

FRANCO FONTANA

PAESAGGI a CONFRONTO

Opening, Thursday 14 February 2013, 6.30 p.m.

Both in terms of form and colour, the framing and concise composition of Franco Fontana's photographic vision has influenced many professional and amateur photographers over the years. This only happens when, as in Fontana's case, we are talking about shots with an undisputable communicative power born of an innate skill for poetic conciseness.

His photographic landscapes remind us that nature is never ordinary. His own personal way of telling a story and interpreting a landscape is also found in his urban scenes. *"To the attentive eye, each moment of the year has its own beauty, and in the same field, it beholds, every hour, a picture which was never seen before, and which shall never be seen again."* (Ralph W. Emerson)

Fontana has said that in his work he is trying to *"isolate in space and time that which is normally confused by infinite details. Extracting a few essential elements from the whole that is offered to the human eye is one of my interior needs: to reach a harmonious unity by eliminating all natural disturbances."*

Being able to recognise, see and translate into a personal vision the "miracle" of everyday things and moments is one of Fontana's greatest skills.

In his splendid essay entitled "Nature", Emerson also wrote: *"few adult persons can see nature. [...] The lover of nature is he whose inward and outward senses are still truly adjusted to each other; who has retained the spirit of infancy even into the era of manhood."* This perfectly reflects Fontana's life and work.

With *"Paesaggi a confronto / Landscapes compared"* Fontana returns to OREDARIA, seven years after *"Estremi urbani / Urban extremes"*, his last solo show in these spaces.

Fontana has exhibited many times in Italy and abroad, one recent highlight was the solo exhibition *"Landscape light"* at the IVAM in Valencia in 2011. This new exhibition at OREDARIA includes several new shots and both natural and urban landscapes, creating free comparisons that span his entire career starting from the early sixties.

Franco Fontana was born in 1933 in Modena (Italy) where he lives and works.

Since 1965, in addition to his exhibitions in private galleries, he has had numerous one-man-shows and group shows in public and private spaces such as Palazzo dei Diamanti, Ferrara (1970); São Paulo Museum of Art, Brazil (1976); 36th Biennale di Venezia, Venice (1978); Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow (1983); Museum Ludwig, Cologne (1984); Fondation Vasarely in Aix-en-Provence, France (1987); Palazzo Ducale, Mantova (1995); Palazzo Magnani, Reggio Emilia, Italy (2002); Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (2003); GAM, Turin (2005); Carrousel du Louvre, Paris (2007); Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venice (2010); IVAM, Valencia (2011); Scotland Center of Photography, Stills Gallery, Edinburgh, UK (2012).

His photographs are present in several public collections including:

MOMA, New York

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco

São Paulo Museum of Art, Brazil

Kunsthaus Museum, Zurich

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

MAXXI, Rome

Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Amsterdam

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Museum Ludwig, Cologne

Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris

Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Boston

IVAM, Valencia

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Tuesday- Saturday 10 am-1 pm / 4 pm-7.30 pm

