



**THE ARCHIVE OF TRANQUILLO CASIRAGHI (Sesto San Giovanni, 1923-2005)
IS THE WINNER OF THE SECOND EDITION OF THE AWARD
“TEMPO RITROVATO - FOTOGRAFIE DA NON PERDERE”**

The competition that selects the most praiseworthy Italian archive institution dedicated to photography was conceived by IO Donna, in collaboration with MIA Fair, Eberhard & Co. and the Museo di Fotografia Contemporanea in Cinisello Balsamo.

From 23 to 25 May MIA Fair will host an exhibition dedicated to Tranquillo Casiraghi and a round table to celebrate his work.

The Archive of Tranquillo Casiraghi (Sesto San Giovanni, 1923-2005) is the winner of the second edition of the Award “*Tempo ritrovato - Fotografie da non perdere*” (“*Time Found – Unmissable Photographs*”), conceived by IO Donna in collaboration with MIA Fair, Eberhard & Co. and the Museo di Fotografia Contemporanea in Cinisello Balsamo and under the sponsorship of Regione Lombardia.

The award, reserved for the private archives of Italian artists, which today are often overlooked but represent a heritage of great artistic and documentary value, **consists in a contribution of € 8,000** to help support the costs of stock-taking, cataloguing, high resolution digitalizing, preserving and restoring the works of the winning archive. These operations must be carried out on the instructions of the Scientific Committee of the Award.

The statement of the jury, which was composed of **Fabio Castelli** (MIA Fair), **Renata Ferri** (IO Donna - the women’s magazine of Corriere della Sera), **Laura Gasparini** (Photo Collection of the Panizzi Library in Reggio Emilia), **Lucia Miodini** (Study Centre and Communication Archive of the University of Parma) and **Roberta Valtorta** (Museo di Fotografia Contemporanea in Cinisello Balsamo) praised “the sensitive, human, refined style of the photographs of Tranquillo Casiraghi: the portraits, the scenes from social life and the landscapes represent an iconographic heritage whose preservation is a contribution to the reconstruction of our history.”

“The author”, the statement continues, “gives special attention to the human face, not only from a psychological but also a sociological point of view, in the finest tradition of humanist photography. His entire photographic production is characterized by extreme intensity and beauty. The works in the archive represent true social reportages, which Casiraghi develops through the portraits of his protagonists. Particularly intense are the images in which the subjects are photographed outdoors, along the riverside and at work, and also in their homes, providing an important rendering of the environmental and historical context”.

The photographic archive documents an ability to represent, in an exemplary way, the social life of Italy in the ‘60s, the decade featured in the Second edition of the Award, which in 2013 was won by the Archive of Federico Garolla for his remarkable documentation of the '50s.

From 23 to 25 May 2014 MIA Fair will host, in a dedicated space, the exhibition of the archive and a round table will be held to celebrate the work of Tranquillo Casiraghi.

Biographical notes

Tranquillo Casiraghi was born in 1923 in Sesto San Giovanni (Milan), in a little house (or *canuetta*) near La Torretta, where the family lived after moving from Missaglia, Brianza. Once a stately home, La Torretta was a farmstead on the western boundary of Milan, surrounded by the homes of peasants and employed craftsmen, and was sold in 1903 to Società Italiana Ernesto Breda, marking the transition from an agricultural to an industrial economy as the peasants gradually became workers. Casiraghi left school at the age of 14 and went to work at Breda. Later, as an adult, he completed his studies, graduating from both junior high and high school.

Of particular importance to his cultural and political development was a banned book named *The Mother* by Gorkij, which a fellow townsman had brought back from the military in 1943. During the war of liberation he went into hiding, while his sister worked as a female sutler and courier for the partisans on Lake Como. He then went to live in Switzerland, later returning to Italy by one of the last trains, in August, 1945.

In 1951 he married (by civil ceremony, thus causing a sensation) Ambrogina Basilico, and the couple moved to a two-room house at La Torretta, which they shared with his mother. On his honeymoon he took with him a camera loaned by a friend. He first worked at Breda and then, in 1961, joined SIC Edison (later Montedison), working as head of the analysis laboratory testing the resistance of plastics, a position he held until 1983.

At La Torretta he organised theatre performances and various activities. He became one of the founders of the co-operative society for the construction of new housing in Sesto. He worked hard to promote photography, organising for the Public Library competitions, exhibitions, debates, conferences and, in 1959, the first National Convention of Photography with an attached photography exhibition. From 1962 to 1965, together with Antonio Arcari and Cesare Colombo, he produced the magazine *Dibattito*, an independent supplement of *Photo Magazin*.

The camera was Casiraghi's constant companion and accompanied him wherever he went in the world; to him photography was a simple and natural act, and printing a quiet declaration of what is possible. Tranquillo Casiraghi died in Milan in 2005.

Milan, April 2014

MIA Fair – Milan Image Art Fair 2014

Superstudio Più (Via Tortona 27), Milan

23 - 25 MAY, 2014

Thursday, 22 May: Opening Event (by invitation)

Friday, 23 May: 11.00 am – 9.00 pm

Saturday, 24 May: 11.00 am – 9.00 pm

Sunday, 25 May: 10.00 am – 8.00 pm

Information

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