



Regreso a la vida / Back to life
Sameer Makarius (1924–2009). The golden age of Argentine photography

Curated by Monika Branicka

Opening

Saturday May 13th, 11.00 a.m.
Palazzo Frisacco, Tolmezzo (Udine), Italy

A project by Municipality of Tolmezzo,
Amariana Cultural Association, Egidio Marzona

Regreso a la vida / Return to life at Palazzo Frisacco in Tolmezzo is the first retrospective in Europe of the Argentine photographer Sameer Makarius (Il Cairo 1924 - Buenos Aires 2009) and the inaugural exhibition of a collaboration between the Municipality of Tolmezzo, Amariana Cultural Association and the art collector Egidio Marzona.

The artistic legacy of Makarius is a very versatile and original production, which includes a variety of techniques and disciplines, but also craftsmanship and research. His works, as well as being part of several private collections, have been exhibited in the most important museums in the world including **Tate Modern** in London, **Reina Sofía Museum** in Madrid, **MoMA** in New York, **Art Institute** in Chicago, **CIFO Art Space** in Miami, **MALBA** of Buenos Aires.

Makarius starts with abstract painting, concrete art and Action Painting but the camera is his preferred medium. Known for "subjective photography", he has also explored abstract, documentary, experimental ("proyectogramas" photography techniques without a camera), industrial, product, advertising, nature, portrait, social and street documentary. He was a collector and one of the first Argentine researchers on the history of photography. He founded the "Centro de Investigaciones Fotohistóricas" and, as a private publisher, published the "Fotohistoria Argentina" series. To finance all this, he ran a small business in Buenos Aires for decades selling cameras and occasionally organizing small exhibitions featuring his historical collection.

The **exhibition at Palazzo Frisacco** includes a selection of around **150 works** and presents Makarius's artistic approach from a new and very topical perspective today: the one of a migrant who, after the Second World War, is forced to leave Europe and emigrate to Buenos Aires in Argentina. The gigantic body of work that the artist left behind (about 2,000 prints and 20,000 negatives) cannot be separated from his biography, marked by constant migration.

For this reason, the narration of the exhibition develops parallel to the artist's biography and leads the public on a path of both artistic and personal history. Divided into 8 chapters, it is a passage from the **refusal of representation** to a **return to reality**. At first Makarius uses paint to create imaginary and fantastic worlds (series *Biblicas*, *Proyectogramas*). At the same time, overwhelmed by the new world, he reacts to his surroundings. Parallel paths where the language of abstraction, experimentation and almost photojournalistic street photography are not mutually

exclusive but, on the contrary, cross. Photography, which initially serves to document reality, opens the way for Makarius to return to figuration.

Interpreting Makarius' work from the point of view of the theme of migration is very topical today. For this reason, the exhibition, the biography and the work of this artist must be read in relation to the current historical-political context. Even if the act of migration goes hand in hand with the loss of one's roots, on the other hand it always brings with it new knowledge and a change of perspective that can enrich not only the refugee but also the society that welcomes him and those in which he keeps company.

Technical data

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Curated by Monika Branicka

Curatorial board Michela Lupieri

Organized by Associazione Culturale Amariana

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Palazzo Frisacco Via Del Din 7, 33028 Tolmezzo Ud (Italy)

Opening: Saturday 13 May, 11.00 a.m

Exhibition opening: From 13 May to 26 June 2023 with the following opening times

May: Monday to Saturday 10.30 - 12.30 and 15.30 - 19.00 / Sunday 14.00 - 18.30

June: Monday to Sunday 10.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 19.00

closing day: Tuesday

Web: makarius2023.it / amariana.org

Ig: amariana.culturalassociation

FB: Amariana Associazione Culturale