



**METRONOM**

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**Title:** wunderCAMERA

**Artists:** Benedetta Alfieri, Elena Arzuffi, Olivo Barbieri, Michele Buda, Bruno Cattani, Martina Della Valle, Annabel Elgar, Guido Guidi, Giulio Paolini, Marco Signorini, Richard Sympson, Franco Vaccari, Paolo Ventura, Nicola Vinci.

**Opening:** December 1, 2012 at 18.30

**Date:** December 1, 2012 – January 26, 2013

**Venue:** METRONOM | 142 viale G. Amendola | 41125 Modena IT  
[www.metronom.it/eng](http://www.metronom.it/eng); [info@metronom.it](mailto:info@metronom.it)

**Hours:** tuesday – saturday: 15,00- 19,00 and by appointment

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 18.30 the collective exhibition *wunderCAMERA* opens, for which 14 artists were called on to tackle the theme. The works on show, some of them new, others ad hoc reinterpretations, put forward a comparison between reality and fiction in which the work arouses curiosity even before revealing.

Renaissance *wunderkammern* had the purpose of presenting objects of various kinds and provenance, in attractive and singular combinations, to create collections whose fundamental point lay in refinement and wonder. With reference to these arrangements, these quests for *mirabilia*, *wunderCAMERA* proposes a reflection on the idea of the photographic subject as the result of an awareness process that is first and foremost mental, of a photographic alchemy.

The inquiry of art, and photography in particular, in a conceptual context is the ideal bridge to elicit dialogue among the work of young generation artists and confirm the vitality of a debate on the use of the photographic medium, which is increasingly conceived as an instrument of looking, capable of constructing a grammar of vision as well as recording reality. If on the one hand the spread and potentiality of digital technique multiply the possibilities of execution with numerically exponential results, on the other they supply inspiration for personal research and contemporary reinterpretations.

Giulio Paolini, faithful to an inquiry halfway between vision and word, entrusts one of the essential reflections on photography to *Copia e Originale [Copy and Original]*: uniqueness, multiplicity, reproducibility. In this case the scale of values is subverted by shuffling the cards, or better, the sheets. Guido Guidi steps forward with *Variazione sul punto di vista [Variations on Viewpoint]* (1968), an actual exercise in the grammar of photography, while Olivo Barbieri reinterprets the *Flipper* series in the light of the possibilities of Web 2.0. Franco Vaccari re-lays Duchamp bare, reprising the thread of a discourse begun in 1978 with *Duchamp e l'occultamento del lavoro [Duchamp and Concealment of the Work]*, while Paolo Ventura's *objets trouvés* are



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the basis for the enlarged miniatures that populate his photographic stories. The installation by Benedetta Alfieri guides us through a process of discovery, the steps of the stairway alluding to a course to be taken, the binoculars telling us to pause and look. *Palmo a Palmo [Palm to Palm]* by the duo Richard Sympson is instead a deconstructed and recomposed photograph, an empirical method that sets out from decomposition of the subject into a very dense grille; each tiny portion is then shot in zenithal photography and the total image exists only as montage of each individual photograph. A process of photographic estrangement. An inflection in video is *Oblivious* by Elena Arzuffi who, through photographs and drawings, creates the montage of an interior experience where music, involving and pressing, obliges us to listen with a headset to a visual dialogue. Bruno Cattani invites us to spy on the *Eros* of seductive bodies with images protected by a glass bell jar, while Nicola Vinci builds an allusive *Castello di carte [Castle of Cards]*. Marco Signorini carries out a philological work on nineteenth century stereoscopic viewers, transforming them into highly contemporary chambers of vision, and Michele Buda does not forgo the possibility of creating a book that disassembles and reassembles, placing it at the service of the photographic image. Annabel Elgar's research moves along the boundary between image and sculptural work: the sets, the scenes she reconstructs, populated by found or created objects, transform into modern *tableaux vivants* in which the fiction makes way for harmonious composition. The work of Martina Della Valle deals with the archive and its potential to both retain and generate knowledge: the photographic image becomes a trace for the exercise of refined abstraction carried out in pounced drawings.

Far from wishing to be an exhaustive survey, the exhibition is put forward rather as a container for experiences, a brightroom in which photography manifests itself in its potential multiplicity of outcomes and inquiries, in which the spectator is no mere observer but increasingly called on to act as reagent.



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### BENEDETTA ALFIERI

Born in Parma (1973) she graduated in Philosophy at the University of Bologna and took a diploma in photography at the Bauer Vocational Training Centre of Milan. In 2004 she won the 9<sup>th</sup> Riccardo Pezza National Photography Prize, exhibiting at the Milan Triennial. In 2008 she took part in Fotografia Europea and in 2011 exhibited at the Alessandria Biennial. Her photographs are in the Fototeca Panizzi, the Fondazione Un Paese and Linea di Confine per la Fotografia Contemporanea.

### ELENA ARZUFFI

She graduated in Semiotics at the University of Bologna and attended a specialisation course in digital technologies. She then devoted herself to post-production, teaching for some years at the European Institute of Design in Milan. Since 1999 she has been creating videos, photographs, drawings and environmental and sound installations. In 2008 she gained special mention at the Icona Prize (ArtVerona08), exhibited at Fotografia Europea in 2009 and in 2011 at the Alessandria Biennial.

### OLIVO BARBIERI

Born 1954, lives and works in Carpi. His interest in photography has been growing since 1971, with his research initially concentrated on artificial lighting in European and oriental cities. In 2003 he began the project *site specific*, which involves various cities: Rome, Turin, Montreal, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Shanghai, New York, etc. He took part in the Venice Biennale in 1993, 1995 and 1997 and has exhibited at international museums and institutes including Hayward Gallery (London), MART (Rovereto Trento), SFMOMA (San Francisco) and Centre Pompidou (Paris).

