

Pictures at play!

*A tale by 18
Italian photographers*

Reggia di Venaria

9 April —
18 September
2022

Play
EXHIBITIONS

© Roselena Ramistella, Circus, 2020, Courtesy l'artista e Studio Trisorio



Organized with



La Venaria Reale



**RESIDENZE
REALI
SABAUDE**



LA VENARIA REALE

PICTURES AT PLAY!

A TALE BY 18 ITALIAN PHOTOGRAPHERS

Reggia di Venaria, Rooms of the Arts

From 9 April to 18 September 2022

Curated by Giangavino Pazzola

Organized with Camera - Italian Centre for Photography in Turin

Staging by Peter Bottazzi

PLAY: LA VENARIA REALE DEDICATES THE YEAR 2022 TO THE THEME OF “PLAY”

2022 marks the **15th anniversary of the opening** of Reggia di Venaria and **25 years since UNESCO's listing** of the Royal Savoy Residences among the World Heritage Sites. In conjunction with these important anniversaries La Venaria aims to offer a journey through the world of amusement. **The exhibitions and cultural activities** of 2022 revolve around the **theme of play**, not only for the historical references contained inside the Reggia – the place of leisure, entertainment and playful moments of the sovereigns par excellence – but also with a view to focusing on the present time and everyone's desire to treat themselves to moments of lightheartedness.

The first two exhibitions on this theme will take place one after another at the Rooms of the Arts from **9 April to 18 September: From squares to Courts, stories of games and shows between the 18th and 19th centuries** and **Pictures at Play! A tale by 18 Italian photographers**.

THE PICTURES AT PLAY! EXHIBITION

Pictures at play! A tale by 18 Italian photographers illustrates the **games held in town squares and outdoor entertainment** as seen through the lens of **18 famous Italian**

photographers who have documented the **evolution of the many forms of playing and having fun** from the post-war era to the rise of the modern entertainment industry.

Conceived by **Giangavino Pazzola**, the curator of *CAMERA – the Italian Centre for Photography* in Turin, which on this occasion collaborates with Reggia di Venaria – the exhibition includes over **120** colour and black and white **photographs** that portray **people of all ages** practising different recreational activities, as well as **habits, professions and places** that have defined a new relationship between people and the concept of leisure.

The exhibition tour is designed as a seamless continuation of the other exhibition held at the Reggia at the same time in the adjacent rooms, *From squares to Courts*, thanks to the refined scenographic project by **Peter Bottazzi** who curated both exhibitions.

At the time of the Courts, street games and shows represented an opportunity for sharing between aristocrats and the people. Following the economic boom, a sudden change took place: the **rise of the entertainment industry**. Photography underwent a transformation that documents this change of status. **The exhibition *Pictures at play!* illustrates the transformations of the social idea of "play" from 1960 to present**, analysing the different ways through which sports and entertainment have taken on an increasingly structured form in contemporary society since the Second World War. At the same time, it shows how **photography has changed over time** from the Neorealist period to a kind of representation more rooted in the environment that resulted in an impersonal dimension without sociality in the 1980s and 1990s. Finally, in recent times, photographers have focused more on the **representation of the audience** or have drawn on the **mythology of town-square games** and reshaped them in a poetic key.

While selecting the photographers for the exhibition, curator Giangavino Pazzola has placed great Italian photographers of the second half of the twentieth century such as **Mario Giacomelli (1925 - 2000)**, **Nino Migliori (1926)**, **Ferdinando Scianna (1943)** side by side with some female artists of extraordinary interpretative skills such as **Letizia Battaglia (1935)**, **Lori Sammartino (1924 - 1971)** and **Marisa Rastellini (1929 - 2009)**. Lori Sammartino, who made the headlines for being the first wife of Maurizio Costanzo, was also an excellent photojournalist: in 1961, she produced *La Domenica degli Italiani* [The Sunday of the Italians] a photographic book in which she explores the new structured ways of experiencing Sunday rest through shared activities, while *La bambina con il pallone* [The girl with the ball] created in 1980 by Letizia Battaglia, has become one of the most iconic images on the theme of play.

