



ROBERTO GABETTI FOTOGRAFO

curated by Sisto Giriodi

CAMERA Project Room – Centro Italiano per la Fotografia

28 April – 23 May 2021

In the Project Room, **CAMERA – Centro Italiano per la Fotografia** presents the exhibition **Roberto Gabetti fotografo**: a tribute to the original photographic vision of **Roberto Gabetti** (Turin, 1925–2000), universally known for his work as an architect, twenty years after his death.

Underlining CAMERA's role in promoting a photographic heritage as rich as it is inadequately known, the exhibition curated by Sisto Giriodi presents a wide selection of works from Gabetti's private archive **for the first time**.

Although fully dedicated to the practice of architecture both as a teacher and a designer as well as being a creative artist, Gabetti's observation of his surrounding reality – architecture, buildings and the built environment – often made use of a camera, both an extension of his eye and a place of visual concentration. Equipped with a Leica, probably received to celebrate his admission to the Faculty of Architecture as a student, from an early age he tried his hand at photographic reproductions of studio models: operations in which photography affords a new way of observing architecture itself. These methods can be found in the negatives and test prints that make up the photographic fond kept by the Gabetti family, which consists of about 300 35 mm rolls, comprising a total of 5,000 negatives accompanied by the corresponding contact prints and shooting information that makes it possible to trace the subjects, location and often even the date of the individual shots.

On the basis of this heritage, the curator has put together an exhibition itinerary which, through **more than 100 photographs** printed from the original negatives, retraces moments of Roberto Gabetti's private and professional life – travels in Italy and abroad, following in the footsteps of the masters of architecture, scale models and design – expressing his taste for line, form, detail, harmony and curious combinations.

“Roberto Gabetti, well known as a major architect, an authoritative professor of design, appreciated as an ‘all-round writer’, an author of books and essays on various topics,” comments the curator of the exhibition **Sisto Giriodi**, “kept a photographic ‘diary’ – one which has remained secret until today – of his study trips, projects and construction sites for twenty years, from 1945 to 1965. Those rolls of film were left in an old chest of drawers in his studio at 22 Via Sacchi in Turin, before being



developed and inserted into 'booklets' by the Riccardo Moncalvo laboratory. Gabetti's photographs are strange, ones which do not have 'noble predecessors' like those found in the Alinari collections, nor recognisable 'masters' in the historic avant-garde movements of the twentieth century. They are characterised by personal choices: trying out shooting stances unlike those of the 'standing' photographer with a 'straight and level' camera; accepting the presence in the images of the everyday lives of men, women and children, cars and bicycles, with choices that reflect an idea of photography as a knowledge of the reasons for architecture, cities and countries, but also as a visual anthropology of different ways of living, inhabiting, dressing and moving, with 'images of the world that are the measure of experience,' as Luigi Ghirri used to say."

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue, published by Lindau, featuring over 200 photos and with texts by Sisto Giriodi and Daniele Regis.

With the contribution of the Regional Council of Piedmont.

Roberto Gabetti

Roberto Gabetti was born in Turin on 29 November 1925. He graduated in Architecture from Turin Polytechnic at the end of 1949. He remained present in the faculty from 1950, first as an assistant in the Science of Construction, then as a 'helper' and assistant to Carlo Mollino from 1953. In 1967 he became a full professor of Architectural Composition. In 1950 he began his professional activity by opening a studio with Aimaro Oreglia d'Isola. From 1958 to 1988 he served as Director of the Central Library of the Faculty of Architecture at Turin Polytechnic. He was a member of the Accademia Nazionale di San Luca in Rome, the Accademia delle Arti e del Disegno in Florence and the Accademia delle Scienze in Turin. He died in Turin on 5 December 2000.

INFO

CAMERA Project Room – Centro Italiano per la Fotografia

Opening hours (Last entrance 30 minutes prior to closing)

Monday 11 am – 7 pm

Tuesday Closed

Wednesday 11 am – 7 pm

Thursday 11 am – 9 pm

Friday 11 am – 7 pm

Saturday 11 am – 7 pm

Sunday 11 am – 7 pm

Project Room: Free admission

CONTACTS

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