focused my attention on two communities either side of the Earth to continue my constant exploration of youth. Keeping my focus tight I positioned myself at the key meeting place where young people would flock to socialize, The Cracker in Tipton and Topside in Gagebrook.

The uncanny often-subtle parallels are a stark reminder that youth is universal and growing up in a tight nit community brings often-predictable trends, relationships and behaviors.

Island Symmetries begins at a vast wasteland standing between two estates. 'Tibby'; is a cul de sac of residential houses that curls around a small playground. Kids push prams with their hands high above their heads or zip past on chunky bikes.

Through a narrow alleyway you enter the Cracker; rolling grass lined with blackberries and stinging nettles. Motorbikes, peds and quads bark loudly everyday and at all times. The boys race them until they burn out, perfecting the art of the wheelie.

Horses are usually kept in the back gardens or local stables and are just as popular.

The girls nestle around small fires despite the baking summer sun. On my second trip I discovered an entirely black Cracker, sporting the occasional patch of grass that had escaped a flame.

On the adjacent side lies ‘The Lost City Estate’. Most of the boys meet at Jack Barrett’s bars (a metal fence that lies to the opening of the field). They perch and exchange stories, cigarettes and zoots allith referring to each other affectionately as ‘Mush’.
10873 miles away I found parallels with The Cracker, in a small island state at the farthest end of the globe.

Gagebrook—‘Gagey’ to locals—a small community not far from Hobart, the state’s capital in Tasmania.

The kids are on the edge of adolescence. The tipping point. They’re bored, wild-eyed. They ride BMXs and watch as low-slung, red and metallic Holden Commodores growl and screech into ‘burnouts’ around us. Dirt bikes roar through the playgrounds, their helmetless riders pulling wheelies.

Just like on the Cracker the kids swig back energy drinks faster than water. Dilated pupils and excited squeals follow. Small cross body pouches and the latest trainers are boasted. The fickle and intense friendships are identical on both sides of the world.

The air is filled with tension, drama and aggression. Someone is threatened with a knife. A forming and promotion of one’s strength and dominance. Mostly these kids are still soft, polite. Sometimes they call me ‘miss’.
Carlo Cavina
Attraverso-te
Italy
GIORGIA BISANTI
Italy

EXHIBITION PRIZE

Untitled_Impossible Places
The photographic research reconstructs, through a mixture of archival portraits and current places, the story of the old town of Apice, partially evicted due to the earthquake in Irpinia in 1962 and then completely destroyed and abandoned after the second earthquake, in 1980.

Today what remains of Apice is the journey in images that the artist proposes, giving new life to spaces, once occupied by daily gestures and now full of memories.

The work was elaborated from an archive of images found on site, consisting of a large number of negatives and glass sheets found on the back of a coffin shop, buried from the damp ground.
The photo archive offers a faithful portrait of the inhabitants of the village and alongside the current images of places and landscapes, gives identity to the village again.

The protagonists of Apice and their stories are imagined by the author in a very personal way. This means that the viewer can ideally and freely interpret them in a subjective way.

So, the identity of Apice takes shape from the memory of its inhabitants.

A story in which time is no longer synonymous with destruction and abandonment but with creation and rebirth.
Gaetano Ippolito
Untouch
Italy
Chantal Pinzi
Eyes inside
Italy
Valentine de Villemeur
Golden hour after a rainy day
Italy

Lady in grey
Gaia Adducchio
Naked
Italy

Kimberly Sullivan
Mahout
United States
Seb Agnew
Yellow Cube
Germany
Tatiana, Hand, Petals

Tatiana, Catalpa Leaf

Lydia Panas
Passion Fruit and Kiwi Berries
United States
Beatrice Luzi
Il vituperio
Italy

La vanitas
Ludovica Bastianini
The family on skis
Italy

Me, I don’t remember when
Sinecitta

EXHIBITION
PRIZE

ZEROSCENA
Italy
Niccolo Fioriti
Logophobia
Italy

Martin Sean
Fireworks
United Kingdom
Nina Smidač
Ortensia
Czech Republic

Abbandonato
Love is
Gianni Olivetti
Private windows
Italy
Barbara Fiorillo
*Lumen*
*Italy*

Piotr Trojanowski
*Time of Roses*
*Italy*
Hyonchang Lee
Flesh and Bones
Korea

Emanuela Gasparri
Hajrul
Italy
me before me

me, where I accepted it is fine to be alone, Aug 1961

EXHIBITION PRIZE

CRISTINA CUSANI
Italy
Salvatore Esposito
TrAzzuzAzzioni Il lavoro sulla figura dei “femminelli”
Italy
Selina Mayer
Ali & Devin
United Kingdom

Kyotocat
The Wisdom of Trees

Wendi Schneider
Refuge
United States

Chiara Dondi
self(IN)me
Italy