
Lucca, November, 2012

PRESS RELEASE

Lucca, the capital of photography

Lucca represents Italy in an ambitious European project through Banca del Monte di Lucca Foundation From November 25 to January 6 the photographic exhibition by EPEA-European Photo Exhibition Award

Banca del Monte di Lucca Foundation will host, in its headquarters in Lucca, Piazza San Martino n. 7, the first edition of epea-European Photo Exhibition Award, a traveling exhibition that highlights European talents in an international project promoted by the **Banca del Monte di Lucca Foundation** (Italy), the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian (Portugal), the Institusjonen Fritt Ord (Norway) and the Körber-Stiftung (Germany).

12 young photographers who live and work (mostly) in Europe, chosen by the curators appointed by each Foundation, three for each country. Enrico Stefanelli, photographer, founder and artistic director of the Lucca Photo Festival until 2011, currently artistic director of Lumina Festival, selected for Italy:

- Gabriele Croppi (Milan), who approaches photography as an art form and has recently won the first prize at the prestigious IPA (International Photography Award), in the architectural section
- Davide Monteleone (Rome), winner of the World Press Photo award in 2007 and twice in 2011,
- Pietro Masturzo (Naples), winner of the World Press Photo award in 2010.

The theme of epea 01 is **European Identities**, and refers both to the current issues of cohesion and unity as aspects of cultural diversity which characterize Europe, providing an opportunity for photographers to focus on instances of individual character of the social, political, cultural, national and supranational levels.

The performance of 'different European identity' is also the basis for the search for a common identity, says Alberto Del Carlo, President of Banca del Monte di Lucca Foundation, which from the beginning has strongly believed in this project in collaboration with the other prestigious foundations.

The exhibition

The photo projects selected, extremely different, are presented in the catalog and at the same time in a traveling exhibition that is hosted in the main exhibition and during the most important festivals in Europe, such as Paris Photo, giving the emerging photographers the opportunity to perform in prestigious venues. The first exhibition was held in Hamburg in May at the House of Photography / Deichtorhallen, the second is ending in Paris at the headquarters of the Foundation Calouste Goulbenkian, then it will be the turn of Lucca (from November 25 to January 6, 2013) and finally to Oslo which will feature in the next spring, at the Nobel Peace Center.

The different interpretations of the theme and the novelty of the European project reflects in the presentation of the catalog. Each artist is presented individually through an introduction containing a statement, an interview with a comment from the editor to end with the description of the photo project: Catarina Botelho, José Pedro Cortes, João Grama, Monica Larsen, Frederic Lezmi, Hannah Modigh, Linn Schröder, Sjøvold Marie and Isabelle Wenzel.

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Mentors in this experience, together with Enrico Stefanelli, are the other three curators of the exhibition: Rune Eraker (freelance photographer, Oslo), Sérgio Mah (curator and sociologist, Lisbon), and Ingo Taubhorn (curator at the House of Photography / Deichtorhallen, Hamburg).

The exhibition will open on Sunday, November 25 at 11.00 AM, for the public from 3.30 PM. Later, at 5.30 PM the meeting with the three Italian photographers Pietro Masturzo, Gabriele Croppi and Davide Monteleone.

The exhibition is open every day (except Dec. 25) until January 6, 2013, at the following times: Monday to Friday from 3:00 PM to 7:30 PM and on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 10,00 AM to 7.30 PM (Admission Free).

For more information:

www.fondazionebmlucca.it

www.epeaphoto.org

www.studioesseci.net

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