

## **Mimmo Jodice**

Mimmo Jodice is one of the great names in the history of Italian photography. He lives in Naples where he was born in 1934. An avant-garde photographer since the 1960s, attentive to the experimentation and expressive possibilities of the language of photography, he has been a tireless protagonist in the cultural debate that has led to the growth and subsequently the affirmation and recognition of Italian photography also in the international arena. Driven by his interests in art, theatre and music, in the 1950s as a self-taught artist he devoted himself to drawing and painting. In the early 1960s, he discovered photography. He then began a series of experiments with the materials and codes of photography, using the medium not as a descriptive but as a creative tool. During these years, Mimmo Jodice lived in close contact with the most important artists of the neo-avant-garde who frequented Naples in those years: Warhol, Beuys, De Dominicis, Paolini, Kosuth, Lewitt, Kounellis, Nitsch and many others. Jodice is particularly sensitive to new ideas and devotes himself more and more to creative photography, producing works of conceptual research. In the same years Jodice engages in an intense socio-anthropological investigation into ritual, which will result in the production of a book entitled *Chi è devoto*. In 1969, he presented his research on portraits, entitled *Persona* with an introduction by Michele Prisco, at the Deperro bookshop. In 1970 he was invited to hold experimental courses at the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples, where he was to teach Photography until 1994. His first exhibition was presented at the Palazzo Ducale in Urbino in 1968 and in 1970 at the Diaframma in Milan another exhibition entitled *Nudi dentro Cartelle Ermetiche* with a text by Cesare Zavattini. In 1980 he published *Vedute di Napoli* (Views of Naples) in which Jodice began a new investigation into reality, working on the definition of a new urban space and landscape, choosing a vision that was not documentary but subtly visionary, of distant metaphysical ancestry, to which he would always remain faithful; this research marked a definitive turning point in his language. In 1981 he took part in the exhibition *Expression of Human Condition* at the San Francisco Museum of Art with Diane Arbus, Larry Clark, William Klein, Lisette Model. 1985 saw the beginning of a long and in-depth investigation into the myth of the Mediterranean. The result is a book *Mediterraneo*, published by Aperture, New York, and an exhibition at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

In 1995, he presented the exhibition *Eden* at the Lia Rumma Gallery in Naples and later at the Museo di Palazzo Ducale in Mantua, marking a return of interest in everyday objects, now suspended in a dimension of blurred and hallucinated unreality. In 2009, the Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome dedicated a large retrospective to him, fifty years of work, from the 1960s to the present day, which was then successfully replicated in Paris at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie. In 2011, he was invited by the Louvre Museum for a solo exhibition

with a new work: *Les Yeux du Louvre* and in 2012 in Montreal, at the Musée McCord, where he presented a work on *Villes sublimes-Sublimes Cities*. In 2015, Jodice exhibited *Jodice Canova* at the Fondazione Francesco Messina in Milan. In 2016, the Madre Museum in Naples dedicated a retrospective to Mimmo Jodice, the largest and most complete exhibition dedicated to him, under the direction of Andrea Viliani. As a testimony to this important exhibition, in 2018 the Madre Museum in Naples produced an important and comprehensive monograph on all his work entitled *Mimmo Jodice. Waiting/Waiting (from/from 1960)*. In 2017, the MAST Foundation in Bologna inaugurated the exhibition *Gli Anni Militanti* curated by François Hébel. In 2018 his famous work *Mediterraneo* is presented at the Eretz Museum in Tel Aviv, subsequently exhibited in all North African capitals. Also in this year at the Photography Biennial in Moscow he exhibits his works *Attesa, Eden and Transiti* in the Multimedia Art Museum. In 2019 the exhibition *Jodice/Canova* is presented at Palazzo Braschi in Rome. In 2022, he participates with the exhibition '*Abitare Metafisico*' in Procida Capital of Culture. In the same year, he is invited by Quentin Bajac and Diana Dufour to the Jeu de Paume for the exhibition '*Renverser ses yeux. Autour de l'Arte Povera 1960-1975: photographie, film, vidéo*'. The exhibition will then be presented in May 2023 at the Milan Triennale. In June 2023, a solo exhibition entitled '*Senza Tempo*' was presented at the Gallerie d'Italia in Turin, curated by Roberto Koch. In July 2023, at the Gibellina Museum of Contemporary Art, he presented '*Il paesaggio del pensiero, Gibellina 1980/1981/1982*', curated by Arianna Catania. It is also worth mentioning the honours he received for his artistic commitment, in fact in 2003, the Accademia dei Lincei awarded him the prestigious Antonio Feltrinelli prize for the first time given to Photography. Also in 2003, his name was included in the *Enciclopedia Universale dell'Arte Garzanti* and in the *Enciclopedia Treccani*. In 2006, the University Federico II of Naples awarded him an Honorary Degree in Architecture. In 2011, the French Ministry of Culture honoured him with the *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres*. In 2013, he received an Honorary Degree in Architecture from the Swiss Italian University.

