Fotografia Spazio Aperto
Open Call

Gibellina Photoroad
in collaboration with
Triennale Milano
OPEN CALL

*Fotografia Spazio Aperto* is an Open Call promoted by *Triennale Milano* and *Gibellina Photoroad/Open air & Site-specific Festival*; it stems from a reflection on what it means to reinterpret the public space with the aim of hosting temporary site-specific installations in a multidisciplinary and inclusive perspective.

The Open Call aims to offer emerging artists the opportunity to experiment with the possible relationships between their production and the public space.

A photographer and an architect, selected by the jury, will spend a residency in Gibellina (Sicily) to design an open air and site-specific installation which will be held during the fourth edition of the Festival (28th July/30th September 2023).

The residency will be followed by the workshop “Curatorial Practices in Public Space” to be held in Milan at Triennale. The aim of the workshop is to explore the relationships between photography and architecture, in order to better conceptualize temporary exhibitions. In doing so, it will activate new synergies encouraging the participation of the public.

For the first time in Italy, contemporary photography and architecture dialogue structurally, to design innovative and immersive multidimensional exhibitions, looking at public space not as a simple void, but as a place in which seeking deep connections with the territory and stimulating participation.

CONCEPT

Photography, an art by nature flexible and ambiguous, is increasingly leaving museums to invade public spaces.

What relations can be established between photography and cities? How do we design an outdoor and site-specific exhibition, able to offer a new reading of the city and the images on display?

This is why photography and architecture: in contemporary times, the arts dialogue, hybridize and merge together to build new visions. And today more than ever it is a starting point for innovating and connecting languages.

Nowadays, photography, a ductile art and the youngest among the arts, is perfectly at ease. It breaks boundaries with the aim of exploring unexpected relationships and new paths of meaning, which start from reality - or from pure imagination - to create other, artificial spaces, constructed under one's gaze.

The selected artists will confront the theme of the fourth edition of Gibellina Photoroad festival, “Alterations”.

THE CITY

The city of Gibellina (Sicily) is one of the world’s largest “open air” contemporary art museums, which today once again becomes a laboratory of experimentation for artists.

Suspended between a dreamlike dimension and major material challenges, Gibellina is a city with a unique history that interweaves the trauma of an earthquake with contemporary art, which has become a driving force for the reconstruction of urban space and a new identity.

After the Belice earthquake of 1968, for over fifty years, hundreds of artists participated in the reconstruction of the city, superimposing new meanings on its metaphysical spaces, giving shape to an extraordinary location: not simply because of the sum of works installed in the urban space, but because these works were born from the artists’ experimentation and interaction with the territory and its inhabitants.

Today those works and architectures are waiting to welcome new visions, waiting to be reactivated through the observation and transformation of space.

VENUE

The residency will focus on the design of an installation conceived for one of the city’s most emblematic squares: the “Sistema delle Piazze”.
The “Sistema delle Piazze”, designed by Franco Purini and Laura Thermes (1982–1990) in the center of New Gibellina, is a large porticoed market, made of three architecturally simple interconnecting geometric squares, across which a complex stratification of a multiplicity of signs and shapes slowly appears.

The exact venue for the project will be Piazza Rivolta del 26 giugno 1937. It is the first of the 3 squares and is entered through a large gateway.

The square is bordered on three sides by parts from Nadia Vigo’s “Anthropomorphic tracks” and fragments of buildings from Old Gibellina, from which it is possible to view the square from above. On the left-hand side, there is a colonnade, and on the right, there are 15 ziggurats on 2 parallel lines.

JURY
Matteo Balduzzi (Curator Mufoco/Museo di Fotografia Contemporanea)
Nina Bassoli (Curator Architecture, Urban regeneration, Cities, Triennale Milano)
Lorenza Bravetta (Curator Photography, Cinema and New media, Triennale Milano)
Arianna Catania (Director Gibellina Photoroad / Open air & Site-specific Festival)
Enzo Fiammetta (Director Museo delle Trame Mediterranee/Fondazione Orestiadi)
Claudia Mainardi (Co-Founder Fosbury Architecture)

RULES
- Proposals, under penalty of exclusion, must be sent by 9 September 2022 to call@gibellinaphotoroadfestival.com
- Participation in the Call is free of charge
- Individuals or groups can apply (no age limit)
- The authors will be selected by the jury on the basis of their CVs and motivational letters
- Each artist may participate individually. The jury will separately select one photographer and one architect
- Participation requires the submission of a brief biography (max 1000 characters including spaces), a motivational letter (max 1500 characters including spaces), a portfolio of images (max 5mega)
- Applications can be made in either English and/or Italian
- The selected photographer and architect will receive a fee of 4,000€ each (VAT included) inclusive of all expenses (the fee will cover travel, accommodation, board expenses during the residency in Gibellina and the workshop in Milan)
- The production of the exhibition and hospitality during the opening days of the festival (28-29 July 2023) will be entirely borne by the organization

TIMING
1. 9 SEPTEMBER 2022
   Deadline Open Call
2. SEPTEMBER 2022
   Announcement of winners
3. OCTOBER 2022
   5-days residency in Gibellina
4. JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023
   Workshop in Milan, open to photographers, curators, architects
5. MARCH/MAY 2023
   Exhibition production
6. 28 JULY 2023
   Opening days Gibellina Photoroad Festival + public talkguided visit