



ITALY AND ITALIANS

Viewed through the lens of Magnum photographers

PRESS RELEASE

EXHIBITION

Italy and Italians

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NAPLES, GALLERIE D'ITALIA – PALAZZO ZEVALLOS STIGLIANO
30 March - 24 June 2012

A fine art photography project promoted by Intesa Sanpaolo in the framework of Progetto Cultura for the 150th anniversary since the unification of Italy.

Naples, 29 March 2012. Italy and Italians. Viewed through the lens of Magnum photographers. Designed to portray contemporary Italy through the lens of famous international photographers, the exhibition ideally unites Italy once again at the opening event of its second lap, which is held in Naples, in the wake of the remarkable success recorded at Palazzo Reale in Turin.

To celebrate 150 years since the unification of Italy, the six-month long photographic mission was entrusted by Intesa Sanpaolo to nine photographers of the leading international photographic agency Magnum: **Christopher Anderson, Harry Gruyaert, Mark Power, Mikhael Subotzky, Donovan Wylie, Richard Kalvar, Bruce Gilden, Alex Majoli and Paolo Pellegrin.**

With **Gianfranco Brunelli** and **Dario Cimorelli** as curators, the project is inspired by the "Grand Tour", the extensive journey through Continental Europe that was a key stage in the education of cultured European society. Particularly the "Italian Journey" to the monuments of ancient Rome, the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum, and tours of Turin, Venice, Florence, Bologna, Naples and Sicily, in what was deemed as the cradle of one of the most fascinating artistic heritages in the entire Continent, was considered as an essential educational experience for young Europeans.

Inspired by this ancient and fascinating cultural tradition, the **nine leading photographers from the photographic agency Magnum** have travelled through Italy to produce a picture story in a modern key, and are handing us a snapshot today. The extensive work has yielded **over 400 original photographs**, which are exhibited in the prestigious venue of Gallerie d'Italia - Palazzo Zevallos Stigliano, Intesa Sanpaolo's museum in Naples, under the **patronage of the Naples City Council.**

Italy and Italians is not designed to propose a nostalgic reconstruction of landscapes, perspectives and views that are inexorably lost today but, instead, **focuses on portraying the life of current day**



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Italy and Italians, providing food for thought on contemporariness. The exhibition concept also illustrates a country that has always appeared to be a heterogeneous set of multiple elements, a country in which history and contemporariness interweave, coexist and clash, in which tradition is challenged by innovation, urban layouts by new social demands, and the landscape by industry in a continuous sequence of consistency and contradictions, harmony and discordant notes.

The journey stamps in the mind images of natural and artificial landscapes, of places and of people. The narrative unfolds through what can be defined as "memory depots" (towns, cities, squares, libraries) and the ultimate meeting sites, through the relationships and habits of Italians, the present and the 'unfolding', social outcasts and solidarity, research and minds.

The review opens with **Christopher Anderson's** lens focused on the **Sea**, which laps against the shores of the peninsula and to which Italy owes both its history and civilisation. **Donovan Wylie** lingers on the **New Walls** that define urban confines, modern city boundaries defined by ring roads and viaducts, industrial districts and rubbish dumps, which mark today's totally anthropised living environments. **Richard Kalvar's** section entitled **Together** proposes an overview of unifying traits in Italy, namely the common spaces and typical gestures of many Italians, ranging from happy moments with grandparents to mid-August on the beach, from a coffee sipped at the café to the pizza. **Mikael Subotzky**, instead, investigates the **New Squares**, the latest venues for socialising, such as shopping arcades and discos, current day substitutes for the heart of public life in the past: the square. **Mark Power's** picture story on **Memory Depots** reviews the beauty of Italy, which holds the world record for artistic heritage and has been dedared by the UNESCO as a World Heritage Site through no mere chance. In **We, the others** **Bruce Gilden** makes us aware of the lives of the "invisible" people who populate hospital wards, prisons, shanty towns and charity canteens. **Harry Gruyaert** focuses on the complex balance of progress and nature sought by modern society in his section entitled **Artificial**. **Alex Majoli** recalls **Intelligence**, the sharp wits that in factories and fields, laboratories and manufacturing facilities alike, merge competence and creative flair, the cornerstones of the "Made in Italy" brand. The story draws to a close with **Paolo Pellegrin**, whose **Portraits** of 150 youth represent the country's future.

