

Beneath the Surface: EXPOSED Torino Foto Festival is back

*An international journey through contemporary photography with 16 artists from 12 countries
Menno Liauw and Salvatore Vitale: "The festival is a hotbed of new ideas, a place where artistic
visions and critical reflections can come together beyond geographical boundaries"*

Turin, February 4, 2025 – Here are the first news on the second edition of EXPOSED Torino Foto Festival (April 16-June 2, 2025). 12 solo and group exhibitions, 16 artists from 12 countries (**Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland, United States, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Bolivia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Palestine**), 7 prestigious exhibition venues (**Accademia Albertina di Belle Arti, Archivio di Stato, Camera – Italian Centre for Photography, Gallerie d'Italia - Turin, GAM - Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art, OGR-Officine Grandi Riparazioni and Palazzo Carignano**): these are the numbers of **EXPOSED Torino Foto Festival**, a cultural event that offers an international overview of the latest trends in contemporary photography.

"Beneath the Surface" is the topic chosen for the second edition of the Festival, organised by **Fondazione per la Cultura Torino** under the guidance of artistic directors **Menno Liauw** and **Salvatore Vitale**, and promoted by **Città di Torino, Regione Piemonte, Camera di commercio di Torino, Intesa Sanpaolo, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo and Fondazione CRT** in cooperation with **Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT**.

The theme of the festival is a call to explore the contents and worlds that hide under the surface of images - not only those captured by the artists' shots, but also those generated, transformed, and retouched through increasingly advanced and interconnected technologies. The artists' gaze shows the complexity of present times from different perspectives, capturing unprecedented angles. Photography brings back to the forefront of contemporary debate the critical reflection on current issues, such as climate change, the postcolonial perspective, and fast-changing geopolitical balances.

"Internationality is the beating heart of EXPOSED Foto Festival Torino and is reflected both in the selection of the participating artists - who come from very diverse backgrounds and cultures - and in the themes addressed, which explore global issues. In this sense, EXPOSED is not only a festival, but a hotbed of new ideas, a place where artistic visions and critical reflections can come together beyond geographical boundaries, to address the challenges of our time with a creative and inclusive approach", said artistic directors **Menno Liauw and Salvatore Vitale**.

New features of the second edition: free admission and new venues.

The stated goal of this second edition of **EXPOSED Torino Foto Festival** is to attract a broad audience, with a particular focus on young people. Hence, admission to the event will be free for everyone (upon reservation and presenting a QR code), with the exception of the exhibition at Gallerie d'Italia – Turin, with tickets available at a special price of 5 euro.

The Digital Pass can be used from April 16 to June 2. To obtain it, simply click on <https://bit.ly/passexposed2025>.

Accademia Albertina di Belle Arti in Turin will be the headquarters of the festival. The festival's first original production will debut at the Accademia, featuring the young emerging photographer **Valeria Cherchi**, who was included in the 2018 “Ones to Watch” list by the British Journal of Photography as one of the sixteen best emerging talents globally. Another young female talent who will exhibit at the Accademia Albertina is **Silvia Rosi**: through her works, the Italian-Togolese artist - winner of the C/O Berlin Talent Award 2024 - presents a reflection on the representation of the second generations of the Italian African diaspora.

The contradictions of small-town America, a mix of rural and urban culture, an atmosphere suspended between the past and the future, come to life in the shots of **Gregory Halpern**, a Magnum Photos photographer. He will present his **Omaha Sketchbook** project at the Accademia di Belle Arti, with pictures shot in Nebraska between 2005 and 2019.

Also expected at the Accademia Albertina di Belle Arti is **Georges Senga**, who will exhibit his project **Decalquer**, developed in collaboration with the MAO Museum of Oriental Art in Turin. Born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senga's works piece together the history of colonialism that took place between the 1970s and 1980s, with atrocious implications.

Further previews from Gallerie d'Italia and GAM

Racial tensions, class and gender differences are at the centre of the visual universe of **Carrie Mae Weems**, one of the most important figures in international photography. She will be at **Gallerie d'Italia - Turin** by Intesa Sanpaolo with a retrospective exhibition named after her, organised in collaboration with **Aperture Foundation**. At the heart of the show, called “CARRIE MAE WEEMS. THE HEART OF THE MATTER” - which will be introduced by the artist expected in Turin for the opening of **EXPOSED** - is the new “Preach” project, created for this exhibition on specific commission. It is an ambitious and intense installation that explores the religion and spirituality of Afro-descendant Americans across generations. The exhibition is curated by **Sarah Meister**, Executive Director of Aperture Foundation, previously a curator for the **Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)** in New York, with the cooperation of Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, which supports education and inclusion initiatives in the region.

A stated goal of the festival is to support the practice of young talents, with a Grant that was launched at its first edition. The 2024 **EXPOSED GRANT for Contemporary Photography** winner is young

Bolivian photographer **River Claire**, who will exhibit at GAM - **Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Torino**. "**Once upon a time in the jungle**" is the title of Claire's solo exhibition. The project includes a series of shots where the imagery of American Westerns is intertwined with the myth of the jungle of the 19th century – a myth that completely ignores the peoples of the Amazon and instead presents the jungle as a wasteland full of resources to be exploited.

The festival's off-program: work in progress

The festival aims to become an amplifier of the city's creative energy, thanks to the countless cultural initiatives organised by the network of local institutions and organisations. For a month and a half, contents, initiatives and events will come to life around the festival.

A public program with lectures, events and networking opportunities will complete the festival's off-programme. These include **Photomatch**, a portfolio review with international professionals, which will take place at the Accademia Albertina, and a series of mediations dedicated to new generations.

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