

## ELISABETTA CATALANO Tra immagine e performance

MAXXI Archive Wall | 3 April - 22 December 2019 | Admission free

[www.maxxi.art](http://www.maxxi.art) | #ElisabettaCatalano

Rome, 2 April 2019. A great photographer. Four remarkable artists portrayed during the gestational phase of four extraordinary performances in the studio.

The focus show **ELISABETTA CATALANO. Tra immagine e performance** opens to the public on **3 April 2019**. The exhibition has been produced by MAXXI, National museum of 21st century arts, in collaboration with the Archivio Catalano and curated by Aldo Enrico Ponis, with consultancy from Laura Cherubini (MAXXI Archive Wall, admission free, through to 22 December 2019).

At the heart of the exhibition the performances of **Joseph Beuys**, *Scultura invisibile* (1973), **Fabio Mauri**, *Europa bombardata* (1978) **Vettor Pisani**, *Lo scorrevole* (1972) and **Cesare Tacchi**, *Painting* (1972), recounted through photos that were destined to become iconic images of the performance itself.

A dual tribute, therefore: to one of the great post-war Italian photographers, a testimony through her elegant and sensitive lens to a generation of artists and intellectuals and, at the same time, to the history of performance art.

“If we cannot reconstruct the development of a performance”, explains the curator Aldo Enrico Ponis, “to recreate that complicity between the two artists, one expressing themselves through their works, the other through the photographic medium, the final, iconic image will remain as the sole testimony to something that we can only intuit, remaining beyond comprehension.”

The exhibition features slides, colour photos, vintage prints, correspondence and proofs, documents recounting the complexity of the creative process: how is a performance born? When and where does it take place? In which spaces? What interactions are there between artist, photographer, performer, actors and collaborators?

In order to respond to these questions, the project investigates the gestational phases making up the performative process destined to be realised in the studio and therefore documented through photographs: from the first ideas to the backstage, from the choice of spaces for the presentation to the details of the costumes, from the lighting to the backdrops, from the moments of action to the immobility of the images. From an initial exploration of the idea one therefore moves on to its actuation and finally the most delicate and demanding moment for the photographer: the selection of the most significant shots, the moment in which, on the contact sheets, a few marks, certain images ringed in red, identify and fix the iconic, definitive image of the performance.

This precious process is revealed to visitors to MAXXI's Archive Wall through an exhibition that brings back to the public space an important episode from the artistic sphere.

**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**

**MAXXI PRESS OFFICE** +39 06 324861 [press@fondazionemaxxi.it](mailto:press@fondazionemaxxi.it)

in collaborazione con



soci



enel