**He has published numerous books, including:**

*CHI E' DEVOTO*, Esi, Napoli, 1974; *VEDUTE DI NAPOLI*, Mazzotta Milano, 1980; *TEATRALITÀ QUOTIDIANA A NAPOLI*, Ept, Napoli 1982; *NAPLEA UNE ARCHEOLOGIE FUTURE*, Bibioteque National Paris, 1982; *GIBELLINA*, Electa, Milano 1982; *UN SECOLO DI FURORE*, Editer, Roma 1985; *SUOR ORSOLA*, Mazzotta Milano, 1987; *LA CITTA' INVISIBILE*, Electa Napoli, 1990, *PASSE' INTERIEUR*, Contrejour, Paris, 1993; *MEDITERRANEAN*, Aperture, New York 1995; *PARIS, CITY OF LIGHT*, Aperture, N.Y. 1998; *EDEN*, Leonardo Arte,

Milano 1998; REAL ALBERGO DEI POVERI, F. Motta Editore, Milano 1999; ISOLARIO MEDITERRANEO, F. Motta Editore 2000; OLD CALABRIA, F. Motta Editore, Milano 2000; MIMMO JODICE: RETROSPETTIVA 1965-2000, Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Torino 2001; INLANDS, Visions of Boston, Skira Milano 2001; NEGLI ANNI SETTANTA, Baldini e Castoldi, Milano 2001; MIMMO JODICE, Motta Editore, Milano 2003; LIGHT, Damiani Editore 2006; SAN PAOLO, Skira Editore, Milano 2004; CITTA' VISIBILI, Charta, Milano 2006; LIGHT, Ediz. Damiani, Bologna 2006; PERDERSI A GUARDARE, Contrasto, Roma 2007; ITALY, LOST IN SEEING, Thames & Hudson, Londra 2007; ROMA, Johan & Levi, Milano 2008; TRANSITI, Electa Napoli, 2008; MIMMO JODICE, Federico Motta Editore, 2010; NAPLES INTIME, Silvana Editoriale, Milano 2010; POMPEI, Contrasto Editore, 2010; LES YEUX DU LOUVRE, Actes Sud, Parigi, 2011; VILLES SUBLIMES, Musée McCord, Montreal 2012; CANOVA, Marsilio 2013; ARCIPELAGO DEL MONDO ANTICO, 2014; MIMMO JODICE. ATTESA/WAITING (DAL/FROM 1960), Electa, Milano 2018.

**Below are his most important solo exhibitions:**

Memorial Federal Hall, New York 1985 ; Musée Réattu, Arles 1988; Philadelphia Museum of Art, 1995; Kunstmuseum Dusseldorf, 1996; Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris 1998 ; Palazzo Ducale di Mantova, 1998; Museo di Capodimonte, Napoli 1998; The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland 1999; Galleria Nazionale di Arte Moderna, Roma 2000; Castello di Rivoli, Torino 2000; Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Torino 2000; MassArt, Boston 2001; Wakayama, Museum of Modern Art, Japan 2004, The Museum of Photography, Moscow 2004; MASP - Museu de Arte de Sao Paulo, 2004; MART - Museo di Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, 2004; Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Bologna 2006; Spazio Forma - Centro Internazionale di Fotografia, Milano 2007; Museo di Capodimonte, Napoli 2008; Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Roma 2009; Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris 2009; Museo del Louvre, Parigi 2011; Museo Museo McCord, Montreal 2012; Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Salonico 2012; Accademia Architettura, Mendrisio 2013; Moontower Foundation, Francoforte, 2013; Stadtische Museum, Jena 2013; Hotel des Arts, Toulon, 2014; Foto Boario, Modena 2014; Photomed, Beirut 2015; Museo Madre, Napoli 2016; Mast, Bologna 2017; Museo Eretz, Tel Aviv; Multimedia Art Museum, Mosca 2018; Palazzo Braschi, Roma, 2019; Procida Capitale della Cultura, 2022; Jeu de Paume, Parigi, 2022; Triennale di Milano, Milano, 2023; Gallerie d'Italia, Torino 2023; MAC, Gibellina, 2023.

## **Permanent Collection:**

Albuquerque, University Art Museum

Arles, Musée Réattu

Barcelona, Museum Photographic Archive

Detroit, Detroit Institute of Modern Art

Marsiglia, Musée Cantini

Milano, Cinisello B., Museo della Fotografia Italiana

Modena, Fondazione Fotografia Modena, Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna

Montreal, Canadian Center of Architecture

Mosca, Museo della Fotografia

New York, Aperture Foundation

Napoli, Museo di Capodimonte Napoli, Museo Madre

Parigi, Bibliothèque Nationale,

Cabinet des Estampes

Parigi, MEP Maison Européenne de la Photographie

Parigi, Fond National d'Art contemporain

Philadelphia, Philadelphia Museum of Art

Parma, Centro Studio e Archivio della Comunicazione

Roma, Istituto Nazionale per la Grafica

Rivoli (Torino), Museo d'arte contemporanea, Castello di Rivoli Rovereto,

MART Museo Arte Contemporanea

San Francisco, Museum of Modern Art

TelAviv, Museo Eretz

Torino, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Torino,

GAM-Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea

Wakayama, Museo di Arte Contemporanea

Washington DC, Library of Congress