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# SANTA MARIA DELLA SCALA MUSEUM COMPLEX

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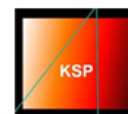
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## Ten Years and Eighty-Seven Days

13/4/2017-4/6/2017

Photography Exhibit by Luisa Menazzi Moretti

After the Berlin success at the European Month of Photography 2016 and the Honorable Mention Award received by the International Photography Awards 2016, Ten Years and Eighty-Seven Days, the exhibit of Luisa Menazzi Moretti, will be hosted for the first time in Italy at the Santa Maria della Scala Museum in the city of Siena, Italy. The Museum is the producer of the project which will be open to the public from April 13 to June 4, 2017.

The exhibit comprises 17 large format photographs (displayed as individual works, or diptychs and triptychs) accompanied by 9 texts selected from letters or interviews written or released by the prisoners on death row in Livingston, a small town close to Huntsville in Texas. The title of the project, Ten Years and Eighty-Seven Days, refers to the average time a prisoner spends in jail - in a condition of complete solitude - from the moment of his detention until the day of execution. The photographic artworks are inspired by the words of the death row inmates, their lives, the feelings they experience in the Texan prison which holds the first position for executions amongst the democratic nations of the Western World.

Daniele Pitteri, Director of the Santa Maria della Scala Museum Complex, writes: "... Luisa

Menazzi Moretti neither documents nor interprets these lives. She transfigures them. She penetrates them, filtering them through her own sensitivity and gives them back to us transfigured, in the shape of images that do not tell a tale but that convey the thoughts, feelings and emotions prompted in her by the thoughts, feelings and emotions of people who are not outcasts that have come to the end of the line but human beings who exist despite everything."

Far from realism, Luisa Menazzi Moretti's photography calls for a deep reflection on capital punishment; in the US 29 States still contemplate death penalty. If Luisa Menazzi Moretti has chosen to work on a practice still current in the prosperous and sophisticated State of Texas (where she lived for many years and still spends part of the year), it is because of the sad record that it holds among the Federated States of the US which, despite being a model of liberal democracy, find it impossible to resolve this cruel contradiction. In the words of Bruno Valentini, Mayor of Siena: "When I stop and think that the highly civilised United States of America, symbol of the Western democracies, still practices capital punishment, I feel a shiver running down my spine. How can that be? How can such barbarity be justified? How can a state decide whether its citizens are to live or die? Those same questions returned obsessively to my mind throughout the exhibition of Luisa Menazzi Moretti's work, an exhibition made of pictures and words, of meanings that interweave and of constant echoes between two different means of expression, but above all, an exhibition of strong feelings."

The exhibition is curated by Luisa Menazzi Moretti, produced by the Santa Maria della Scala Museum Complex in conjunction with the Italian Institute of Culture, Berlin. It is sponsored by the City of Siena with the organizational support from Opera-Civita. The book is published by Contrasto.

### Biography

Luisa Menazzi Moretti was born in Udine in 1964. She moved with her family to the United States when she was thirteen; she was educated in Texas, first in College Station where she attended the high school and then in Houston for her university education. During those years, she began cultivating her passion for photography; she attended courses, favouring printing and black and white development. She then returned to Europe, obtained an MA in Modern Foreign Languages and Literature, worked in London and, after some years, she moved to Italy. She has lived in Udine, Bologna, Rome, Naples and Venice. Her work has been shown in museums, fairs, festivals and private civic galleries, and is part of several international collections. Critics and curators such as Francesco Bonami, Achille Bonito Oliva, Denis Curti, Valerio Dehò, Maria Flora Giubilei, Antonio Giusa, Lothar Muller and Luigi Reitani have curated and presented her work.

Contrasto published Ten Years and Eighty-Seven Days, the artist's most recent book, and Gente di Fotografia published Somewhere—Luisa Menazzi Moretti, both in 2016. Arte'm has published two books of Luisa Menazzi Moretti's work, entitled Words (2013) and Nature's Matters (2014).

Cose di Natura, Galleria Due Piani, Pordenone (2017)

International Photography Awards, Honorable Mention, Ten Years and Eighty-Seven Days (2016)

AMACI – Giornata del contemporaneo, P Greco, Galleria La Salizada – Venice (2016)

European Month of Photography 2016, Berlino – Istituto Italiano di Cultura – Ten Years and Eighty-Seven Days

Villa Manin di Passariano, Somewhere, 2016

AMACI – Giornata del contemporaneo, Cose di Natura, Galleria La Salizada - Venice (2015)

Visual Action Ayotzinapa, Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers College - Guerrero, Messico (2015)

Award L'Isola 2015 - Tropea (2015)

Festival dei due mondi di Spoleto, Sconfinamenti #3, Rocca Albornoziana - Spoleto (2015)

The Billboard Creative: finalist Show Q1, Hollywood – Los Angeles, USA (2015)

EXPO MILANO, Ingredients for a Thought, Galleria STILL – Milan (2015)

MIA Fair, Ingredients for a Thought, Milan (2015)

Affordable Art Fair, Galleria Spazio Farini – Milan (2015)

Tre Oci Tre Mostre: Cose di Natura, Fondazione Tre Oci - Venice (2015)

Words, Galleria Dafna – Naples (2015)

Oci su Luisa Menazzi Moretti ed Elio Ciol, Galleria La Salizada - Venice (2015)

Christie's Auction: a noi ci frega lo sguardo, Galleria di Arte Moderna - Milan (2014)

Forum Universale delle Culture, Words, San Domenico Maggiore – Naples (2014)

Fotofest International, The Collector's Eye: the Maloney Collection, Silver Studios – Houston, USA (2014)

Words, Galleria la Salizada – Venice (2014)

Cose di Natura, Galleria d'Arte Moderna – Genoa (2014)

Words, Galleria Civica Tina Modotti – Udine (2014)

Words, Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea - Pordenone (2014)

Winter Sensations, Galleria Spazio Farini – Milan (2014)

Magic Mirror, Galleria La Salizada – Venice (2014)

Magic Mirror, Galleria Tedofra – Bologna (2014)

Holiday Dreams, Galleria Spazio Farini – Milan (2013)

Finalist Premio Combat, Museo G. Fattori - Livorno (2013)

Finalist Premio Venice (2013)



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Words, Galleria Spazio Paraggi – Milan (2013)  
MIA Fair, Words, Paola Sosio Contemporary Art Gallery – Milan (2013)  
Magic Mirror, Galleria Le Stanze Bianche – Palermo (2013)  
Affordable Art Fair - Milan (2013)  
Bambini in missione di pace, Fondazione Sambuca - Palermo (2013)  
Obiettivo la Ricerca, Centro Convegni AIL – Rome (2013)  
Italo Zannier: la sfida della fotografia, Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea – Pordenone (2013)  
Magic Mirror, Fabbrica delle Arti – Naples (2013)

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Ten Years and Eighty-Seven Days, 2016, @ Luisa Menazzi Moretti



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