

PERUGIA SOCIAL PHOTO FEST 2016 unveils its packed programme of events

11-28 March, Perugia – Civic Museum of Palazzo Penna

“Blindness” in all its forms, told by 14 exhibitions from major international artists, seminars and meetings and the annual conference entitled “Experiencing Photography” on the state of phototherapy and therapeutic photography and their varied uses in the social sphere

Presentation of the PSPF, preview of the exhibitions and announcement of the winners of the Call for Entry

in the presence of the Artistic Director and some of the festival guests

26 February at 6.30 pm - Polifemo, La Fabbrica del Vapore (Milan)

Perugia, 08 February 2016 - [Perugia Social Photo Fest \(PSPF\)](#), the first international festival dedicated to social photography and therapeutic photography, unveils the programme of events for the 2016 edition, “BLINDSPOT”, to be held in Perugia from 11 to 28 March 2016 (Museum of Contemporary Culture - Palazzo Penna, Via Podiani 11) and announces a preview presentation in Milan on 26 February at 6.30 pm, at Polifemo (La Fabbrica del Vapore, via Procaccini 4).

A one-of-a-kind international catalyst of experiences, the essential hub of a network of contacts intended to nourish shared projects, over the years, the PSPF has distinguished itself as a fundamental point of reference, a place where professionals can meet and exchange ideas, working together to focus the attention of the general public on social issues, so much so that it has been awarded the “EFFE LABEL” (Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe) from the European Commission Culture sub-programme, and has been included among the European festivals distinguished by their high level of culture and the strong impact at national, European and international level.

The programme of events for the fourth edition of the PSPF is packed to the brim with exhibitions, meetings, events, workshops and opportunities for debate, as the topic under discussion: the world of “blindness”, intended not only as the inability to see through the eyes, but also as an emotional and social attitude, is truly thought-provoking. From the physical inability to see, intended as an act of recording reality and capturing an image, and processes whereby disregarding one’s emotions can lead to emotional illiteracy, through to the actions, individual or collective, involving filtering and modifying information as extreme defence of a state of mental balance, which can degenerate into a total closure towards what appears to be a threat to individuals, society and the social and political systems. Maintaining a clear, focused vision is a challenge in which the only certainty is determined by the truth, namely by what makes us free to accept ourselves and others without a game of projections or idealisations.

As always, the theme chosen for this edition of the festival will be tackled using examples from the world of **Social Photography**, dealing with denunciation and reflection, the redemption of individual and collective identities, a means to give a voice to the “excluded” and therefore a tool of social inclusion, and **Therapeutic Photography** as a means of reactivating perception and a personal internal stimulus, especially where there is difficulty in communication, to initiate a process of self-awareness and self-exploration.

There are no fewer than fourteen major exhibitions in the programme of events, as well as the two exhibitions from the winners of the Call for Entry (deadline 13 February 2016): “Fuori dall’Ombra” by **Silvia Amodio**, “Bethania” by **Valerio Bispuri**, “First sight” by **Brent Stirton**, “Nobody Claps anymore” by **Alec Dawson**, “Lucha” by **Marianna Ciuffreda**, **Chiara Moncada** and **Marco Vignola**, “Inside Outside Under Bucharest” by **Massimo Branca** and **Igor Marchesan (Collettivo Fotosocial)**, “Letizia” by **Danilo Garcia Di Meo**, “Ghosts from the past” by **Karl Mancini**, “Dependency” by **Giovanni Presutti**, “In-Sight, In-Mind” by **Steve Erra**, **Mark Andres**, **Victorine Floyd Fludd** (SEEING WITH PHOTOGRAPHY collective, New York), “Rare Lives” by **Aldo Soligno**, “Iris” by **Alessio Vissani**. Two further exhibitions have also been confirmed from blind photographers **Evgen Bavcar** with “Narcise san Miroir” and **Kurt Weston** with “Blind Vision”.

The annual international conference “**Experiencing Photography**” on the state of phototherapy and therapeutic photography and their varied uses in the social sphere has been confirmed and will be held on 19 and 20 March (Hotel San Gallo - Via Masi 9, Perugia). The conference includes two morning sessions with the participation of Italian and international experts who will discuss the use of photographs to improve wellbeing and reduce social exclusion, and four experiential workshops on different ways of using the language of photography within helping relationships and as a tool to raise self-awareness.

To complete the packed programme, there are presentations of books with authors and subject matter experts, workshops, talks and debates. These include:

- **13 March**, “Social blindness: the role of information and communication” meeting with Gigliola Foschi, journalist, art and photography critic and lecturer on the History of Photography, Renata Ferri, journalist, photo editor and curator and photojournalist Alfredo Bini to reflect on the role of information and communication in creating and directing public opinion and creating widespread awareness, which transforms the way of thinking and being of each of us.
- **16 March**, Pre-dinner drinks in the dark in collaboration with the [Perugia section of the Italian Union of Blind and Partially-Sighted Persons](#), to discover a world that is not the same as that of

sighted persons, but especially what we usually do not see, as we concentrate on following sparkles and suggestions with our eyes.

- **17 March**, the highly-anticipated keynote address from Letizia Battaglia, one of the boldest and busiest Italian photographers, who has spoken out on behalf of her land, Sicily, for thirty years, with raw, painful, black and white images, highly denunciative of Mafia attacks and the repeated attacks on civil society.

"We are really proud of the PSPF 2016 programme - commented Antonello Turchetti, Artistic Director of the Perugia Social Photo Fest - We really believe in this fourth edition of the festival, which sees us increasingly aware of not wanting to be labelled as a mere cultural event but as a valuable and unique international opportunity for interaction and reflection that opens up to a very important role photography can play in today's society, from a therapeutic and social viewpoint. We strongly believe that social diversity and life experience are riches that yield better when shared. For this reason, we invite everyone to participate in this new edition which will have "blindness" as its theme, to interact, understand and learn, and thus create a positive, profitable exchange of energy, knowledge and experiences."

Friday 26 February at 6.30 pm - Polifemo, La Fabbrica del Vapore (Milan):
official presentation of the PSPF 2016 BLINDSPOT in the presence of the Artistic Director Antonello Turchetti and some of the festival guests. The exhibition will display a preview of some of the photographs on show in Perugia and the two winners of the call for entry who will become contributors to the new edition will be announced.

For more information: <http://www.perugiasocialphotofest.org/>

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