

EXTRAORDINARY VISIONS. ITALY

Iwan Baan, Olivo Barbieri, Gabriele Basilico, Letizia Battaglia, Jordi Bernadó, Alighiero Boetti, Andrea Botto, Silvia Camporesi, Giovanni Chiaramonte, Mario Cresci, Franco Fontana, Gianni Berengo Gardin, Luigi Ghirri, Guido Guidi, Giuseppe Leone, Ugo Mulas, Walter Niedermayr, Massimo Piersanti, Fabio Ponzio, Massimo Vitali

MAXXI is taking its photography collection to India on the occasion of the celebrations for the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Italy and India and the 24th edition of the *Technology Summit* at which Italy is a guest

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Italian Institute of Culture, New Delhi - India

Next stop: Italian Institute of Culture, Mumbai, India, March 2019

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Rome, 30 October 2018. From the metaphysical visions of **Luigi Ghirri** to the crowded beaches of **Massimo Vitali**, from the saturated colours of the landscapes of **Franco Fontana** to the anguished story of an abandoned land by **Letizia Battaglia**, from the elegant and essential architectural visions of **Gabriele Basilico** to the mountains of **Walter Niedermayr**, all this and more can be found in **EXTRAORDINARY VISIONS. ITALY**, a portrait of Italy seen through the eyes of many of the masters of Italian photography, the MAXXI exhibition curated by Margherita Guccione and Simona Antonacci, running from **30 October 2018**, at the **Italian Institute of Culture in New Delhi** on the occasion of the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Italy and India and the 24th edition of the *Technology Summit* at which Italy is a guest nation this year.

The exhibition, promoted by the **Ministry of Economic Development** and with the fundamental support of **SACE SIMEST (Cassa depositi e prestiti Group)**, with its **20 artists** of international renown and the **over 100 photographs** on show, is a reboot of the earlier show *Extraordinary Visions. L'Italia ci guarda*, presented at MAXXI on June 2016, and represents a successful example of that **diplomacy of art and culture** to which MAXXI has always devoted preferential attention.

The works on show, all drawn from the **MAXXI Permanent Collection**, recount the cultural transformations in which Italy has been a protagonist in the most recent decades. Among the photographers involved, many are representatives of the *Italian landscape school* and are joined by members of later generations and others working in different genres ranging from social reportage to artistic and conceptual experimentations. The exhibition opens not with a photographic image, but with a masterpiece by the artist **Alighiero Boetti**, *Mappa*, a tapestry made in 1971 that represents a map of the world in which every country is distinguished by the colours of its national flag. A work that presents a geopolitical reflection on the transformations of the contemporary world and the strength of art, capable of creating dialogues between places and communities distant from one another.

EXTRAORDINARY VISIONS. ITALY is not an illustrated history of Italy, nor is a chronological and descriptive account, but rather a reflection on the appearance and the substance of contemporary Italy that tries to capture the most up-to-date dimension, far from a stereotypical idea of the *Belpaese*.

The exhibition offers a journey via **three thematic paths: CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPES, STATE, CITY, WORK and ART AND CULTURE**, each conceived as an independent visual discourse, a “framing” of converging or diverging points of view.

The section devoted to the **Italian landscape**, celebrated in the *Grand Tours* from the 17th century, describes the relationship between the sublime image constructed over the centuries by the stratification of signs and values on which the gaze of generations of photographers has rested, renewing the poetics of the narration of physical space.

The post-modern contemporary landscape is represented by, among other, the work of masters such as **Luigi Ghirri** with his distancing, metaphysical images, or **Franco Fontana** whose landscapes are harmonious geometries saturated with colour, or again the images of **Letizia Battaglia**, cries of protest for a land wounded by neglect. Alongside them are young artists such as **Silvia Camporesi** with her crumbling historic interiors or the crowded beaches of **Massimo Vitali** and the sublime mountains of **Walter Niedermayr**.

In the part dedicated to **public space** the protagonists are the places of the state institutions and the communities of the citizens, as in the shots by the Spanish photographer **Jordi Bernadó** who investigates the iconic sites of religious, political and cultural power, or of **Olivo Barbieri** who presents the disturbing but alluring image of the progressive urbanization of the Adriatic coastline and those of **Gianni Berengo Gardin** who documents the relationship between infrastructure and work, offering an image of the city as a hotbed of energy.

The final section of the exhibition is devoted to the **art, architecture and culture** that have shaped the country, delineating the image that Italy has offered of itself to the world.

This section features, among other works, the portraits of artists by **Ugo Mulas** at the Venice Biennale in 1966, the rigorous, meditated architectural shots of **Gabriele Basilico** and the aerial visions of MAXXI itself by the Dutch photographer **Iwan Baan**, that successfully transmit the building's relationship with the surrounding quarter and its formal referencing of the flow of the Tiber river.

EXTRAORDINARY VISIONS. ITALY composes a poetic yet documentary, social and institutional “atlas” of the Italy of the last 30 years.

With sublime and ordinary landscapes, excellent and everyday architecture, the world of art and the institutions, the exhibition paints a portrait composed of attitudes, customs, identities and fascinating and at times contradictory memories that have profoundly marked and continue to mark the physical body of Italian cities and landscapes.

The press kit and images of the exhibition can be downloaded from the Reserved Area of the Fondazione MAXXI's website at <http://www.maxxi.art/en/area-stampa/> by typing in the password **areariservatamaxxi**

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