

Paolo Simonazzi

Paolo Simonazzi (born in Reggio Emilia in 1961) divides his time between his work as a physician and photography to which he is dedicated with a passion.

Mantua, Cuba (Greta's Books, 2016) is a sentimental search into the essence of a small provincial town on the island of Cuba.

It was first inaugurated in the autumn of 2016 in Parma (BAG Gallery) and then it was on show in Havana (Galeria Casa de Carmen Montilla), during the XIX Italian culture week in Cuba, in October 2017 in Reggio Emilia (Vicolo Folletto Art Factories) and in July 2018 in Genova (MuMa).

In the spring of 2016 he had an exhibition at Collezione Maramotti in Reggio Emilia for the XI edition of the "Fotografia Europea" festival, dedicated to the Via Emilia, the old Roman Road which stretches from Piacenza to Rimini. His project, *So near, so far* (Danilo Montanari, 2018), is an original interpretation of his projects that look toward his homeland with a knowing look as well as love and a dash of irony.

In 2015 in Turin, during the "The Others" Art fair, he presented the unpublished *Icons of Liscio* project about the icons of the traditional "Liscio" dance of the Emilia Romagna region.

In 2014, for the IX edition of the Fotografia Europea festival he created and presented the exhibition *Cose ritrovate* (Things lost and found), a visionary voyage inspired by the literary texts of Ermanno Cavazzoni and Raffaello Baldini (Marsilio, 2014). "Cose ritrovate" has been put on an exhibition in Rimini (City Museum) in 2015 and - promoted by Italian Cultural Institute - in Barcelona (CAGE Gallery) in July 2018.

The *Bell'Italia* project, (Silvana Editoriale, 2014) which was presented at the "Fotografia Europea" in 2011, was then on show in Sydney, Melbourne (2012), Tokyo (2014) and Moscow (2016).

Between 2006 and 2010 he worked on *Mondo piccolo* (Small World), a discovery of the lands dear to the writer Guareschi, places of the soul more than of geography (Umberto Allemandi, 2010), with exhibitions in various Italian cities, including, recently, in Milan (March 2018).

Tra la Via Emilia e il West (Between the Via Emilia and the West - Baldini Castoldi, 2007) is the title of the project on show at Villa delle Rose in Bologna in 2007 which was also exhibited in various Italian and international cities including New York and San Francisco.

In 2006 he explored the issue of social distress with the project *La casa degli angeli* (The house of Angels), presented during the 1st edition of Fotografia Europea and later at the 7th edition of FotoGrafia - Festival Internazionale di Roma (2007).

Circo Bidone, one of his first photographic projects, tells the story of a small circus which has survived in a time marked by multimedia and special effects (Zoolibri 2003).