

GIOVANNI GASTEL. The People I like

MAXXI is hosting the world premiere of over 200 "portraits of the soul" of the people who have most impressed the master photographer:
from Barack Obama to Marco Pannella, from Germano Celant to Ettore Sottsass,
from Bebe Vio to Luciana Littizzetto, from Monica Bellucci to Miriam Leone,
from Vasco Rossi to Tiziano Ferro, from Zuccherò to Fiorello and many others

MAXXI, 15 September, 22 November 2020

curated by Uberto Frigerio, set-up by Lissoni Associati

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Roma, 14 September 2020. A brand new, fascinating gallery with over **200 portraits**. A labyrinth of faces, poses and dreams of personalities from the world of culture, design, art, fashion, music, entertainment and politics. A collective portrait of souls met over the course of a forty-year career.

It is the exhibition **GIOVANNI GASTEL. The people I like**, curated by **Uberto Frigerio** with set-up by **Lissoni Associati**, premiering at MAXXI's Spazio Extra from **15 September to 24 November 2020**.

The title of the exhibition, **The people I like**, is a declaration of intent in itself: the master photographer reveals himself in his most intimate authenticity and consecrates the "portrait" as a work of art of excellence. Like humanistic culture, Gastel restores value to man and dignity to the autonomous individual and, through the over 200 portraits in the exhibition, documents an important part of his work as an artist in over forty years of activity. **Models, actresses, artists, industry professionals, VIPs, singers, musicians, politicians, journalists, designers and chefs** are part of the kaleidoscope of photographs on display, without a precise order or a specific affiliation to any sector or category.

In the words of **Gastel** himself, "*The people I like* recounts my world, the people who have passed something on to me, influenced me, touched my soul... and to me, this does not depend on their origin, social background, group of affiliation or anything else. The soul is something unique, independent, and, as such, it does not follow any predefined pattern, like the heart".

A click, a moment, a subtle game that gives you a thrill, a contact between two distinct entities. The portraits are not perceived as simple representations of human physiognomy but allow a truer inner meaning to shine through: **the artist's aim is to investigate what goes beyond the exterior, capturing the complexity of the subject. The soul that transpires from the pose, from the expression of the face and from its theatricality is always the focus.** The portraits take on a central role that is not limited to a purely physical analysis but digs into the psychological sphere of the character.

This feeling has been deliberately reproduced by curator **Uberto Frigerio** and architect **Piero Lissoni**, who designed the setting, also as regards the scenic design and the arrangement of the pictures on display.

In the central area of the hall, the faces of famous artists dance, as though almost chasing each other, in a 125-metre-long labyrinth, in a succession of dynamics and distinct interpretations. Moving walls 3 metres high arranged diagonally look at each other and seem to dialogue with each other: random paths invite the viewer to orient themselves according to their personal instincts. In a completely random way, one comes across characters of different backgrounds, testifying to the immense variety of encounters that have characterised the photographer's long career. Among them, witness **Marco Pannella, Barack Obama, Forattini, Ettore Sottsass, Germano Celant, Mimmo Jodice, Fiorello, Zuccherò, Tiziano Ferro, Vasco Rossi, Roberto Bolle, Bebe Vio, Bianca Balti, Luciana Littizzetto, Franca Sozzani, Miriam Leone, Monica Bellucci, Mara Venier, Carolina Crescentini and many more.** They are all large format 130x90-cm portraits, in black and white, while in the final part of the exhibition, in a sort of picture gallery, there are 80 images from the **black high necks** series.

On the margins of the spirituality of the soul, great importance has also been given to literary compositions, poems and texts dear to the photographer that are linked to his emotional sphere.

As **Gastel** himself says, "my research nourishes my life, my feelings, my art... photography is a necessity, not a job. Rendering an 'encounter' between two souls eternal delights me and makes me feel part of a whole that is constantly renewed in the eyes of those who read and understand my work".

The exhibition **GIOVANNI GASTEL. The people I like** has been realised thanks to the support of **ESSELUNGA, ALCANTARA, HEROES, MIL, TIM**

Tickets

10 € Giovanni Gastel. The people I like

12 € Giovanni Gastel + MAXXI (from 15 to 31 September 2020)

15 € Giovanni Gastel + MAXXI (from 1 October 2020)

12 € reduced price Giovanni Gastel + MAXXI (from 1 October 2020)

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