

**Linea di Confine
per la Fotografia Contemporanea**

PRESS RELEASE

Saturday 16th May, 6pm

L'Ospitale, Rubiera, Reggio Emilia

Photography Room, First Floor

In memory of
LEWIS BALTZ

Giochi di simulazione, 1991

End to End, video, 2000

Documentation of the installation **Mulino Gandini, Scandiano, 1991**

Reception Room and 'Sala Sassi'. Ground Floor

Exhibition of the artists selected in the
Call for Artists

IL DESERTO ROSSO

In collaboration with

Die Photographische Sammlung / SK Stiftung Kultur di Colonia (D)

Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst di Lipsia (D)

Osservatorio Fotografico, Ravenna

Rubiera Town Council

Sunday 17th May, from 5pm

L'Ospitale, Rubiera, Reggio Emilia

As part of the event 'In ricordo di Lewis Baltz – In memory of Lewis Baltz'

Antonello Frongia will present the volume

Lewis Baltz. Scritti, published by Johan & Levi Edizioni, Milan.

There will then be a round-table discussion with

Giorgio Falco, William Guerrieri, Guido Guidi, Stefano Graziani, Sabrina Ragucci, Silvana Turzio
and Franco Vaccari. Chaired by Antonello Frongia.

**Linea di Confine
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In memory of **LEWIS BALTZ**

A key protagonist of American photography and a leading figure of the 'New Topographics' group, Lewis Baltz took part in two *Linea di Confine* projects, in 1991 and 2000. In 1991, he produced the work entitled *Giochi di simulazione*, made up of 13 fragments of images taken from a permanent work installed in the Municipal Library of Scandiano. Produced following a simulation game organised in Scandiano by the University of Venice on the themes concerning economic development, environmental sustainability and welfare policies at the very same time in which the photography workshop was being held, the work constitutes a further reflection on the representability of reality through photography. While concepts like 'truth', 'verisimilitude' and 'credibility' were at the heart of Lewis Baltz's work in the 1970s and '80s, now with the concept of 'simulation', which in the wake of Baudrillard stands for pretending, lying and tricking, another element is added to his complex work.

The work *Giochi di simulazione* was produced following the 'Laboratorio di Fotografia 4' workshop which was held in Scandiano with the participation of 25 young photographers. The documentation of that installation, so innovative on the Italian photography scene, and of a number of works by its participants is presented as part of the exhibition in order to reconstruct an important moment in the history of *Linea di Confine* as well as in the training of several Italian photo-artists.

The exhibition will also feature a copy of the *Giochi di simulazione* catalogue, with a text by the photo historian Paolo Costantini, at the time the scientific director of the *Linea di Confine* project, along with the notes written by Lewis Baltz for the catalogue text, and the publishing mock-up.

In 1999, Lewis Baltz was sent to take part in a group study project on the Via Emilia road, along with Olivo Barbieri, Paola De Pietri, Guido Guidi, Walter Niedermayr and Franco Vaccari. On that occasion, Lewis Baltz produced a 'road video' entitled *End To End*, lasting around 63 minutes, shooting the entire route along the via Emilia from a car, starting at the bridge over the river Po at Piacenza down to Rimini. Industrial areas, urban areas, rural zones and transport infrastructures alternate one another along an uninterrupted journey, accompanied by the music and talk of commercial radio stations, finally reaching Rimini, amidst commercial signs and the dark of the night. A text which recounts the social, economic and political history of the region passes across the screen from the start of the video until the end, tracing the history of the 20th century.

Exhibition of work by the artists selected in the Call for Artists **IL DESERTO ROSSO**

On the same day, Saturday 16 May, the 27 photographic projects pre-selected by the commission of the Call for Artists entitled 'Il deserto rosso' will be presented.

Michelangelo Antonioni is certainly one of the artists who has aroused most interest in the work of photographers, especially those from America and Europe, starting from his very first masterpieces, such as *Il grido* (The Cry) and *L'avventura* (The Adventure). With *Il deserto rosso* (Red Desert, 1964), his first colour film, set in the industrial area of Ravenna, the themes dealt with were those that would prove central to photography over the decades to come. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the production of *Il deserto rosso*, Linea di Confine per la Fotografia Contemporanea, Rubiera (RE), in collaboration with the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst of Lipsia (D) and the Osservatorio Fotografico of Ravenna issued a Call for Artists for the implementation of 12 visual projects, which 43 photographers took part in. After an initial selection, the commission of the Call for Artists identified 27 projects worthy of being further developed through a series of public meetings and displays.

The projects on show are those by Fabrizio Albertini, Mariano Andreani, Nicola Baldazzi, Enrico Bedolo, Caterina Biancolella, Michele Buda, Luca Capuano, Alfonso Chianese, Giammarco Corsi, Chiara Dazi, Alessandra Dragoni, Marcello Galvani, Luca Gambi, Francesca Gardini, Renato Gasperini, Stefano Graziani, Marco Lachi, Allegra Martin, Riccardo Muzzi, Francesco Neri, Luca Nostri, Andrea Pertoldeo, Giacomo Pulcinelli, Giacomo Savigni, Prosdocimo Terrassan and Luisa Zanzani.