The works of internationally renowned Italian photographers and artists such as **Paola Agosti (1947)**, **Olivo Barbieri (1954)**, **Mario Cresci (1942)**, **Paola Di Bello (1961)**, **Luigi**

Ghirri (1943 - 1992), Grazia Toderi (1963) and Massimo Vitali (1944) not only express a reading of the urbanisation process of the Italian landscape but also underline the emergence of diversity in the tastes of the public, depersonalisation of the spaces and proliferation of the commercial offer of leisure time management. The works of **Giovanni Gastel (1955-2021), Roselena Ramistella (1982) and Paolo Ventura (1968)** complete the tour offering an insight into the "circus" theme, which is here elevated to an interpretative metaphor of the current human condition.

The exhibition also includes some video works by **Fabio Mauri (1926 - 2009) and Walter Niedermayr (1952)** which question the viewer on the freedom of playing.

*With a PhD in Urban and Cultural Studies at the Polytechnic University of Turin, **Giangavino Pazzola** (Sassari, 1981) has been a curator at CAMERA – the Italian Centre for Photography in Turin – since 2018. In addition to curating exhibitions and research programmes, he is in charge of the European Photography platform FUTURES. He is a member of the Board of Curators of The Phair exhibition in Turin and has curated exhibitions and projects in collaboration with national institutions. A visiting researcher at the University of Birmingham, he has published essays in international and national academic journals.*

Peter Bottazzi (Imperia, 1964), an architect, scenic designer and planner, began his career as a puppeteer in the Carlo Colla e Figli company. He collaborated with renowned directors such as Peter Greenaway and Robert Wilson. He has curated the set-up of art exhibitions including those of Steve Mc Curry, Giorgio De Chirico, Canova and Gauguin. He has been frequently commissioned the scenery design of artistic installations and sets for important companies and cultural institutions such as the Spoleto Festival, Triennale Milano, MUDEC in Milan, Diesel, Armani, Pomellato, Pitti Eventi, La Rinascente, Foscari, Giunti, Abitare il tempo, Contrast, Sugar Musica Internazionale. He boasts collaborations with Sole 24 cultura, Civita, Arthemisia and Sky.



Thanks to:

Paola Agosti Archive, Mario Giacomelli Archive, Nino Migliori Foundation.

Olivo Barbieri Studio, Letizia Battaglia Studio, Mario Cresci Studio, Paola Di Bello Studio, Giovanni Gastel Studio, Fabio Mauri Studio, Walter Niedermayr Studio, Roselena Ramistella Studio, Ferdinando Scianna Studio, Paolo Ventura Studio.

Hauser & Wirth, Mazzoleni Gallery in Turin, Ncontemporary Milan, Photo&Contemporary, Repetto Gallery, Antonio Verolino – Contemporary Art Gallery, ViaSaterna Milan, Alberto Damian.

Panizzi Library – Reggio Emilia, Daniele Petiziol.

INFORMATION AND TICKET OFFICE

WHERE: Reggia di Venaria, Rooms of the Arts

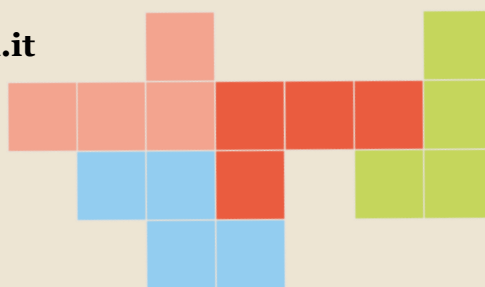
WHEN: from Saturday 9 April to 18 September 2022

HOW: ticket “All in one Palace” and ticket to the exhibition:

- ◆ Full ticket: 10 euros
- ◆ Discounted: 8 euros
- ◆ Special discounted: 6 euros for holders of the *CAMERA - Centro Italiano per la Fotografia* - ticket (available only at the ticket office)
- ◆ Discounted for young people: 6 euros
- ◆ Schools: 3 euros

Holders of the ticket to the exhibition ***Pictures at play!*** are entitled to a **discounted ticket** (8 euros) **to visit *CAMERA – the Italian Centre for Photography in Turin.***

For more information: **lavenaria.it**



For Public Relations and media, please contact

**ROYAL SAVOY RESIDENCES
MANAGEMENT STAFF – PRESS OFFICE**

Andrea Scaringella (Manager)

Matteo Fagiano

Carla La Gatta

Ph. +39 011-499-2300
press@lavenariareale.it
residenzereali.it
lavenaria.it
