



MARIO GIACOMELLI - Il Canto dei Nuovi Emigranti

Opening

Saturday September 27th
From 5 PM to 8 PM

Cartacea Galleria

Via San Tomaso, 25 - Bergamo



© Mario Giacomelli

Mario Giacomelli "Il canto dei nuovi emigranti"

Cartacea Galleria is pleased to announce the exhibition *Il canto dei nuovi emigranti*, a tribute to Mario Giacomelli on the centenary of his birth.

The exhibition presents 30 vintage prints made between 1984 and 1985 in Calabria, and represents an unmissable opportunity to enter into the soul of that land through the sensitive and unmistakable gaze of the author from the Marche region.

The title of the exhibition, *Il canto dei nuovi emigranti*, is inspired by the 1964 poem of the same name by **Franco Costabile**, a Calabrian poet who, with his tragic death at the age of only 31, left a deep mark on the culture of his region. In 1984 Giacomelli was invited to visit the most isolated and remote parts of Calabria, where the landscape was marked by depopulation, exploring places such as Tiriolo, San Giovanni in Fiore, Cutro, and Pentedattilo. In 1985 he repeated the journey, reaching other localities such as Cropani, Zagarise, and Cavallerizzo di Cerzeto.

At first Giacomelli struggled to decipher what appeared before his eyes: it was not the South vibrant with life and children he had encountered in the Gargano in 1958, nor the enchanted South of Scanno he had captured in his famous journey of 1957. The photographer from the Marche was always fascinated by modest stories, rooted in the land, not so much out of affinity with the neorealist movement with which he had engaged in the 1950s, but for his intimate myth of poverty, seen as a condition of purity and as the most direct link to a genuine and authentic life. Gradually, Giacomelli lost himself in the enigma of a region marked by stark contrasts, where the memory of a past of harsh exploitation and abandonment was still alive, and was, little by little, deeply touched by the extraordinary generosity of its people.

The result is an intertwining of word and image that gives life to a powerful narrative, where photography becomes a vehicle of emotions and reflections, without rhetoric or concessions to nostalgia. It is a sincere and direct song of pain and beauty, of departure and roots. Giacomelli, an artist among the most sensitive to poetry, a master of material and visionary black and white, thus translates into images what the Calabrian poet had expressed with words in bitter poems, as if in an ideal counterpoint. Both recount a forgotten South, captured not in nostalgia but in its deep laceration. The result is a work of rare narrative power, where photography and poetry merge into a meditation on time, loss, belonging, pride but also the pain of those who had to leave their land. The images show small fragments of everyday life, suspended figures, landscapes where Giacomelli's strongly contrasted black and white becomes truly metaphorical: a sign of memory, of loss, and of resistant dignity.

Giacomelli's work is not only a historical document, but also a profound reflection on the human condition. Absence, solitude, the struggle against oblivion, the impossibility of holding onto the past: all these themes emerge poignantly in his photographs, which recount a South of Italy never truly known, far from tourist and stereotyped representations.

In a context of continuous mobility and new forms of emigration, we can say that the project offers a key of interpretation for younger generations, raising awareness of the meaning of migration, its historical roots, and its contemporary challenges.

The exhibition will open on **Saturday, September 27th**, from **5:00 to 8:00 pm**, on the occasion of *Sabato dell'Arte in San Tomaso*, an event organized in collaboration with **Galleria Ceribelli** and **Traffic Gallery**. The exhibition will remain open to the public until November 15 at Cartacea Galleria Bergamo.

[Download Pricelist](#)

INFORMATION

Inauguration

Saturday September 27th
From 5 PM to 8 PM

Exhibition Date

From September 27th to November 15th

Timetable

Thursday, Friday and Saturday,
From 3 PM to 7 PM

Contact

Via San Tomaso, 25
Bergamo - Italy

T +39 334 3997916
T +39 340 2837653
<https://cartacea.net/>
Press contact
info@cartacea.net