

Andate in Pace/ Go in Peace

photographs by Giorgio Barrera and Niccolò Rastrelli

curated by Daniele De Luigi

Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo e la Documentazione
Via di San Michele, 18 – Rome

Opening period: *from march 14th to April 24th, mon-ven from 10.00-18.00*
Opening: *thursday, march 13th, from 5.30 to 8 pm*

The Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo e la Documentazione, after the exhibition of Guido Guidi, keeps exploring contemporary photography presenting *Andate in pace (Go in Peace)*, the new project of Giorgio Barrera and Niccolò Rastrelli. The show, produced by the ICCD together with the Cultural Association Visioni Future and the San Fedele Foundation in Milan, consists of 23 photographs and a video installation.

The project is the result of a reconnaissance survey carried out by Barrera and Rastrelli on the interiors of churches built after the liturgical reform of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965).

Working within the documentary-style tradition, the photographers have pre-established to always adopt the same and original point of view, that is the one the priest has from the altar. Besides that, images were taken during the Mass. The reason of this choice has to be found in the dictates of the liturgical reform of the Second Vatican Council, that revolutionized the structure of the chancel. This led to moving the priest so he was no longer looking towards the tabernacle and the cross, with his back to the congregation, but towards the people (*versus populum*) in order to “create a bridge” between everything that is spiritual and that which is “militant”. Therefore, the photographs offer a reflection on the complex relationship between the Catholic church, modern architecture and communities of worshippers. The images of this work embrace different co-existing levels of investigation that propagate numerous references: there is an extremely rigorous architectural research, but there is also a sociological and anthropological one that examines and portrays Italian Catholic communities.

The images have been realized in many Italian cities, amongst them Rome, Milan, Turin, Florence, Naples, Potenza and include oeuvres of reknown architects such as Massimiliano Fuksas, Giovanni Michelucci, Paolo Portoghesi, Mario Botta and Gio Ponti.

As stated by the authors “One of our first reflections was to understand the importance of the church-goers within the architectonic space. The Greek word for church, εκκλησία, means a community gathered together after being convoked. It is with this sense that religious buildings are to be understood, and in our case, they are shown as a space made of “human material” or – as affirmed by Saint Paul - of “living stones”.

It was from this consideration that the idea which informs this whole project came out. In order to show the church as a bodily and architectonic place we established that we would reach a synthesis”.

As in the previous exhibitions, the interaction between the historical archive and the work of modern photographers is one of the central research themes that the ICCD is continuing; for this reason the exhibition will be introduced with a selection of photographs of Italian churches taken between the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, as chosen together with the photographers from the ICCD’s historical archives and carried out according to the principles of traditional documentary photography. In this way, the historical archives provide a reflection on modernity.

A book published by Postcart/ICCD in the series Contemporanea accompanies the show, size cm. 24x30, 64 pages, 20 colour photographs, texts Italian and English by Laura Moro, Aldo Colella, Andrea Dall'Asta, Giancarlo Santi and a conversation between Daniele De Luigi and the artists.

The exhibition will be held in Milan starting on May the 5th until May 31st at Galleria San Fedele, in collaboration with the San Fedele Foundation. The show will then move to Venice by the Ufficio beni culturali of the Patriarchate of Venice and of Museo Diocesano during the Biennale di Architettura. On November 29th it will arrive in Potenza, where it will be displayed until January the 11th 2015 by Cultural Association Visioni Future.

Go in Peace in 2013 was shortlisted at Sony World Photography awards and got a special mention from Photographic Museum of Humanity, in 2012 was shortlisted at the Prize Francesco Fabbri for contemporary arts.

Giorgio Barrera (1969) works with photography and video. His research is an investigation about lens based arts as a synthesis and shape to give back and represent the real. Since 1996 he is alternately devoted to a type of image that lives on the threshold of what is documentation and what is fiction. Later he worked on the landscape exploring the historic sites by placing a reflection on history and its ability to be cultured and interpreted within the present. Barrera is the author of several photographic surveys commissioned by major public and private institutions, he also made documentaries and short films experimenting with new cinematic languages. His works have won many awards including Baume & Mercier, FNAC, Canon, Federchimica and recently shortlisted in many others, among them Sony, Fabbri, Open Pics. Images of him have been published in various books, catalogues and magazines internationally. His works have been shown at the Art Institute of Chicago in 2001, at the International Biennial of Photography in Turin (1999), at the Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie in Arles (2003). In 2009 his project "Through the Window" was shown at Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome while in 2011 his work "Battlefields 1848-1867" was shown at the IIC in Paris and at CONTACT Toronto's Photography Festival. He's one of the founder of *fotoromazoitaliano.it* an artistic group that works at the development of languages and literacy. *Fotoromanzo Italiano* was selected as one of the winners of Beyond Memory's prize and recently created a convivial work that took part at MIO at Milan Triennale. Based in Milan works as lecturer and teaches in Milan and Florence.

Niccolò Rastrelli was born in Florence in 1977. He attended the triennial course of photography to the Studio Marangoni and in 2004 moved to Milan. He works with magazines such as *Io Donna*, *Vanity Fair*, *Panorama*. His photographic research focuses on individuals and the manifestation of their identity. In 2004 he won *Fotoesordio* prize, with "Maschere" project. In 2011 is a finalist in the contest *Photodreaming*, with the "Dance Hall" project and in 2012 is a finalist in the Francesco Fabbri prize and at the Sony World Photography Awards with "Andate in Pace/Go in peace".

Press contacts: Cristiano Brughitta, c.brughitta@gmail.com