

GALERIA AVENIDA DA ÍNDIA

07.06–27.08.2023

Aos Ombros Das
Mulheres e Trabalho em Itália
desde 1950

curated by

Maria Chiara di Trapani

with

Paola Agosti, Archivio Udi, Marcella Campagnano,
Lisetta Carmi, Liliana Barchiesi, Letizia Battaglia,
Collezione Donata Pizzi, Marilisa Cosello, Agnese De Donato,
Collettivo Donne Fotoreporter, Nicole Gravier,
Gruppo del Mercoledì, Allegra Martin, Gabriella Mercadini,
Cristina Omenetto, Michela Palermo, Lia Pasqualino,
Giada Ripa, Alessandra Spranzi, Francesca Volpi



THE FEMALE GAZE

THROUGH THE FEMALE GAZE: Women and Work in Italy since the 1950s brings together photographs taken or archived by women, from the 1950s until today.

The history of female photography and women's emancipation in Italy mirror one another, in the context of the broader transformation of Italian society.

The exhibition features over 160 images, together with important sources such as the loan from the Donata Pizzi Collection and a selection of prints from the archive of the UDI (Union of Italian Women) in Bologna, and *Noi Donne*, the UDI's historic magazine, which contains extensive documentation about the affirmation of women's rights, from the post-war period to the present day.

The selection elicits a reflection on two aspects of the photography of work: the documentation of reality in order to produce a social critique of the *status quo*, and the construction and reinterpretation of a certain representation of work by photography, a representation that intersects questions of ideology, aesthetic research and the relationship with the photographed subjects.

Paola Agosti, Liliana Barchiesi, Letizia Battaglia, Marcella Campagnano, Lisetta Carmi, Marilisa Cosello, Agnese De Donato, Collettivo Donne Fotoreporter, Nicole Gravier, Gruppo del Mercoledì, Allegra Martin, Gabriella Mercadini, Cristina Omenetto, Michela Palermo, Lia Pasqualino, Giada Ripa, Lori Sammartino, Alessandra Spranzi, Francesca Volpi: all together, these photographers represent a constellation of women from different generations brought together by the use of photography as a means of personal emancipation.

The spread of a feminist consciousness encouraged women to be more assertive in the workplace, while the development of the publishing industry and photojournalism offered new employment opportunities for women in sectors previously dominated almost exclusively by men.

The greater portability of photographic equipment, which became lighter and more manageable during this period, made it easier for women to document life outside the photographic studio, among other things.

Early images describe a rural world disappearing from the north to the south of Italy; the reports of Lori Sammartino frequently feature women involved in manual labour, like the scenes of *Immagini dal mondo dei vinti* (1978) by Paola Agosti. In the years of the economic boom, agriculture contracted and many women expelled from the rural world found new jobs in the service and manufacturing sectors. Paola Agosti, in *La donna e la Macchina* (1983), also captured the testimony of women who distanced themselves from rural work to go into industry.

At the same time, in Palermo, Letizia Battaglia, the first woman to lead the photographic team of *L'Ora* newspaper, combined known works of reportage about the Mafia wars with ones that documented the life of women and children, including work life.

Images of tumultuous activism between 1968 and 1977 flow in and out of factories.

Gabriella Mercadini's black and white images of strikes, marches and protests enable us to relive moments heavy with feverish atmospheres, as do the unusual bright pink and red tones of the banners and placards that fill the streets in the colour photographs of Agnese De Donato.

From the Self

The theme of the search for the self between female identity and social roles has been at the centre of the artistic experimentation of many female photographers since the 1970s.

With different styles, Marcella Campagnano, Collettivo Donne Fotoreporter, Nicole Gravier and Alessandra Spranzi use a language that satirises the social roles usually attributed to women.

Female photographers turn their gaze onto an evolving society.

Liliana Barchiesi reports on housewives and their domestic appliances, women who, with a smile, reflect on the issue of unpaid domestic work.

Cristina Omenetto looks at female migration and the experience of the young women who arrived in Italy in the 1990s; Michela Palermo focuses on the second generation of migrants in Italy.

The multimedia language of performances and videos shape the images of the series *Try* by Marilisa Cosello, a project that engages with a collective reflection about gender and the history of sport – for a long time women were excluded from most Olympic sports.

Not only work but also households changed:

in Italy, over 2.5 million households are single-parent, 86% of which are made up of children and single mothers.

