

Tre Oci

VENICE/TRE OCI

From 31 August 2019 to 2 February 2020

FERDINANDO SCIANNA

Journey Story Memory

This large-scale anthological show recounts, through 180 works, more than fifty years of the career of one of the masters of contemporary photography.

For this occasion there will be exhibited a series of fashion photos that Scianna made in Venice, a testimony to his strong links to the city.

"I'm no longer certain, though I once was, that you can better the world with a photo. I am still convinced, however, of the fact that bad photographs can make it worse."

Ferdinando Scianna

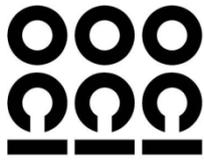
From 31 August 2019 to 2 February 2020, the Casa dei Tre Oci in Venice will be hosting an anthological show by Ferdinando Scianna (Bagheria, Sicily, 1943), one of the reference figures of contemporary international photography.

The show, curated by Denis Curti, Paola Bergna, and Alberto Bianda, art director, organised by **Civita Mostre e Musei and Civita Tre Venezia**, and promoted by **Fondazione di Venezia**, covers more than fifty years of this Sicilian photographer's career, **through 180 works in black and white**, divided into three wide-ranging themes: *Journey, Story, Memory*.

On this occasion there will be exhibited a series of fashion photos that Scianna made in Venice, a testimony to his strong link to the city.

Emanuela Bassetti, the president of Civita Tre Venezia, has said, *"After the 2016 show about the 500 years of the Jewish Ghetto in Venice, Ferdinando Scianna is returning to the Casa dei Tre Oci with an anthological show ranging over half a century of his career.*

"This initiative is the next step in a project started from the collaboration between Civita Tre Venezia and Civita Mostre e Musei, the outcome of a shared idea that has



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as its aim an analysis of contemporary art languages, in particular that of photography and its most important exponents.

“The exhibition is also a way of consolidating the strong link existing between Ferdinando Scianna and Venice, testified to by the series of fashion photos that Scianna shot among the alleys and squares of the city.”

Ferdinando Scianna began to be enthusiastic about photography in the 1960s when he began to recount through images the culture and traditions of his native Sicily.

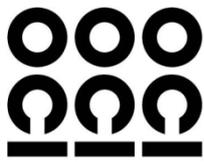
During his long career in art he has touched on many themes – current events, war, travel, popular religion – all united by a single leitmotif: the constant search for a form in the chaos of life.

In more than fifty years of narration there has not been, of course, any lack of propositions: from Bagheria to the Bolivian Andes and to religious festivals – at the beginning of his career - to his experiences of the fashion world, begun with Dolce & Gabbana and the iconic model Marpessa. Then there was reportage (from 1982 the first Italian to be part of the Magnum photojournalism agency), landscape, and such thematic obsessions as mirrors, animals, things and, finally, portraits of his friends, such masters of the art and culture world as Leonardo Sciascia, Henri Cartier-Bresson, and Jorge Louis Borges, to mention just a few.

Gifted with a great sense of self-mockery, Scianna has chosen a text by Giorgio Manganelli to sum up this show: *“An anthological show is a legitimate massacre, a slaughter looked on favourably by civil and religious authorities. A clean operation for tearing to pieces the books that travel the world under the name of the author in order to extract from it a stew, a pie, a hotpot...”*

Scianna himself has stated with regard to his work, *“As a photographer I consider myself to be a reporter. As a reporter my basic reference point is my master par excellence, Henri Cartier-Bresson, for whom a photograph must aim at being an invisible witness which never intrudes in order to modify the world and the moments of the reality that it reads and interprets. I have always made a sharp distinction between found images and constructed ones. I have always considered myself as part of those photographers who find images, those who recount and inform you, as in a mirror. I have even discovered fashion photography in the gamble of meetings with the world.”*

In order to deepen the experience of the content of the show, the Casa dei Tre Oci has excogitated a fully developed teaching project aimed both at schools and at groups of families and adults, with visits-explorations and workshops that can be



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booked, a series of meetings in the show, and a series of guided tours with the curators.

Visitors will be supplied with an audioguide (in Italian and English) through which Scianna himself will tell at first hand his way of thinking about photography and other things. A genuine parallel story in order to understand close up his development as a person and as a photographer.

In the video room of the Casa dei Tre Oci, there will also be screened three documentary films devoted to his professional life.

The show will be supplied with a catalogue published by **Marsilio Editori**.

Biographical note.

Ferdinando Scianna was born in Bagheria, Sicily, in 1943.

It was in his home city that he began to devote himself to photography while still very young, at the beginning of the 1960s, when he recounted through images the culture and traditions of his country of origin.

