

Simone Martinetto

Cinema interiore / Inner Cinema

Curated by Maria Chiara Wang

21 January – 4 March 2023

On **Saturday 21 January 2023 at 4.30 pm**, *Inner Cinema*, a solo exhibition by **Simone Martinetto**, opens at **Studio Cenacchi Arte Contemporanea**, Via Santo Stefano 63, Bologna. The exhibition is curated by **Maria Chiara Wang**, who is also the author of the accompanying critical text.

The gallery presents two photographic series: ***Unexpected Cinema*** and ***I Shut My Eyes in Order to See***. Although they originated from different ideas, the two bodies of work are presented together because they share the distinctive sensitivity of Martinetto's gaze, which characterises both his work as a photographer and his life. Through the symbolic power of evocation and contemplation, this poetic depth transforms the images into small, refined and original visual surprises.

Maria Chiara Wang writes in the critical text:

In *Unexpected Cinema*, perspective is reversed: the selected photographs portray those “ghost presences” — people and objects — that keep the machinery of cinema alive while usually remaining in the shadows and making it possible. They are small “epiphanies” captured and preserved by the film still photographer's lens: a cinema within cinema, a story running parallel to the main narrative, another possible and unexpected story.

In *I Shut My Eyes in Order to See*, vision turns inward, becoming contemplation and silence. The pace slows, the images grow still and become landscapes of the mind. [...] On the chaotic island of Manhattan, in the heart of New York City, there are those who manage to stop the flow, remain in the present and let their thoughts drift away through meditation: Doyeon, a young Korean Buddhist nun who lives in a small temple among the skyscrapers; Cliff, who works as an insurance broker; and Michael, an athlete who competes in 100-kilometre ultramarathons. This series of triptychs is therefore an invitation — in Martinetto's own words — **to close our eyes in order to truly see**.

Running concurrently with this exhibition is another solo show by Simone Martinetto, ***Sollevare lo specchio***, opening on **Tuesday 24 January** in the exhibition space of the **Cinema Lumière**, Piazzetta P. P. Pasolini 2/b, at the **Cineteca di Bologna**. Focusing on Martinetto's work as a film still photographer, the exhibition runs until **28 February**. The photographs exhibited at the Cineteca are available for purchase through the gallery.

SIMONE MARTINETTO

Simone Martinetto was born in Turin in 1980. He graduated in Philosophy with a thesis on the concept of time in photography and works as a photographer, filmmaker, artist and photography teacher. He began taking

photographs when his grandfather gave him the camera he had bought on the occasion of his birth. His grandfather had only enough time to give him a few essential pieces of advice before falling ill and dying a few months later.

His artistic practice uses photography as its primary medium, while also encompassing video, installation and writing. Through a highly emotional and evocative photographic language, he tells often understated stories with profound symbolic meanings. His work is an ongoing investigation into memory, freedom, coincidence, relationships, dreams and the inner imagination.

He has exhibited in more than sixty exhibitions across Europe and the United States, including at the **Frost Art Museum** in Miami, **ISCP Gallery** and **49B Studios** in New York, **Claudio Bottello Contemporary** in Turin, the **Cineteca di Bologna**, the **Farnesina** in Rome and the **Italy–China Biennale** at Arca in Vercelli. His works have also been presented at around fifteen major photography and contemporary art festivals, including the **Festival International de la Photographie Sociale** in Paris, **SI FEST** in Savignano sul Rubicone, **Creativamente Roero** and **Jeune Création Européenne**, a travelling contemporary art exhibition presented in France, Lithuania, Austria, Italy, Spain and Portugal.

He has received several awards and distinctions both as an artist and as a film still photographer, including **First Prize at Portfolio Italia 2004 – Gran Premio Epson**, the **SI FEST Photography Festival Award in 2004**, **FNAC Young Photography Talent 2004**, **Cliciac 2005 and 2009**, the **Luca Pron Award 2011** and the **ISCP New York Award 2011**.

As a film still photographer, he has worked on around twenty major film productions, following them throughout the production process and photographing some of the best-known Italian and French directors and actors, including **Marco Bellocchio**, **Saverio Costanzo**, **Giuliano Montaldo**, **Lina Wertmüller**, **Isabella Rossellini**, **Alba Rohrwacher**, **Kasia Smutniak**, **Margherita Buy**, **Pierfrancesco Favino**, **Valerio Mastandrea**, **Luca Marinelli**, **Giancarlo Giannini**, **Ninetto Davoli**, **Giuseppe Battiston**, **Bérénice Bejo** and **Emmanuelle Devos**.

