

BIOGRAPHY

GIOVANNA MAGRI (ITALY)

Giovanna Magri covers an important position in the world of national and international photography. : affirmed **commercial photographer**, specialized in still-life, portrait, food and architecture photography.

She held conferences at the European Institute of Design of Turin, at the Italian Institute of Photography in Milan and at the Swiss Consulate in Milan.

Professor and Photography department coordinator at LABA, she realized important projects for the Prison of Montorio (Verona) and MART Museum in Rovereto. She has cooperated also with Lyon "Maison de Dance" at the Biennale with the project "Nations-Humanity-Individuality-Diversity".

She studies and implements new workshops in photography through a unique method of approach to the world of the image.

She collaborates with the art magazine "The Red Tent", Campanotto edition distributed by Feltrinelli.

As author and researcher, Giovanna Magri studies the history of photography and the language of the great masters; in particular for years she has been deepened the self-portrait search and its various artistic and philosophical-psychological meanings, "history and stories in the city of the soul ... a journey into the infinite mystery of man ..."

She's into many artistic projects.

Her works have been exhibited in the United States, Argentina and Europe, in private galleries and public institutions, fairs and festivals, including the latest at the International Biennial of Contemporary Art in Chicago, at the Italy - China International Biennale in Turin, at the MIAFAIR Milan, at the Milan Biennale presented by Vittorio Sgarbi, at the Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa in Venice, at the Giustiniani Palace in Venice, at the Parque Museum in Argentina ...

She has been successful in the world of critics and obtained publications on important national and international magazines.

Her works are part of important national and international collections, including: the Claude Avril collection (honorary member of the Guggenheim Museum in New York), Philippe De Tristan Bordeaux collection, Tadini Museum of Bergamo, Fundacion Museo del Parque de Salta, Argentina ...

www.giovanmagri.it

info@giovanmagri.it

+39 338 8015057

TEXT OF THE VIDEO

My name is Giovanna Magri, professional photographer.

My work mainly develops through photographic portrait.

The implementation of projects comes from a deep research on multiple aspects of man, his being and his thinking.

Photographic language becomes the land of comparison, of awareness, reflection, help, change, responsibility ...

Projects presented here range from:

- "SOUL PRESENCE" : A young world that decided with great and mature awareness to dedicate his life to faith
- "RE-GENERATE" : Women who live in a state of detention, and decide to test their sad and hard experience in order to find and re-try a new vision
- "COGITO" : Men who, remaining in shadows and with humbleness of mind, put themselves on tap of others and for the good of man.

People who, in their diversity, work with great awareness and participation onto a path that is never "art for art" but as art for the world, for mankind.

As a source of growth, of social utility and as a reason to move the conscience of the outside world ...

A continuous work by man, towards man and for man.

"Photography, therefore, disappears in its technical dimension, and assumes the responsibility of meaning and signifier... !!"

SPECIFIC TEXT OF PHOTO PROJECTS

Giovanna Magri Photographer

info@giovanmagri.it

"Soul presence"

Society, political and economic patterns, loneliness in the chaos of our time and individual ratification affect the growth of the of a youth that often finds an answer to the search for its own path in non-selection and , consequently, in adapting to easy and less demanding situations.

Reality shown in this cycle of works is the precious testimony of something different. Young people portraits by Giovanna Magri have not only chosen, but they did it in a conscious and mature way. Although young people like many others, they decide every day to fully dedicate their lives to religion and spirituality. The easy life which is moved away and refused in order to make space for sacrifices and dedications: their belief is so strong to see in religion and spirituality a more important and greatest reward of all.

The greatness of the soul, the magic of light (the belief) deep in religion, the serenity of listening a difficult vocation become art able to realize the aura charm that envelops the protagonists.

The artist has carefully studied the angle and image processing, the looks and the expressions portrayed are the result of an observation performed directly from inside: the artist lived, prayed, ate and discussed with the protagonists and could in this way get herself the perception of that world's language of. So images can point out and emphasize the individual processing of thoughts and universal needs, the personal path made in the depths of a soul ready to devote himself to a cause. These young people are positive examples of moral integrity.

The physical and bodily presence of young people in the works of this cycle reveals the spiritual presence of strong, decided and mature souls.

In other times, also not too far away, taking vows was also a convenient choice, giving the safety of food and accommodation, and sometimes allowed to gain a position respected by the whole community and many parents chose protected life of convents or canonical for their children even if it diverged from their aspirations. Manzoni with his Sister Gertrude emphasizes this aspect.

