

Biography

WHEN AN INTELLECTUAL GUY HAPPENS TO BE ALSO A GREAT PHOTOGRAPHER

No one would have ever expected that a young university educated guy could have left his Bologna city for settling down in a busy town in the less developed area, in southern Italy, and more than surprisingly, in the distant and quite unknown Fortore Valley.

Yet long ago, in 1996, Marco Monari, 49, walked away from his rich and scholar city and, and for love only, followed his loving mate Lucia on her way back to San Bartolomeo in Galdo, in the Benevento Province, few years after concluding her university education in Bologna.

Marco should have experienced a big effect from this change, a tough and crude reality, mainly rural and less rich environment, that should have scared and, why not, deeply fascinated him.

In this process, undoubtedly he was very much facilitated by his muse, tender Lucia.

Joined in a family that was dealing from decades in cereals, fertilizers and other agricultural materials he founded quite natural - in the beginning, just by curiosity perhaps - to visit their client's farms located also in other surrounding small towns of the Fortore Valley.

He was not attracted only by the spontaneous white shapes of the rural constructions disseminated within the wheat stubbles, but by the general contest as a whole, so different from the green and gorgeous Po Valley.

That's how he started to shoot at every thing around, like a machine gun, that seemed to be worth to seize, immortalize and show to others, particularly the few and rare peaces of green and parched woods of the rural side of the Italian country. Over the years, he has concentrated to study in the Montauro Woods and the lazy and irregular course of the Fortore river, finding inspiration to realize images of great effectiveness and value.

What to add to the magic generated in these places through the alternating seasons? He has been able to bring us the ready made innovation of viewing the same photograph in different seasons, with really surprising effects.

The images are further enriched by the frequent inclusion of animal subjects, particularly insects and birds.

To get the best possible effects he spends long hours moving within various places and often with ambushing aptitude waiting for the right moment to shoot as well as trying technical experiments such as bird's eye view, even with the help of the cheerful kite ...

In recent years, for the creation of some faunistic videos, he has added audio recording, thanks to highly sophisticated equipment that he procures from international suppliers.

Personally, I find him unbeatable on landscapes photos, where the strongly white clouds disseminated in the clear southern have recurrently important role. Should it be that he prefer these sunny skies to the foggy plainness of the Emilian region ? ...

An expert in macro views that is able to shoot wheat spikes, portraits local people and any other subject always with extraordinary results.

Marco - to say it in a plian a strait way, as we use to do here in the Fortore area - does not shoot to get a view but just for the subtle pleasure of seeing how the viewer perceives the concealed message that is always there.

No doubt, it is possible so say that - thanks to high human sensitivity - he is always able to show to anyone eyes in an masterly manner - even to the straightforward local people - the little particulars, the beauties even the smallest, of this difficult and distant part of Italy.

Nevertheless, Marco has never forgotten his Bologna, where he frequently returns, maybe to add vital energy already acquired during his childhood.

Not to repeat that is really a special photographer because he is a very civil and respectful person of every one else, I would say, he is a man of great curiosity that investigates the surrounding environment in an almost religious silence. Therefore, we are really proud of having you here.

Professor Antonio Pacifico
Viterbo, 21st September 2010

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