

THE THEATER OF THINGS, THE 'UNIQUE' PHOTOGRAPHS BY SERGIO SCABAR

FOR THE FIRST TIME ON DISPLAY IN MILAN

BAG-Bocconi Art Gallery at Università Bocconi

January 25 – April 20 2024

"My print is created in the darkroom,
a moment lived in the birth of something miraculous."
(Sergio Scabar)"

- *On display in Milan: "Suspended time: Works by Sergio Scabar," dedicated to the great Friulian photographer, who passed away in 2019. Conceived by Fabio Castelli and curated by Angela Madesani.*
- *The exhibition is part of the rich schedule of events at MIA Photo Fair.*
- *Ilaria Dazzi, Director of MIA Photo Fair, states: "Photography is a fundamental driver to enrich the cultural offer of the city of Milan, with which Fiere di Parma aims to build an increasingly close relationship."*

(Milan, January 18, 2024) - Vases, books, bowls, and small pieces of wood. Miniature theaters of objects to reach the essence of phenomena, this and much more constitute the work of Sergio Scabar, who, for the first time since his passing in 2019, is on display in **Milan from January 25 to April 20 at BAG Bocconi**, Via Sarfatti 25, as part of the rich schedule of initiatives of MIA Photo Fair.

"Suspended Time: Works by Sergio Scabar," conceived by Fabio Castelli and curated by Angela Madesani, showcases the latest works of the photographer, including unpublished images from the artist's family and private collections. The photographs are the result of an alchemical print created by the artist himself, in black and white, on baryta paper - high-quality paper made of pure cellulose with a thick weight - and then placed inside black frames, without glass or passe-partout. The protagonists of the images are objects from the artist's domestic dimension, much like in the works of Giorgio Morandi, an artist particularly beloved by the Friulian photographer.

"They are all unique pieces," comments **Angela Madesani**, the curator of the exhibition - a uniqueness also expressed by the frame, which gives a different meaning to things each time. These are works that require a long viewing time, in contrast to the increasingly widespread visual consumerism of our days.

Scabar's imagination is personal, becoming collective through the creation of his works, the result of meticulous work in compositional discipline, almost obsessive. "Sergio," Madesani comments further, "had an extremely close relationship with each of his individual works, enveloping them in a very soft black cloth. He treated his works like children that shouldn't catch cold."

Unique shots of objects deliberately halted and suspended in time, a dimension of pure still life. An expression of intelligence in form, heightened by uniform light of indefinite origin. Madesani defines them as "Theaters of Things," tableaux-vivants that harken back to the historical-photographic tradition of the Victorian era.

"Each of his works," she explains, "is a potential answer to questions. They carry the force of doubt about the meaning of things, about existence, about the act of making art itself. They are photographs tied to time, to memory, where the aesthetic dimension is certainly a means but not the ultimate end."

This initiative is part of the approach to MIA Photo Fair 2024, the international art fair dedicated to photography in Italy (April 11-14), which will take place in the central location of AllianzMiCo.

*"The exhibition dedicated to Sergio Scabar hosted at Bocconi," says **MIA Director Ilaria Dazzi**, "testifies to the desire of Fiere di Parma to establish an increasingly close relationship with the city of Milan. We believe that photography can make a fundamental contribution to enrich the already important cultural offer of the city. Our goal is to create a network of value with an increasing number of city institutions."*

Fabio Castelli, the creator of the exhibition, concludes: *"The choice of this artist aims to recall the intention expressed in the concept of the exhibitions at Bocconi, which is to present Italian and international authors of international caliber, but relatively less known in Italy and especially in Milan. The opportunity presented itself considering the theme 'Changing' in this year's edition of MIA Photo Fair. Scabar's works, so distant from the time and noise of our present, reach the peak of their suggestion when observing those in which we recognize some elements that were part of the world of photography. That world we know well. They seem very distant, leading us to reflect on the values of this change."*

Bibliography of Sergio Scabar

Sergio Scabar was born in Ronchi dei Legionari (Gorizia) in 1946, where he lived and worked until his passing in 2019. He began his interest in photography in 1964. From 1966 to 1974, he sporadically participated in national and international competitions, predominantly using photography for storytelling and reportage purposes. Subsequently, in the 1980s, his work took a substantial turn: the human figure exited his works, and his interest shifted towards nature, sublimating both its material and conceptual aspects.

With the work "The Theater of Things" in 1996, he began using an alchemical silver salt print, a "unique specimen." The artisanal working method became more prominent compared to his earlier works. In 2003, he received the "Friuli Venezia Giulia Fotografia" award from CRAF. In 2005, he held a solo exhibition titled "Tempo Fermo" at Castello di Grumello (Bergamo), curated by Philippe Daverio. In 2008, he published "Silenzio di Luce" for Punto Marte Editore, and in 2010, "Cidinors" published by Associazione cultural Colonos. In 2015, he participated in the group exhibition "Obiecta" at Giacomo Guidi Gallery (Rome), and in 2016, in "Silenzi" at Galleria Milano in Milan, both curated by Angela Madesani.

In 2017, a solo exhibition was dedicated to him at Galerie L&C Tirelli in Vevey (Switzerland). A few months before his passing, Palazzo Attems Petzenstein dedicated a major retrospective exhibition to Sergio Scabar, titled "Camera Oscura (1969-2018)," curated by Guido Cecere and Alessandro Squinzi, with a precious catalog from Faganel publisher featuring a long text by Angela Madesani.

His works are part of the contemporary art collection of San Vito al Tagliamento, "Punto Fermo," established during the "Palinsesti" exhibition (2011), following a project by Angelo Bertani, Alessandro del Puppi, and Denis Viva. His works are also in the collection of the Pinacoteca dei Musei Provinciali – Palazzo Attems Petzenstein, Biblioteca Statale Isontina in Gorizia, CRAF – Centro di ricerca e Archiviazione della Fotografia in Spilimbergo (Pordenone), the collection of the Polinova Galerija in Aidussina (Slovenia), and the Associazione cultural Colonos (Villacaccia di Lestizza, Udine). He exhibited in numerous private galleries and various institutions in Italy and abroad.

TECHNICAL INFO

Title

Suspended time: Works by Sergio Scabar

Location

BAG- Bocconi Art Gallery at Università Bocconi, via Sarfatti 25, basement

Dates open to the public

January 25 – April 20, 2024

Exhibition conceived by



Fabio Castelli

Exhibition curated by

Angela Madesani

Opening hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Closed on Sundays

Free admission

Press office

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