

UNCENSORED

An exhibition that unveils the erotic works of Gian Paolo Barbieri

Curated by Gian Paolo Barbieri Foundation in collaboration with CZ Fotografia and MANINTOWN

September 22 – 25, 2021

In occasion of Milan Fashion Week, Gian Paolo Barbieri Foundation in collaboration with CZ Fotografia created by Catia Zucchetti and MANINTOWN by Federico Poletti, reopens its doors with a show entirely focused on the erotic production of Gian Paolo Barbieri photographer.

The show, called *Uncensored*, wants to give a voice to the explosive force of the Erotism looking at it with different eyes. Erotism has been always represented in the Arts: paintings, drawing as well as sculptures have showed bodies with an intense yet elegant provocation. The Erotism can be interpreted as an intellectual way of addressing sexuality, it has the purpose of evoking something else and of allowing the possibility of the human fantasy of overcoming its own limits. Erotism is a metaphore of itself.

Federico Poletti, the editor in chief of MANINTOWN magazine states: "Gian Paolo Barbieri's work represents a real mine of inspirations that range from different themes and which often have anticipated trends, lifestyles and customs. With *Uncensored* we want to show all the expressive and erotic power of the nudes taken by Barbieri through poetic yet strong images, that today are on display at his Foundation: a special place where you can discover the work of a great master of italian photography. And I'm very sure Barbieri's work can offer further creative ideas to rethink the imaginary of men's fashion which is in constant evolution".

If the Nude was one of the favorite themes addressed by all artists since the ancient Greece, with the advent of Christianity in the western art there has often been an attempt to evade and conceal sexuality making the poetic representation of this subject a prohibition, contrary to the eastern world where there has been always the interest in investigating the naked body and sex. Only with the Renaissance artists were able to represent the Nude again, particularly the male body, reinterpreting the concept of Ideal Beauty born with the Classical Art. Subsequently, the advent of photography opened the doors for a more real representation of the nude, though the rawness of the subject was always depicted by photographers according to canons of elegance.

Uncensored scrutinizes what for Barbieri was a constant search: the man. Always attracted from the study of the human body, in its exteriority and interiority, Barbieri investigated and observed the soul, first in his trilogy on the tropics, then in his study of eroticism. Using bodies that are natural and real, Barbieri conveys pleasure through purity and an expressive simplicity. In his images, the

prehistoric approach to the body human exists with the aesthetic intention of classical beauty and the Renaissance discovery of freedom. Therefore, his nude is a celebration of nature in all its forms and expressions without false modesty and fear of banality, staying on that thin red thread that has never divided pure art from contaminated art, poetry from vulgarity, the sacred from the profane.

The critic of History of Photography **Maurizio Rebuzzini** affirms: *Despite the appearance photographically curated, these images are of a classic simplicity. The neutral background is allegorical but secondary to the human bodies that dominate the scene. These figures are perceived as so intimately that instill a sense of embarrassment. At the same time, it is difficult to reduce the style and the taste of Gian Paolo Barbieri to pure description or to any other expressive belonging. The subjects are visualized with cuts of light in suspended and silent moments...*

All these photographs are self-evident, declaratory and without implications. Gian Paolo Barbieri's point of view is focused and underlined: dark memories that harbor in our hearts. His images dig in to our darkest and disconcerting emotions. Barbieri fascinates, disconcerts, touches the heart and mind of the beholder. He uses the light with mastery, alternating the vigor to subjective and dramatic fullness. He composes the subjects with taste and delicacy, presenting their depth and intensity. Gian Paolo Barbieri is a photographer who expresses strength, yet he results strangely passive. The tragedy he shows, the intense vibrations he evokes together with the madness and inability to live that run through his work belong to us observers. He sees the agony, he expresses the passion, but we cannot know if he experiences them personally.

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Fondazione Gian Paolo Barbieri

Via Lattanzio 11 - Milano

Dal 22 al 25 settembre 2021 – Orari 10.00 - 16.00

Ingresso libero su appuntamento: info@fondazionegpb.it

Tel. +39 02 55194154

Inaugurazione su invito

21 settembre 2021 – Orari 18.30 - 21.30

Special thanks:

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