

Academy of Architecture
Università della Svizzera italiana

Mendrisio, 3rd February 2016

La progettualità dello sguardo
Fotografie di paesaggio di Gabriele Basilico

The Project in the Gaze
Landscape Photographs by Gabriele Basilico

Exhibition curated by Angela Madesani

Official exhibit opening: Thursday, 25th February 2016, 7 p.m., at the Gallery of the Academy of Architecture, Mendrisio – CH.

The exhibition

Conceived and promoted by the Academy of Architecture together with the curator Angela Madesani and the Studio Gabriele Basilico, the exhibition presents 60 photographs in various formats, mostly in black and white. The exhibition explores the theme of landscape in the research of Gabriele Basilico (1944-2013). The exhibits comprise works produced mainly between the eighties and nineties in Europe. The exhibition, curated by Angela Madesani, brings out the concept of the project in Basilico's gaze (as an architect by training, he was particularly concerned with issues related to urban planning, as well as the development and transformation of the landscape). It begins with a selection of photographs from the *Bord de Mer* series, a work Basilico produced in the mid-eighties for the Mission Photographique de la DATAR, which made his name internationally. Among its many aspects, this research revealed Basilico's close ties to art history, the eighteenth-century *vedutisti* in particular. The exhibition also features a series of landscape images, some of them exhibited for the first time in the Mendrisio exhibition.

Particular attention is devoted to two groups of images taken in Switzerland: *The Search for a Centre* (1996), research devoted to the architecture of Luigi Snozzi at Monte Carasso, from a project curated by Gabriele Basilico himself together with Luigi Snozzi and Pierre-Alain Croset; and a major series of photographs of the Saint Gotthard (1997), a work dedicated to the landscape of the Gotthard Pass interpreted as a lifeline between northern and southern Europe, produced to an invitation from the Culture Foundation of the Banca del Gottardo on its fortieth anniversary.

Hence this is an educational exhibition and an occasion for reflection on the territory, especially devised for a place of study and research like the Mendrisio Academy of Architecture, where Gabriele Basilico delivered a major public lecture in 2010. The exhibition presents 60 images and a selection of publications by Gabriele Basilico, seeking to offer new stimuli and new insights into the work of one of the greatest masters of photography of the last 40 years.

Biographical note

Gabriele Basilico was born in Milan in 1944. After graduating in architecture from the Milan Polytechnic in 1973, he turned to photography and confirmed his vocation with the important 1978-80 project *Milan. Portraits of Factories*, exhibited for the first time at the Milan Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea in 1983. In 1984 the French Government invited him to take part in the Mission Photographique de la DATAR, a project documenting the transformation of the contemporary landscape, which gave rise to the famous *Bord de Mer* project. In 1991 he joined an international group of photographers on a mission to Beirut, a city devastated by fifteen years of civil war. This raised Basilico's reputation internationally, enabling him to produce and participate in numerous documentation projects on the territory, the city and cultural landscapes around the world, leading to exhibitions and numerous publications.

His most recent works include the important photographic projects on Moscow (2008), Istanbul (2010), Shanghai (2010), Beirut (2011), Rio de Janeiro (2011). In 2012 he participated in the 13th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice with the project *Common Pavilions*.

Gabriele Basilico exhibited his photographs at major institutions around the world and received numerous international awards.

He died in Milan on 13 February 2013.

Exhibition and publication

The exhibition at the Gallery of the Mendrisio Academy of Architecture will run from 26 February to 8 April 2015. Then, in September 2016, it will reopen at the Maison de l'Image at the Ancien Musée de Peinture in Grenoble in a slightly modified version. The exhibition is accompanied by the catalogue *The Project in the Gaze. Landscape Photographs by Gabriele Basilico*, published by Mendrisio Academy Press – Silvana Editoriale, edited by Marco Della Torre, with contributions by Angela Madesani (exhibition curator), Giovanna Calvenzi and João Nunes. Mendrisio 2016, ill., CHF 20 / € 20.

The Project in the Gaze.

Landscape Photographs by Gabriele Basilico

Gallery of the Academy of Architecture, USI
Palazzo Canavée, Mendrisio

Inauguration Thursday, 25 February 2016 7 p.m.

Exhibition 26 February – 8 April 2016

Tuesday-Friday 4 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

admission free

For information

www.arc.usi.ch

eventi.arc@usi.ch

+41 58 666 5000