

PRESS RELEASE

title

FRANCESCO PERGOLESÌ

Dog portraits

curated by

Carla Testore

duration

16 March - 13 April 2024

place

GALLERIA FORNI | Via Farini, 26/F - Bologna

opening hours

10,30-13 e 15-19 | sabato 10,30-13 e 16-19,30 | chiuso lunedì e festivi

opening

Saturday 16 March, from 6 p.m.



Following the recent success of the exhibition "Divas" held last spring in Turin in the prestigious setting of the Royal Residence of Villa della Regina, Francesco Pergolesi's photographic works are now presented to the public of Galleria Forni, re-proposing the artist's investigation into the role of our pets, dogs in particular, in the contemporary family.

Thomas Mann in *Herr und Hund* describes the relationship with his dog Bauschan as a "mutual understanding in which neither betrays his own nature but a communion of equal dignity is established".

Dog Portraits comes to life from Pergolesi Cave Canem's photographic cycle and addresses the transformation of the relationship between man's best friend and his owner. **From Pompei to the present day, the relationship between man and "canis lupus familiaris" has radically changed.**

The dog, which has always been a useful and indispensable companion also for hunting activities, has over time affirmed its emotional presence in the family environment, often moving from the kennel in the courtyard to the comfortable sofa next to the fireplace.

The twenty photos on display are the result of a long creative process in which Pergolesi makes the pet-dog the protagonist by portraying him in the same domestic environments in which he lives and in which his owner dedicates not only physical but also, and above all, emotional space to him.

The puppy or the old friend of a lifetime are thus immortalized by the artist on the stage of a theater which reconstructs everyday life with refined elegance and attention to detail.

Francesco Pergolesi underlines: «**Each work is the result of careful semantic and iconographic research on the one hand and scenic composition on the other.** Behind each shot lies a series of artistic, cinematographic or literary references and citations. The project was set inside real homes, revisited and staged as if they were private theatres. Precisely for this reason, the starting point often arises from interests, passions, collections of the pet owners, so as to create **an interpretation also linked to the other actor (the owner), absent in the image but present in the narrative**».



Francesco Pergolesi, born in Venice in 1975 and raised in Spoleto, is a visual artist and photographer based in Turin.

His images are characterized by a strong theatrical aesthetic: each shot arises from the intimate exploration of a real story intertwined with accurate poetic and scenographic research.

Francesco Pergolesi's work has been exhibited in national and international galleries and institutions including Villa della Regina (Turin) with a large personal exhibition which involved the entire Villa (including areas usually not open to public) curated by Carla Testore, Catherine Edelman Gallery (Chicago), with the support of the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago, Griffin Museum of Winchester (MA) among the winners of the Arnold Newman Prize, Riccardo Costantini Contemporary (Turin), Patricia Conde Galeria (Ciudad de Mexico), Fotoistanbul with a monumental public installation of the Heroes project, Carpi Philosophy Festival curated by Marc Augé, Canonica Museum in Rome for the special Talent Prize, Vanni Artistroom in Turin, winner of the Autofocus prize, participated in an artistic residency and an exhibition at the Galerie Huite during Les Rencontres d'Arles and at Halsnoy Kloster Museum, in Norway, selected at Photoespaña Descubrimiento, he was chosen as Art director for the show The World Factory by Marco Paolini and Telmo Pievani. His work has been published in The Royal Photographic Society, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Magazine, Slate, Pdn, Photograph, Fast Co. Design, My Modern Met, The Thelegraphe, Aesthetica Magazine, Snoecks, Atlas Obscura, L'Oeil de la photographie, Il sole 24h, La Repubblica, La Stampa, Artslife and many other national and international publications. He regularly participates in international art fairs including Expo Chicago, Aipad New York, Photolondon, Art Miami.

His works have been acquired by major private and public collections including Collection Reyn van der Lugt, Rotterdam and Norton Museum of Art in Palm Beach.

all of the works on display are visible on our website



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