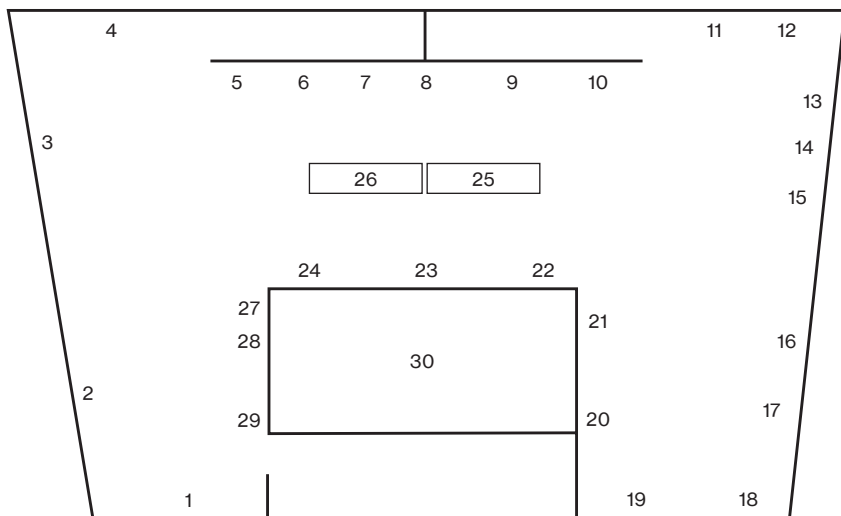
This is a fast-growing phenomenon that Giada Ripa documents in diptychs accompanied by short interviews with other women who find themselves having to juggle a routine of work and motherhood.

The research space coincides with the relationship between self and world, with the awareness that 'the personal is political.'

To paraphrase Teresa de Lauretis, 'in the walled city of culture (...) only the incessant work of deconstruction and reconstruction carried out by women can define new physiognomies; for women and for art.'

The exhibition presents a generation of female photographers who emerged thanks to the radical transformations of Italian society from the 1950s, but who also made a fundamental contribution to these changes, through art and cultural representation.

– Maria Chiara di Trapani



(from left to right)

1. **LIA PASQUALINO**

Selfportrait, Bangkok, 1990

Gelatin silver print on baryta paper, 40 x 62 cm

Letizia Battaglia (photojournalist) and a patient at the psychiatric hospital, Palermo, 1986

Gelatin silver print on baryta paper, 40 x 62 cm

Caterina (anthropologist), Palermo, 1986

Gelatin silver print on baryta paper, 40 x 62 cm

Courtesy of the artist

2. **MARILISA COSELLO**

from the series *Try #3, Untitled 3*, Sottopassaggio

Viale Lunigiana, Milano, 2021

Ink-jet print on vinyl, 360 x 240 cm

Untitled, 2019 - 2020

Pencil on paper, 29,7 x 21 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Galleria G7_Bologna

3. **MARILISA COSELLO**

from the series *Try #1, Untitled 1*, Ex Chiesa di San

Francesco, Fano, 2021

Pigment print on Hahnemühle paper, 40 x 60 cm

from the series *Try #1, Untitled 2*, Ex Chiesa di San

Francesco, Fano, 2021

Ink-jet print on vinyl, 360 x 240 cm

Try #2, Untitled 5, M9 Museum, Mestre (VE) 2021

Pigment print on Hahnemühle paper, 60 x 40 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Galleria G7_Bologna

4. **NOI DONNE MAGAZINE**

Cover selection from 1942 - 1975

Inkjet print on vinyl

Courtesy of Noi Donne Archive

5. **UDI ARCHIVE**

5.1

Photo Poggi

Rice weeders from Molinella preparing a meal, 1948

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Anonymous

Girls having lunch together, 1950 - 1955

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Photo Poggi

Rice weeder from Molinella carrying water, 1948

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Courtesy of Archivio Udi

5.2

Enrico Pasquali

Labourers working in the fields, 1955 - 1960

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Courtesy of Cineteca di Bologna

Enrico Pasquali

Farm workers from a farming cooperative in San

Pietro in Casale, interviewed by journalist Maria

Rosa Cutrufelli, 1976

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Courtesy of Cineteca di Bologna

Photo Poggi

Rice weeders from Molinella working in a rice

field, 1948

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Courtesy of Archivio Udi

5.3

Enrico Pasquali

Farm workers demonstration in San Pietro in Casale,

1961

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Enrico Pasquali

Labourers working in the fields, 1955 - 1960

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Courtesy of Cineteca di Bologna

5.4

Enrico Pasquali

Farm workers demonstration in San Pietro in Casale,

1961

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Enrico Pasquali

Labourers working in the fields, 1955 - 1960

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Courtesy of Cineteca di Bologna

5.5.