As a filmmaker, he directed the documentary ***Beati! La gioia non è mai al singolare***, which premiered in Bologna's **Piazza Maggiore** during the **Sotto le Stelle del Cinema** programme organised by the Cineteca di Bologna.

As a teacher, he has worked with more than **2,500 students between the ages of three and ninety**, teaching and leading workshops and seminars at the **University of Bologna**, the **Municipality of Turin**, private photography and film schools and numerous secondary schools, including the **Arcangeli Art School** and **Galvani High School** in Bologna. He received the **Arte Plurale Award** as best teacher for a photography workshop organised by the Municipality of Turin for people with psychiatric disorders.

He has published the photography books ***Senza la memoria*** and ***Il lavoro quotidiano*** with Pazzini Editore and contributed to the volume ***Nonostante la vostra cortese ospitalità. Fotografia e disagio mentale oggi***, published by Quinlan. His photographs have appeared in leading Italian periodicals, as well as in catalogues and on book covers.

In 2012, he lived and worked as an artist in New York thanks to the **ISCP New York Award**, organised by Seat Pagine Gialle and the Italian Ministry of Culture.

His work has been discussed by leading Italian art critics and filmmakers including **Claudio Marra**, **Francesco Poli**, **Marisa Vescovo**, **Patrizia Rossello**, **Olga Gambari** and **Marco Bellocchio**.

STUDIO CENACCHI

Galleria Studio Cenacchi was founded in 2016 out of **Jacopo Cenacchi's** longstanding research into and passion for contemporary art.

The gallery occupies more than **150 square metres across three floors** of the historic **Palazzo Ghiselli Vasselli**, in Via Santo Stefano, in the heart of Bologna. Characterised by vaulted ceilings, surviving sixteenth-century

frescoes and capitals, the unusual setting was chosen in part to create a productive dialogue between the architecture and the works of art presented in each exhibition.

Studio Cenacchi works directly with the artists it promotes, or with their estates. Its programme brings together **established and contemporary artists** from Italy and abroad, selected with a strong emphasis on quality and without distinctions of medium or generation.

The gallery also offers a dedicated **art advisory service for the acquisition of works of art**, as well as on-site consultations to develop **bespoke art placement projects for private homes and professional spaces**.

Notable exhibitions include *Tempera* by **Giorgio Zucchini**; *Carnival* by **Francesco Bocchini**; *Tutto il silenzio che c'era* by **Marco Rigamonti**; *La grafica* by **Sigfrido Bartolini**; *I luoghi della polvere* by **Augusto Gadea**; *Berlin, Brandenburger Tor 1989* by **Massimo Golfieri**; *Bologna, dalle periferie al centro* by **Maurizio Tangerini**; *Imago Pietatis* by **Elena Franco**; *From London to Free Derry* by **Gian Butturini**; *Ars curandi* by **Elena Franco**; *Ad lunam* by **Daniele Cabri**; and *Testa carbonara* by **Francesco Bocchini**.

USEFUL INFORMATION

TITLE: *Inner Cinema* — 33 works on display

ARTIST: Simone Martinetto

CURATED BY: Maria Chiara Wang

VENUE: Studio Cenacchi Arte Contemporanea, Via Santo Stefano 63, Bologna

OPENING: Saturday 21 January 2023, 4.30 pm

DATES: 21 January – 4 March 2023

OPENING HOURS: Tuesday to Saturday, 4–7.30 pm, or by appointment

ART CITY SPECIAL OPENING HOURS:

Sunday 29 January: 4–7.30 pm

Thursday 2 February: 10 am–1 pm and 3–8 pm

Friday 3 February: 10 am–1 pm and 3–8 pm

Saturday 4 February: 10 am–1 pm and 3 pm–midnight — **ART CITY WHITE NIGHT**

Sonata per macchine fotografiche e pianoforte — a five-minute performance by the artist at 7 pm, 9.30 pm and 11 pm

Sunday 5 February: 10 am–1 pm and 3–8 pm

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