The exhibition - with free entrance - is organised in the framework of Intesa Sanpaolo's **Progetto Cultura** for the **150th anniversary since the Unification of Italy**. The ambitious multi-year programme includes several events designed and curated by the Bank to highlight Italy's incomparable wealth of cultural and artistic assets. Progetto Cultura's approach to culture results from intense awareness that a leading national bank is called to contribute towards economic growth considered as an intrinsic part of the country's cultural and civil framework.

With Progetto Cultura Intesa Sanpaolo has created the network Gallerie d'Italia, which includes exhibition venues in Naples – where the current exhibition is held, in Vicenza at Palazzo Leoni Montanari, and the latest exhibition space that was opened in Piazza Scala, Milan, last November.

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Side Events

Several related educational and cultural events will be proposed with the exhibition **Italy and Italians**.
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For the entire duration of the exhibition, free guided tours of the exhibition track will be held on **Saturdays and Sundays at 11.00 am**. **Free educational visits** will also be organised for **lower and upper secondary schools** (for bookings call 00800 16052007 - 081 7811275).

On 20 and 21 April Gallerie di Palazzo Zevallos Stigliano will host a **conference on the theme *The Journey to Naples from the 16th to the 19th centuries***. **The event will be promoted by Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II** with the participation of several Italian and international experts and authors. The conference is ideally linked to the exhibition by the theme of 'The Journey to Naples', which is mentioned in several written sources and period illustrations, a topic open to multiple developments in various fields that have converged their effort to convey the image of Naples through the centuries: the 1500s when the city was converted into a metropolis by the urbanisation process, the 1700s when it was the target of the "Grand Tour" and, finally, the 1900s when the social and political evil associated with political upheaval, crime, urban renewal, war and the post-war period surfaced.

Additional side events are envisaged and will be publicised through the press, on the dedicated website www.italiaitaliani.com and on the Gallerie d'Italia website of Palazzo Zevallos Stigliano www.palazzozevallos.com.

The **exhibition catalogue** curated by Gianfranco Brunelli and Dario Cimorelli with texts by Marco A. Bazzocchi, Pippo Ciorra and Flaminio Gualdoni is published by Silvana Editoriale.

INFORMATION SHEET

Exhibition: Italy and Italians. Viewed through the lens of Magnum photographers

Curators: Gianfranco Brunelli, Dario Cimorelli

Venue: Gallerie d'Italia – Palazzo Zevallos Stigliano, Naples

Duration of the exhibition: 30 March – 24 June 2012

Press conference: Thursday, 29 March, 3.00 pm

Naples, Gallerie d'Italia
Palazzo Zevallos Stigliano
Via Toledo, 185



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Opening hours:

Tuesday - Sunday from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm

Saturday from 10.00 am to 8.00 pm

Closed on Monday

On Saturday, 31 March the exhibition and Gallerie di Palazzo Zevallos Stigliano will be open from 02.30 pm. On Sunday, 8 April (Easter) from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Monday, 9 April, from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm

Free entrance

Free guided tours

Saturday and Sunday at 11.00 am

For bookings, call 00800 16052007 - 081 7811275 during the opening hours of the Gallerie. Bookings will be accepted until the total established number of visitors per tour is reached.

Special offer for schools

Free guided tours for lower and upper secondary schools.

For bookings, call 00800 16052007 - 081 7811275 during the opening hours of the Gallerie. Bookings will be accepted until the total established number of visitors per tour is reached.

Admission to the exhibition track on the first floor of Palazzo Zevallos Stigliano - where the *Martyrdom of St. Orsola* by Caravaggio is exhibited - requires a ticket: full price € 4.00 - reduced rate € 3.00. Free admission.

During the exhibition a 10% discount will be applied at the Gallerie d'Italia Bookshop - Palazzo Zevallos Stigliano. Intesa Sanpaolo Group current account holders and employees will be entitled to a 20% discount.

Catalogue: Silvana Editoriale

Information: www.italiaitaliani.com - www.palazzozevallos.com

For high-definition images, see the CD in the press folder or contact the press offices.

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