Photo Poggi

Rice weeders from Molinella working in a rice field,

1948

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Photo Poggi

Rice weeders or Mondine, having lunch together,

1950 - 1955

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Photo Poggi

Rice weeders from Molinella crossing a rice field,

1948

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Courtesy of Archivio Udi

5.6

Anonymous

Woman driving a tractor, 1950 - 1955

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Achille Villani

Hemp processing workers, 1950

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Courtesy of Archivio Udi

5.7

Enrico Pasquali

Workers at work at milk factory of Centrale del latte

di Granarolo, 1972

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Courtesy of Cineteca di Bologna

5.8

Anonymous

Rice weeders or Mondine, having lunch together,

1950 - 1955

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Courtesy of Archivio Udi

6. **LORI SAMMARTINO**

6.1.

Monte S. Angelo, Puglia, 1960 ca

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

6.2.

Untitled, 1960 ca

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

6.3

Untitled, Grassano, Basilicata, 1960 ca

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

6.4-6.7

Untitled, 1960 ca

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

6.8

Porto di Ripa Grande, Roma, 1960 ca

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Courtesy of Archivio Lori Sammartino

7. **LISSETTA CARMÌ**

Sugherificio Tamponi, Calangianus, 1964

Inkjet print, 24 x 30 cm

Courtesy of Martini and Ronchetti

8. **LETIZIA BATTAGLIA**

8.1 - 8.2

The embroiderers, Montemaggiore Belsito, 1987

Inkjet print, 24 x 30 cm

8.3

The girl never went to school, Monreale, 1979

Inkjet print, 24 x 30 cm

Courtesy of Letizia Battaglia Archive

9. PAOLA AGOSTI

9.1 - 9.3

from the series *Immagine del "mondo dei vinti"*

Gelatin silver print, 39 x 26 cm

Courtesy of Collezione Donata Pizzi

10. AGNESE DE DONATO

10.1 - 10.14

Women's labour in the 1970's, Rome, 1970 - 74

Inkjet print, 30 X 40 cm

Courtesy of Archivio De Donato

11. MARCELLA CAMPAGNANO

The Invention of the Feminine Roles, 1974 - 1980

Gelatin silver print ,150 x 100 cm

Courtesy of Marcella Campagnano Archive

12. COLLETTIVO DONNE FOTOREPORTER

12.1 - 12.8

from the series *Ruoli*, Milano, 1978

Ink-jet print, 30 x 40 cm

Courtesy of the artists

13. LILIANA BARCHIESI

13.1 - 13.4

from the series *La Casa - i Riti*, Milano, 1979

Gelatin silver print, 20 x 30 cm

13.5

Nella casa occupata di via Famagosta, Milano, 1974

Gelatin silver print on baryt paper, 20 x 30 cm

Courtesy of Collezione Donata Pizzi

14. GRUPPO DEL MERCOLEDÌ

14.1

Bundi Alberti

from the series *Ci vediamo mercoledì. Gli altri giorni ci immaginiamo*

Book Maquette, Ed. Mazzotta, 1978

Gelatin silver print on cardboard, 36,5 x 51 cm

14.2

Diane Bond

from the series *Ci vediamo mercoledì. Gli altri giorni ci immaginiamo*

Book Maquette, Ed. Mazzotta, 1978

Gelatin silver print on cardboard, 36,5 x 51 cm

Courtesy of Collezione Donata Pizzi

15. NICOLE GRAVIER

from the series *Mythes et Cliches, Buongiorno amore*, 1976 - 1980

Cibachrome, collage, 40 x 50 cm

from the series *Mythes et Cliches, Prima di passare alla Upim*, 1976 - 1980

Cibachrome, collage, 40 x 50 cm

from the series *Mythes et Cliches, In macchina*

rossa, 1976-1980

cibachrome, collage, 40x50cm

Courtesy of Collezione Donata Pizzi

16. ALESSANDRA SPRANZI

from the series *Tornando a casa #20*, 1997

Chromogenic print, 24,5 x 36,5 cm

Courtesy of Collezione Donata Pizzi

from the series *IO? #9*, 1992 - 1993

Xerocopy 29,7 x 21 cm

Courtesy of Collezione Donata Pizzi

from the series *IO? (L' Atronauta)*, 1992 - 1993

Xerocopy 29,7 x 21 cm

Courtesy of Collezione Donata Pizzi

17. MICHELA PALERMO

from the series *We were beautiful as the winter and the snow*, Castel Volturno, 2012

Ink-jet print on vinyl, 62 x 75 cm

Courtesy of the artist

from the series *We were beautiful as the winter and the snow*, Castel Volturno, 2012

