

# LETIZIA BATTAGLIA

STORIE DI STRADA

PALAZZO REALE  
MILANO

5.12  
2019

19.1  
2020

## Press release:

*" In 1971, Milan welcomed me and gave me the opportunities to decide on my own life.  
I was 36 years old and here, not in Palermo, I began to be a photographer "*  
**Letizia Battaglia**

**"LETIZIA BATTAGLIA. STREET STORIES"  
PALAZZO REALE  
A MAJOR SOLO EXHIBITION TESTIFYING TO 40 YEARS  
OF ITALIAN LIFE AND SOCIETY**

*The exhibition anticipates the palimpsest "The talents of women", promoted and coordinated by the Municipality of Milan | Culture, which throughout 2020 will present multidisciplinary initiatives dedicated to the female universe*

Milan, November 2019 – From 5 December 2019 to 19 January 2020, Palazzo Reale in Milan will host the great exhibition "**Street Stories**", a large retrospective with over 300 photographs that retrace the extraordinary professional life of **Letizia Battaglia**.

**Promoted by the Municipality of Milan | Culture, Palazzo Reale and Civita Mostre e Musei**, the exhibition anticipates the palimpsest "**The talents of women**", promoted and coordinated by the Department of Culture, which throughout 2020 will present multidisciplinary initiatives - from the visual arts to the various forms of live entertainment, from letters to media, from fashion to science - dedicated to women protagonists in **culture** and creative thinking.

"**Street Stories**" includes almost **300 photographs**, many of which are unpublished, that span **the entire professional life of the Sicilian photographer** and presents an articulated narrative path built on different sections and themes. Portraits of women, men, animals or children, are just a few topics that make up the exhibition. In addition, the exhibition includes photos of cities such as Palermo, and then images focused on politics, life, death, love. Two videos deepen her human and artistic story.

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The exhibition itinerary focuses on those topics that built Letizia Battaglia's most peculiar individual expression, which led her to make a deep and continuous social criticism while avoiding clichés and questioning the visual principles of contemporary culture. The result is a genuine portrait of Letizia Battaglia, a nonconformist intellectual but also a poetic and political photographer, a woman who interests herself in what surrounds her and in what, distant from her, arouses her interest.

As Battaglia herself said, *"I have experienced photography as a document, as an interpretation and as something else [...]. I lived it as salvation and as truth". "I am a person - she says again - I am not a photographer. I am a person who takes photographs"*.

**Francesca Alfano Miglietti**, curator of the exhibition says *"The exhibition presents works that are 'forms of attention' of the artistic path of Letizia Battaglia: something that comes even before her photographs, because Letizia Battaglia wondered about everything that fell under at her eyes, a murder or a child, a glimpse or a gathering, a person or a sky. Watching was her main activity, which "materialized" into extraordinary images"*.

Letizia Battaglia (Palermo, 1935) needs no introduction. Not only in Italy, but also abroad: in 2017 *New York Times* cited her as one of the eleven extraordinary women of the year.

Letizia Battaglia talked about Palermo as an insider, not to mention her contribution to theatre, publishing and promotion of photography as a discipline. She is recognized as one of the most important figures in contemporary photography not only for her shots firmly present in the collective consciousness, but also for the civil and ethical value that she attributes to photography.

During her life, Letizia Battaglia also represented the faces of the poor and the riots in the squares, always keeping the city as a privileged space for the observation of reality, as well as its urban landscape. Letizia Battaglia 'treats' her work as a manifesto, exposing her convictions in a direct, true, poetic and cultured manner, thus revolutionizing the role of breaking news photography.

She learns the technique directly "on the street", and her images immediately stand out for trying to capture a powerful emotion and almost always a feeling of "pietas".

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Letizia's subjects, chosen not at all by chance, have traced a path aimed at strengthening her own ideologies and convictions regarding society, political commitment, marginalized realities, violence caused by the wars of power, the emancipation of women.

Many documentaries have investigated her figure as a woman and as an artist: the most recent was presented at the 2019 edition of the *Sundance Film Festival*. The film *Shooting The Mafia*, directed by Kim Longinotto, tells about Letizia Battaglia as journalist and artist, who with her camera and her lively life is a first-hand witness to a fundamental historical period for Sicily and for all of Italy, that culminated in the barbarous killings of Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue edited by **Marsilio Editori**, with texts by Francesca Alfano Miglietti, Leoluca Orlando, Maria Chiara Di Trapani, Filippo La Mantia, Paolo Ventura.

