

Press Release

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

GD4PhotoArt – Photography meets Industry

Bologna, National Art Gallery

Via Belle Arti, 56

30th September – 2nd November 2010

Photography meets Industry, an exhibition dedicated to industrial photography. A journey through the works of the four winners of the second edition of the GD4PhotoArt competition. The representation of the female body in the everyday working environment by French artist Olivia Gay, which won first prize, and the works of the other three finalists: the desolate Siberian landscapes by British artist Justin Jin, Italian photographer Alessandro Sambini's project on heaps, and the images of the Svalbard islands by Dutch artist Niels Stomps.

The exhibition, promoted by G.D and the Isabella Seragnoli Foundation, is accompanied by a catalogue, edited by Giovanna Calvenzi and published by Damiani Editore.

Olivia Gay

The Lacemakers of Calais

This project for GD4PhotoArt illustrates the women at work in the Noyon mechanical lace factory in Calais. Founded in 1919, Noyon - Dentelles is a family-run business with 445 employees. It was recently named a "cultural heritage enterprise" alongside luxury businesses including Baccarat, Dior, Hermès.

Borrowing the daily gestures of the lacemakers, their hands, their working environment, she offers a reflection of the female body moulded by work.

Through the use of a classic aesthetic form which offers a clean reading of the image, she concentrates on details, the precision of a movement, in order to "... recover the lost unity, the profound me, from under the many layers of habit".* (* Marcel Proust, *The Past Recaptured*)

Justin Jin

Zone of absolute discomfort

Justin Jin's project focuses on an arctic population, with its hopes, love and ability to survive in an icy plane dotted with crumbling cities, where conditions are very hard but habitable enough to keep alive the mines that extract millions of tons of oil, gas and minerals trapped beneath the tundra. The photos were taken in Murmansk, the largest arctic city in the world, the nearby abandoned village of Teriberka – where Gazprom wants to build a gas processing plant for the Shtokman field – and to the east towards the city of Norilsk, one of the most polluted cities in the world, where nickel is produced. In addition to these images, other photos taken in Vorkuta, where the coal mines are firing the workers as they can no longer justify the costs of supporting the Arctic communities.

Alessandro Sambini

'Na mota e 'na busa

This Venetian adage offers the title for the Alessandro Sambini's project for GD4PhotoArt and encompasses its meaning: a hole always corresponds to a "mota", a heap. For every manufactured or creative product, there is a heap, a parallel pile of waste. Human energy creates space, products, services, emotions. It distils matter into perfect, ergonomic objects: beauty. Matter changes, its fate is divided; "on one part the honey and the other the wax" (De Andrè). From the fields of the Po Valley

planes with their heaps of unsold vegetables to the mountains of rusty iron near Verona, from the mountains of waste near London to the plastic island off the coast of California, 30 metres deep and floating silently, invisible to the human eye, Sambini represents a new geography, with variable, unpredictable geological times.

Niels Stomps

El Dorado

For GD4PhotoArt, Niels Stomps took his pictures on the Svalbard Islands, an extreme territory to the north of Norway, on the way to the North Pole. The landscape is composed of white expanses and snowy mountains, with remarkable glaciers. For Stomps, Svalbard is a place lying between the past and the future, a borderland in both literal and metaphorical terms. Man has made huge efforts to occupy the area, to carry out scientific experiments and research aiming to unveil as many mysteries as possible about us and the planet we live on. Since 2006 Svalbard has been home to the Global Seed Vault, which conserves plant seeds from all over the world at a constant temperature of - 25 C°. In the various series of Eldorado, Stomps combines landscape images with portraits, as well as the interior and exterior of scientific buildings.

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