

# Fotografe!

Firenze  
Villa Bardini  
Forte Belvedere  
18 giugno  
2 ottobre  
2022

## Dagli Archivi Alinari a oggi

### Press release

From **18 June to 2 October 2022**, **Villa Bardini** and **Forte di Belvedere** in Florence are hosting a major exhibition entitled **FOTOGRAFE! Women photographers: Alinari Archives to Contemporary Perspectives**, curated by Emanuela Sesti and Walter Guadagnini. The exhibition is presented and promoted by the Alinari Foundation for Photography and the Fondazione CR Firenze, in collaboration with the Municipality of Florence. This new and ambitious exhibition – whose protagonists are the women photographers of yesterday and today – brings two evocative venues together in a single, unique itinerary that combines original works by women from the Alinari Archives, with photographic production by their contemporary counterparts. The exhibition is an integral part of Forte di Belvedere's summer programme, curated by Museo Novecento.

Starting from the results of research conducted on Florence's vast **Alinari Archives**, the exhibition aims to create an itinerary that synchronically interweaves the origins of photography with contemporary experimentation, by spotlighting the art form's earliest techniques and displaying a cross-section of 20th-century creativity, in a journey that progresses towards the present day. Hence, the exhibition does not follow a chronological pattern, rather, it is founded upon analogies, comparative differences, inferences, themes and genres, constructing a context in which the photographic portrait takes centre stage. The exhibition builds a unique itinerary of photographs that spotlight women photographers from different eras, places and social contexts, yet the show's investigative element lies not in the search for a hypothetical 'female gaze', but in the quest to identify certain personalities, whose contributions to the field are paramount, albeit often underestimated.

Because **FOTOGRAFE!** forges a path whose starting point is the development of photographic research from its earliest history to the present day, the contributions of **contemporary women photographers** constitute an evocative point of reflection that recognises today's artistic practices, whilst continuing to foster ties with the past. Grounded in historical memory – whether individual or collective – these modern-day creatives capture our constantly changing world, where social roles and the paradigms associated with them are in constant evolution.

Vintage prints, albums and negatives from the Alinari Archives will be on display, comprising works from the foundation's various collections and featuring some forty female photographers, many of which will be exhibited for the first time. Of particular note are the collection's first daguerreotypists from the 1840s, including French artist Bernardine Caroline Theodora Hirza Lejeune (Paris 1824-1895). They form part of the Unique Objects Fund, which was restored, catalogued and digitised in 2021, thanks to the support of the Fondazione CR Firenze. The show will feature original prints by

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**Julia Margaret Cameron, Dorothea Lange, Margaret Bourke-White, Lucia Moholy, Maria Mulas, Ketty La Rocca, Lisetta Carmi, Diane Arbus, and Bettina Rheims**, among others, displayed in conversation with works by ten contemporary Italian artists, **Eleonora Agostini, Arianna Arcara, Federica Belli, Marina Caneve, Francesca Catastini, Myriam Meloni, Giulia Parlato, Roselena Ramistella, Sofia Uslenghi** and **Alba Zari**, proponents of new generation of photographers – born after 1980 – who have been carving their place in the field in recent years, both, nationally and internationally. Their works 'interact' with Alinari's historical legacy, eliciting a dialogue with the exhibition's historical photographs and with the archive itself, in order to enhance their materiality and enrich their aura, whilst proposing new interpretations of images that bear witness to what sometimes feels like the distant past.

Thanks to **Calliope Arts**, a not-for-profit organisation based in Florence and London, whose mission is to enhance and safeguard the cultural heritage of women, through its programme 'Restoration Conversations', the exhibition will be enriched by two sections devoted to significant collections from the Alinari Archives: that of the sisters **Wanda Wulz** (Trieste 1903-1984) and **Marion Wulz** (Trieste 1905-1990) and that of **Edith Araldi** (Vienna 1884-Rome 1978), chiefly known as a Futurist writer and artist, under the **pseudonym Rosa Rosà**, who is among the artists short-listed for the upcoming exhibition at the Venice Biennale of Art, curated by Cecilia Alemani.

These archives contain previously unpublished works, some of which were printed directly from the original negatives, and they enable the public to see the results of an initial survey of less explored material from these archival nuclei, which hold great interest for the history of photography. On the one hand, the Wulz collection (best known due to the international renown of Wanda's futurist works, including her famous overlay 'Cat and I' (*Io+gatto*), whose negatives will also be exhibited at the Villa Bardini. The project will hold important surprises for the public and scholars, alike, especially with regards to Wanda's working relationship and artistic association with her sister Marion. On the other hand, Forte Belvedere, will host a largely unpublished archive that has yet to be explored in its entirety, whose fruition will be made possible, thanks, in part, to the research of art historian Lisa Hanstein, intent on exploring the photographic production of a multifaceted artist like Edith Araldi, whose oeuvre comprises portraits and travel photographs taken throughout Italy, Europe and Africa, as well as portraits taken in her studio in Rome, which are instrumental to the study of her Futurist painting.

During the exhibition's unveiling, expect dialogues with the exhibition's participating artists, guided tours and workshops for children and families.

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The exhibition foresees a collaboration with **MUS.E** and the **Bardini and Peyron Monumental Parks Foundation**, as well as a contribution by **Unicoop Firenze**.

### Information

Exhibition venues. Florence: Villa Bardini and Forte Belvedere

[www.fondazionecrfirenze.it](http://www.fondazionecrfirenze.it)

[www.alinari.it](http://www.alinari.it)

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