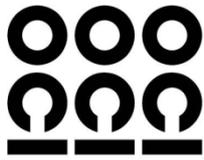
He decided early on to become a photographer, upsetting his parents' plans for him to be a lawyer or doctor. Already his first portraits of people from Bagheria, who Scianna portrays with an interested and participatory tone, are full of intensity.

In 1961 he enrolled at the faculty of literature and philosophy at Palermo University, while his passion for photography began to become structured. He became a pupil of the great critic Cesare Brandi and showed his photos to Enzo Sellerio who was to reveal to him the cultural universe of Cartier-Bresson. These were also the years in which he developed a political conscience which was determinant for the evolution of his photography, in a similar way to the link with his own homeland and Sicilian traditions.

About two years later there was a meeting that was fundamental for his professional and personal life: he came into contact with Leonardo Sciascia, the author with whom at just 21-years-old he published an essay on the religious festivals in Sicily, in a book that won the prestigious Premio Nadar. The book led to great controversy, above all for the texts by Sciascia who revealed the materialistic essence of the religious festivals. But also the photos by the young Scianna made their own impact.

"Photography was the possibility of recounting a human event. This master of mine made me understand this, and he introduced me to a certain way of seeing things, of how to read, think, and place myself with regard to the world."

On the crest of the book's success, Sciascia moved to Milan where he worked for the *Europeo* as a photojournalist, and then as special envoy and correspondent from Paris, where he lived for ten years. In Paris he also began to be a successful writer. He collaborated with various magazines, including *Le Monde Diplomatique* and the *Quinzaine Littéraire*. "I found myself writing more than I was photographing, but I knew I was a photographer who wrote," Scianna says. And it was in the French capital that his work was particularly appreciated by Henri



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Cartier-Bresson who, in 1982, invited him to be a candidate for the Magnum Photos agency, which he had founded in 1947. Scianna returned to Milan and left the *Europeo* in order to devote himself to photography. “The agency is the tool for a group of independent photographers, a structure able to evaluate your work better than you yourself know how to use this tool. Magnum continues to survive according to the egalitarian utopia of its founders, and in a mysterious way it manages to allow the cohabitation of the most violent contradictions.”

In Milan he worked for various newspapers and magazines. He also began to make photos for two young emerging designers, Dolce and Gabbana: a chance meeting, that was to give rise to one of the most successful collaborations in fashion photography. Scianna was asked to create a catalogue by inserting the splendid model Marpessa in the context of his Sicily. Scianna has managed to masterfully mix the visual styles of the fashion world with his experience as a photojournalist, to create an original result that breaks the glossy monotony of fashion photography. This was a success that was to lead him to collaborate with prestigious international magazines and to undertake other fashion shots in which he masterfully flanked artifice and authenticity.

This sudden and unexpected change of direction opened Scianna’s photographic world to new experiences, parallel to the more traditional ones of photojournalism, those of advertising and commercial photography, without ever abandoning social reportage, portraits, and journalism.

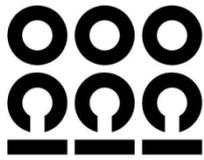
PRESS MATERIAL AND IMAGES

<http://www.treoci.org/index.php/it/sala-stampa>

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FERDINANDO SCIANNA. *Journey Story Memory*

Venue

Casa dei Tre Oci
Fondamenta delle Zitelle, 43, Giudecca, Venezia

Ferry Boat

To the Zitelle stop:
From piazzale Roma and from the train station, line 4.1 - 2
From San Zaccaria line 2 - 4.2

Dates

31.08.2019>02.02.2020

Press Conference

Friday 30 August 2019, at 12.00

Opening hours

Every day from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; closed Tuesday

Info

tel. +39 041 24 12 332; info@treoci.org; www.treoci.org
#treoci #ferdinandosciannatreoci #sciannatreoci

Booking (obligatory for groups)

Ticket One. Call center: 199 757519

Tickets (audioguide included in the ticket)

13,00 € full price

11,00 € for students under 26, the over-65s, the holders of special permits

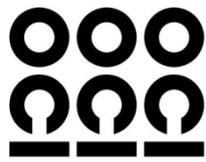
9,00 € special reduced price for groups of more than 15 people, special reduced price every Wednesday for residents and those born in the metropolitan city of Venice;

8,00 € each Thursday for the owners of a Feltrinelli card, the possessors of entrance tickets to the shows in the exhibition venues of Gallerie d'Italia, MyPass

6,00 € students at Ca' Foscari and luav (promotion extended to all students on Friday), associates of Ca' Foscari Alumni

26,00 € family reduced price (two adults and two under-14s)

5,00 € reduced price for schools



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Free: children under six, an escort for each group, the disabled and a helper, two teaching escorts per class, journalists with a membership card, tourist guides

Guided tours

For groups of 15 to 25 persons only with reservation: info@treoci.org

Italian €100, English €120

Dog friendly