A varied program of side activities adds further attraction to "Street Stories". A rich calendar of film screenings in collaboration with MIC - Museo Interattivo del Cinema: seven dates from 10 December to 21 December 2020 (**program on [www.mostraletiziabattaglia.it](http://www.mostraletiziabattaglia.it) and on [www.cinetecamilano.it](http://www.cinetecamilano.it)**)

And not only that. From 5 December to 21 February 2020 it will be possible to take part in two photo contest: "Letizia Battaglia - Projects", "Letizia Battaglia - People" which will invite participants to take to the streets to photograph everyday life. The jury is composed of Letizia Battaglia, Francesca Alfano Miglietti and Denis Curti. Prizes include a portfolio reading and publications in sector magazines. Participation is free and open to everyone, professionals and enthusiasts. The photos will be collected in the manner prescribed by the regulation. For more information [www.mostraletiziabattaglia.it](http://www.mostraletiziabattaglia.it).

Finally, "Around Letizia" special visits including that of Francesca Alfano Miglietti, Antonio Marras and Vincenzo Argentieri, will allow visitors to get to know Letizia Battaglia at 360 degrees.

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### Biographical notes

Letizia Battaglia was born in Palermo in 1935; she has three daughters. She is one of Italy's leading photo-reporters. From 1974 to 1991 she directed the photographic team of the communist afternoon daily newspaper "L'ORA" in Palermo, and she also founded the "Informazione Fotografica" agency. Her images recount with an activist's passion the bloodstained years of the wars of the Sicilian mafia. With a black and white full of contrasts, her archive overflows with photos that are heart-wrenching in their composition. She creates silent and solemn images that are far from the uproar that is often part of the news.

Besides the bodies of judges and of nameless victims, she continues to recount her favourite subjects: children and young women portrayed to express a possible future. She is not only a photographer: she is also a film director, an environmentalist, a councillor for the Green Party with Leoluca Orlando's city council, a member 3 of the Sicilian regional government, and the editor of the Edizioni della Battaglia. She was a co-founder of the "Giuseppe Impastato" investigative research centre.

She was the first European woman to receive, in New York, the Eugene Smith award for social photography and, in San Francisco, *The Mother Johnson Achievement for Life* was conferred on her (1999).

In 2007 she received "The Erich Salomon Award" from this German photographic society. In New York in May 2009 she received the "Cornell Capa Infinity Award".

In 1991 she founded "Mezzocielo" a bimonthly magazine for women only. She was on the list of 1000 women signalled for the Nobel Peace Prize, having been nominated by Peace Women Across the Globe. The New York Times nominated her (the only Italian) as one of the eleven most representative women of 2017.

She has been asked to give lectures and hold workshops by museums and institutions in Italy and abroad. In 2017 a dream came true when she opened the Centro Internazionale di Fotografia at Zisa in Palermo. She directs it and curates the selection of shows and meetings about historical and contemporary photography.

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## Information sheet

### Title

LETIZIA BATTAGLIA

Street stories

Milano, Palazzo Reale

### Dates

5 December 2019 – 19 January 2020

### Curated by

Francesca Alfano Miglietti

### Exhibition

Comune di Milano – Cultura

Palazzo Reale

Civita Mostre e Musei

### Catalogue

Marsilio Editori

### Info

199.15.11.21

(Monday to Friday 9.00 am-6.00 pm; Saturday 9.00 am - 12.00 am)

From abroad: 02.89096942

[mostre@civita.it](mailto:mostre@civita.it)

[www.mostraletiziabattaglia.it](http://www.mostraletiziabattaglia.it) (under construction)

### Opening hours

Monday 14.30 - 19.30

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday: 9.30 - 19.30

Thursday and Saturday: 9.30 am - 10.30 pm

The ticket office closes an hour before

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**Tickets including audio guide**  
**Open € 15**

**full price € 13**

**reduced € 11** for groups of at least 15 and maximum 25 people, under 26 and over 65, disabled people, Touring Club members and Fai with card, ticket holders participating in the "Monday Museums" initiative (Poldi Pezzoli and La Scala Theatre Museum), MIC – Museo Interattivo del Cinema tickets, military personnel, law enforcement officers not in service, teachers, other affiliated categories

**subscriptions 10 €** members Subscription Museums Lombardy, Members Orticola with card valid for the current year

**special reduction € 6** for schools of all levels, groups organized directly by FAI and Touring Club, Cinetessera Fondazione Cineteca Italiana 2020, non-accredited journalists, employees of the Municipality of Milan and civil service volunteers working at the Municipality of Milan

**family ticket € 11** per person for one or two adults, € 6 for children aged 6 to 14, children up to 5 years free

**Free** for children under 6, one guide per group, two accompanying teachers per class, a disabled companion who needs help, journalists accredited by the Press Office of the Municipality or the exhibition, qualified tourist guides, ICOM members, employees of the Superintendency of Milan Landscape and Architectural Heritage

**Special free for those under 18 from 25 December 2019 to 6 January 2020**

**Press office**  
**Civita**

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