Ink-jet print (2016), 24 x 30 cm

Courtesy of Collezione Donata Pizzi

from the series *We were beautiful as the winter and the snow*, Castel Volturno, 2012

Ink-jet print (2016), 39 x 47 cm

Courtesy of Collezione Donata Pizzi

from the series *We were beautiful as the winter and the snow*, Castel Volturno, 2012

Ink-jet print on vinyl, 160 x 140 cm

Courtesy of the artist

18. CRISTINA OMENETTO

18.1

from the series *Eritrean migrant women in Milan*, 1986

Ink-jet print, 24 x 30 cm

18.2 - 18.3

from the series *Arab Women in Italy*, 1993

Ink-jet print, 24 x 30 cm

18.4

from the series *Philippine Women in Italy*, 1993

Ink-jet print, 24 x 30 cm

Courtesy of the artist

19. GIADA RIPA

Selfportrait, from the series *Mother Tongue*, 2023

Ink-jet print, 24 x 30 cm

Me (photographer) and my daughter Alma 4 years

old, from the series *Mother Tongue*, 2023

Ink-jet print, 30 x 40 cm



Elena and her two sons, Edoardo 11 years old, and

Jaki 6 years old, from the series *Mother Tongue*, 2023

Ink-jet print, 30 x 40 cm



Elena Agudio (Art curator, director of Villa Romana

Art Residency, Firenze), from the series *Mother Tongue*, 2023

Ink-jet print, 30 x 40 cm

Gabriella Maviglia (Film distributor), from the series *Mother Tongue*, 2023

Ink-jet print, 30 x 40 cm

Gabriella with her two children, Gregorio 13 years

old and Sabina 11 years old (Musical protagonists), from the series *Mother Tongue*, 2023

Ink-jet print, 30 x 40 cm



Courtesy of the artist

20. FRANCESCA VOLPI

21.1 - 20.2

from the series *COVID-19*, Italy, 2020

Ink-jet print, 18 x 24 cm

Courtesy of the artist

20.3 - 20.4

from the series *COVID-19*, Italy, 2020

Ink-jet print, 18 x 24 cm

Courtesy of the artist

21. ALLEGRA MARTIN

Untitled, from the series *Welfare Space Emilia*, 2011

Chromogenic print, 20 x 25 cm

Courtesy of Collezione Donata Pizzi

22. GABRIELLA MERCADINI

St. James Hospital, occupation of polyclinic ward by feminist collectives for voluntary interruption of pregnancy, Rome, 1978

Gelatin silver print, 29 x 20 cm

St. James Hospital, pregnancy termination department, Rome, 1978

Gelatin silver print, 19,4 x 29 cm

Piazza San Giovanni, Enrico Berlinguer rally in Rome, 1976

Gelatin silver print, 18 x 24 cm

Untitled, Rome, 1976

Gelatin silver print, 24 x 18 cm

National metalworkers' demonstration, Rome, 1977

Gelatin silver print, 18 x 24 cm

Untitled, Rome, 1976

Gelatin silver print, 24 x 18 cm

Worker demonstration for employment, Rome, 1970

Gelatin silver print, 24 x 18 cm

Casa delle Donne, Via del Governo Vecchio -

Editorial office "Quotidiano Donna", Rome, 1979

Gelatin silver print, 24 x 18 cm

Courtesy of Collezione Donata Pizzi

23. AGNESE DE DONATO

23.1 - 23.6

Feminist demonstration in Rome, 10 June 1977

Ink-jet print, 40 x 50 cm

23.7 - 23.12

Feminist demonstration in Rome, 8 March 1977

Ink-jet print, 40 x 50 cm

23.13

You don't born woman, You become a woman, 1970

Inkjet print on vinyl, 70 x 100 cm

Courtesy of Agnese De Donato Archive

24. ARCHIVIO UDI

24.1

Anonymous

Regional demonstration promoted by UDI Emilia-Romagna and Lega delle cooperative "Against inflation, for employment and reform", 22 October 1972

Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Courtesy of Archivio Udi

24.2
Anonymous
National demonstration in Rome for women's employment, abortion, counselling centres and social services, 1976
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Umberto Gaggioli
Demonstration of the employees of the Upim department store in Bologna, 1971
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Anonymous
Regional demonstration promoted by UDI Emilia-Romagna and Lega delle cooperative "Against inflation, for employment and reform", 22 October 1972
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Courtesy of Archivio Udi

24.3
Enrico Paquali
Carpi's washerwomen employed at home, 1963
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm
Courtesy of Cineteca di Bologna