### MICHELE BUDA

Born 1967, he teaches at the Ravenna Fine Arts Academy. In 2005 he exhibited at the Fotomuseum of Winterthur and the following year at the SK Stiftung Kultur in Cologne. He has had solo shows at the Galleria Senzatitolo (2009) and, at METRONOM, the exhibitions *9909* and *Tricks and Falls* in 2010 and 2012 respectively. His photographs are in the collections of Linea di Confine per la Fotografia Contemporanea, IBC Emilia Romagna Region, the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal and the Fotomuseum of Winterthur.

### BRUNO CATTANI

Born 1964 in Reggio Emilia, he began shooting photographs in 1982. In 2008 he took part in Fotografia Europea, in 2009 was in a collective show at the Musée Réattu (Arles) and in 2010 had a solo show at Palazzo dei Principi, Correggio. In 2011 he exhibited at the Venice Biennale. His photographs are in the Archives Photographiques du Musée du Louvre, Maison Européenne de la Photographie (Paris), The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts and the Museo Archeologico Nazionale in Naples.

### MARTINA DELLA VALLE

Born 1981, she lives and works in Milan, Florence and Berlin. She took her Photography diploma in 2003 at the European Institute of Design, Milan, and has collaborated as a photographer with international magazines, with the abovementioned Institute and with the F16 Schule of Berlin. In 2007 she attended the Fondazione Ratti CSAV (Advanced Course in Visual Arts) in Como and took up a residency offered by the Dena Foundation at the Centre des Recollets in Paris. In 2009 she was invited to the Air Onomichi residence programme in Japan. In 2011 she had solo shows at the Kuhn Gallery (Berlin) and at METRONOM, and in 2012 was one of the participating artists at Madeinfilandia.

### ANNABEL ELGAR

Born 1971, she lives and works in London. She took an MA in Photography at the Royal College of Art and her work has appeared in numerous international exhibitions and various publications. Her most significant recent shows include *Theatres of the real* at the FotoMuseum of Antwerp, a retrospective at The Museum of New Art in Detroit (2008) and solo exhibitions at The Wapping Project Bankside gallery in London (2010) and *Interludio* at METRONOM, Modena (2011).



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### **GUIDO GUIDI**

Born 1941 in Cesena where he lives and works. He has exhibited in Italian and international institutions including the Fotomuseum (Winterthur), Guggenheim and Whitney Museum (New York), Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris) and the Venice Biennale. For years his professional activity has been flanked by teaching and promotion of photography. In Rubiera in 1989, with Paolo Costantini and William Guerrieri, he set up Linea di Confine per la Fotografia Contemporanea. He is a lecturer in Photography at the Ravenna Fine Arts Academy and the IUAV in Venice.

### **GIULIO PAOLINI**

Born 1940, he gained his diploma at the Turin State Industrial Technical Institute for Graphic and Photographic Arts. He has taken part in numerous exhibitions in Italy and abroad including the Venice Biennale and Documenta, shows at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna in Rome, the Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum in Graz, the Fondazione Prada in Milan and the Kunstmuseum in Winterthur. His work is in numerous public collections worldwide.

### **MARCO SIGNORINI**

Born 1962, he lectures in Photography at the Brera Fine Arts Academy. Following academic studies in stage-design he became interested in photography and video, studying in particular the Italian landscape photographers. He has exhibited at the Fotomuseum of Winterthur (2005), the SK Stiftung Kultur in Cologne (2006) and the Centre d'Art Ville Nei Licht in Dudelange (2012). In Italy his work has been shown at Fotografia Europea and the Museo di Fotografia Contemporanea in Cinisello Balsamo, as well as at solo shows in 2009 at METRONOM and in 2008 at the Galleria Manzoni.

### **RICHARD SYMPSON**

The Richard Sympson project came about in 2006 out of collaboration between Cosimo Pichierri (1976) and Marco Trinca Colonel (1980). In 2007 they exhibited at the Festival Internazionale di Fotografia in Rome and in 2009 in a collective show at the SMAK (Stedelijk Museum of Contemporary Art), obtaining a residency in Paris through the Dena Foundation for Contemporary Art. In 2010 they appeared at the Architecture Biennale and the following year won the Centre National des Arts Plastiques prize for the creation of an artist's book.

### **FRANCO VACCARI**

Born in Modena (1936) where he still lives, he is a Physics graduate. He debuted in the art field as a visual poet, accompanying his artistic activity with theoretical reflection and publishing numerous texts. He has exhibited in prestigious institutions in Italy and abroad, including the Venice Biennale, the Museum Moderner Kunst of Vienna, PS1 in New York, the Gwana Biennial in Korea and the Kunsthalle in Basel.

### **PAOLO VENTURA**

Born 1968 in Milan, he lives and works in New York City. After a career as a fashion photographer he devoted himself to personal projects, which would be published by Contrasto and American Photography, and collaborated with important publications such as The New Yorker, Harper's, Dea Magazin, Aperture and the New York Times. He has exhibited in numerous museums in Italy and abroad and his photographs are in public collections, namely the Boston Museum of Fine Art, MACRO of Rome, Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris and the Lowe Art Museum of Miami.

### **NICOLA VINCI**

Born 1975, he graduated in painting at the Bari Fine Arts Academy. In 2007 he won the Fabbri Prize, in 2005 the Celeste Prize and in 2004 the Vasto Prize. His latest solo shows include those at VisionQuest (2012), Emmeotto Gallery (2011) and Arte Bocconera Contemporanea (2010). He has taken part in collective exhibitions at the 21C Museum, Louisville (Kentucky), the Fondazione Durini (Milan), Allarmi 2008 (Como), the Alessandria Biennial and Gallery ZA (Cape Town).