Today the situation is very different. A young man who makes the decision to dedicate his life to the monastic life giving up his family, entertainment, economic growth or sex life is often held up and excluded from the group of peers.

Giovanna Magri portrays young people who have courage, who face adult questions and answer with concreteness: she is able to describe them in the simplicity of their essence, in the brightness of their choice, as

masters of an intimate courage, as food for thought that inextricably links itself to the presence of the soul and spirituality, too often neglected.

In addition, the author's project takes a comprehensive approach, highlighting the relationship that these "witnesses of the faith" have in the social and existential field: in sickness, poverty, imprisonmentbut also in the sharing of joy, participation in cultural training and search for Truth.

The peculiarity of technique begins with manipulation of Polaroid 20x25cm and comes to printing process on photo paper: Giovanna Magri has been able to combine the features of the photographic language- thus the need to start from a "real" subject - and the artistic image interpretation .

Nadia Melotti

RE-GENERATE

WHEN A CRISIS IS OPPORTUNITY FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

Photographic project by Giovanna Magri, with the assistance of Danna Pavan

Verona, Montorio Prison

In Verona's prison, that includes two female sections, the, non-profit Association Microcosmo accompanied some female detainees to experience a new language that goes beyond writing and other events which, yearly, involve the world of women Montorio's prison.

Giovanna Magri, art photographer, researcher and professor at Fine Arts Academy of Brescia, has therefore conducted a workshop at the women section: "*Re-Generate. The strength to start again.*" The project, developed within a process of writing and images, focuses on regenerative power, on the ability to overcome a significant block of a crisis and re-start with well-aware choices.

Images paint a crossing path of the crisis as a human experience, as a growing step. As an opportunity. When we do not give up, when don't leave ourselves been overwhelmed.

Others' help is in vain unless we light the spark of recovery's volition, if there is no escape from the risk of passivity, of victimization, of self-complacency.

The affective network states itself as a first reference that guides and supports; it allows to take the first steps towards the world and, at the same time, towards the depth of ourselves, our interiority.

The social relationship works as a protective cover and support, as the ground on which to exercise ourselves'

approach to and to the vision of the possible, through comparison, listening and offering hospitality to the ones that, like us, experienced a crisis.

Re-generating has to do with something that already exists, but that at some point takes a new shape, a new substance, "*other than itself, continuously with it ...*"

Paola Tacchella

“COGITO”

(Sharing for Living together)

Economic instability, faltering international relations, immigration, terroristic attacks in many countries, the crisis of thought in a multicultural society: those are the reasons where a study, aimed to an important and emotive subject toward the world of man comes from, a study aimed to

necessary and strong need for a new united and shared thought in an ever-changing society.

The age in which we live is undermining consolidated aspects that characterize us. Man needs to make a pause and reflect deeply on phenomena's analysis in order to better discover aspirations and dynamism hidden inside social processes. It's about using thought not as the power of man, but as a mutual accountability way, in a world where plural sharing is required.

Cohabitation has become today a global problem.

The survival of humanity itself is at stake: it is about combining an individual consciousness – based on Me as a person – with a collective one, centered on US as mankind.

Today the point is to recognize diversity as a constitutive element of our common humanity.

We need to reflect: diversity has to be considered not as difference and separation, but as distinction and complementarity.

Thanks to the recognition of diversity and the ability of commoning descends the competence to make the social coexistence becoming a form of ethical sharing.

Inside social processes we count volunteering, which comes from wise sharing, helping and supporting reflections, for many reasons related to selflessness, generosity, care about the others.

Volunteers and citizens, with their needs and fragilities.

Volunteers with poors, marginalized, temporary workers or unemployed, elderly, disabled, battered women, children who are wealth and future of every civilization.

Volunteers alongside those who demand respect for rights but, also, require fulfillment of duties from everybody.

Volunteering is an extraordinarily vast phenomenon, promoter of civil society and growth factor of social cohesion, one of the pillars of society and democracy.

We are living a particular historical moment, the world of solidarity is vital to consolidate and support through models and social actions values of generosity and solidarity, together with principles of equality and justice. With its action, it plays an all-round public role.

Emeritus president Giorgio Napolitano reminded: “ *volunteering is constant professional and human closeness to communities and people in serious*

difficulties, in order to meet others' needs and improving a society that nowadays strongly needs solidarity and social cohesion".

Supporting volunteer's work is crucial, promoting and spreading the culture of solidarity and inclusion that must be one of the guiding values of our plural society.