24.4
Enrico Paquali
Workers demonstration in Piazza VIII Agosto in Bologna, 1961
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Enrico Paquali
Workers on strike in front of the occupied Pancaldi Camiceria factory in Bologna, 1968
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm
Courtesy of Cineteca di Bologna

24.5
Enrico Paquali
Carpi's washerwomen employed at home, 1963
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Enrico Pasquali
Knitwear workers from the Dall Ara company in front of the entrance to the Bologna Confederate Chamber of Labour, 1955 - 1960
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm

Courtesy of Cineteca di Bologna

24.6
Enrico Pasquali
Workers at the Hatù factory in Casalecchio di Reno reading the UDI magazine Noi Donne, 1966
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm
Courtesy of UDI Archive

Enrico Pasquali
Carpi's washerwomen employed at home, 1963
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm
Courtesy of Cineteca di Bologna

Enrico Pasquali
Carpi's washerwomen employed at home, 1963
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm
Courtesy of Cineteca di Bologna

25
SILVIA CAMPORESI
Domestica, Artist Book, 2020
17 x 25 cm
Courtesy of Collezione Donata Pizzi

PHOTO GNANI
Strike of workers at the Marcolin company in Galliera, 1950 - 1955
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm
Courtesy Archivio Udi

MARCELLA CAMPAGNANO
Donne Immagini, 1976
21 x 24 cm
Courtesy of Collezione Donata Pizzi

UMBERTO GAGGIOLI
Demonstration of the employees of the Upim department store in Bologna, 1971
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm
Courtesy Archivio Udi

GRUPPO DEL MERCOLEDÌ
Ci vediamo mercoledì. Gli altri giorni ci immaginiamo, ED. Mazzotta, 1978
21,5 x 29 cm
Courtesy of Collezione Donata Pizzi

Paola Agosti
Itinerari, 2023
17 x 24 cm
Courtesy of MC. Di Trapani

26.
26.1
ENRICO PASQUALI
Diana Franceschi talking to the workers during the occupation of the Raquel knitwear factory, 1973
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm
Courtesy of Cineteca di Bologna

26.2
ENRICO PASQUALI
Workers on strike in front of the occupied Pancaldi Camiceria factory in Bologna, 1968
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm
Courtesy Archivio Udi and Cineteca di Bologna
26.3 - 26.7

PAOLA AGOSTI
from the series *La donna e la Macchina*, 1980
Gelatin silver print on baryta paper, 17,5 x 23,8 cm
Courtesy of Collezione Donata Pizzi
26.8

UDI ARCHIVE
Strike of women workers at the Montaguti factory in Casalecchio di Reno, 1975
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm
Courtesy Archivio Udi
26.9

ENRICO PASQUALI
Permanent assembly at the Raquel knitwear factory in Bologna in defence of the jobs and a wedding party at the occupied factory, 1973
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm
Courtesy of UDI Archive and Cineteca di Bologna
26.10

ENRICO PASQUALI
Workers on strike in front of the occupied Pancaldi Camiceria factory in Bologna, 1968
Inkjet print, 13 x 18 cm
Courtesy of Archivio Udi and Cineteca di Bologna

27
Interviews by Maria Chiara Di Trapani, Nicola Pizzolato, Ilaria Favretto:
Cristina Omenetto, 2021
Color, sound, 8'
Courtesy of MC. Di Trapani



Giovanna Calvenzi, 2021
Color, sound, 5'
Courtesy of MC. Di Trapani



28
Interviews by Maria Chiara Di Trapani, Nicola Pizzolato, Ilaria Favretto:
Allegra Martin, 2021
Color, sound, 8'32"
Courtesy of MC. Di Trapani



Michela Palermo, 2021
Color, sound, 10'44"
Courtesy of MC. Di Trapani



29
Interview by Maria Chiara Di Trapani, Nicola Pizzolato, Ilaria Favretto:
Donata Pizzi, 2021
Color, sound, 14'16"
Courtesy of MC. Di Trapani



30. LILIANA BARCHIESI
30.1
Storia di donne-Immagini, 1974 - 1979
Color, sound, 17'50"
Courtesy Liliana Barchiesi

30.2
UDI, 2021
Color, sound, 2'32"
Edited by Sirio Magnabosco
Courtesy Archivio Udi

Biographies:



GALERIAS MUNICIPAIS – GALERIA AVENIDA DA ÍNDIA
Avenida da Índia 170, 1300-299 Lisboa

Open everyday 10h-13h and 14h-18h
Free entrance

Guided tours by appointment
mediacao@galeriasmunicipais.pt

www.galeriasmunicipais.pt



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