

**Lisetta Carmi.**  
**Merry voices in the dark.**  
**Photographs in Sardinia 1962–76**

curated by **Luigi Fassi and Giovanni Battista Martini**

**Friday 4 December 2020 – Sunday 7 March 2021**

**MAN Museo d'Arte Provincia di Nuoro**  
Via Sebastiano Satta 27, Nuoro

From **Friday 4 December 2020 to Sunday 7 March 2021**, the **MAN Museo d'Arte Provincia di Nuoro** will be hosting a major anthological exhibition dedicated to **Lisetta Carmi** (Genoa, 1924), one of the most important names in Italian photography since the Second World War.

The exhibition, curated by **Luigi Fassi and Giovanni Battista Martini**, forms part of the MAN's research into the relationship between major Italian photographers and Sardinia, an aesthetic dialogue that saw its previous representative last year in the retrospective on the work of **Guido Guidi**.

The exhibition explores an **unpublished** chapter of Lisetta Carmi's photography, namely her work on Sardinia, bringing together **hundreds of black-and-white shots taken between 1962 and 1976** during her numerous visits to the island.

The exhibition is completed by an **unseen series of colour slides** showing the inland areas of Sardinia with its woods, rivers and lakes captured in their most arcane and evocative dimension.

Two sections of the display are devoted to the series on transvestites (1965–71) and on labourers in the port of Genoa (1964).

The first is the outcome of Lisetta Carmi's many years of frequenting the marginalized transvestite community in Genoa, sharing their daily lives with an empathy that counters their social marginalization with moments of life in common.

The second is the outcome of a photographic report from 1964 on workers at the port in the Ligurian capital, produced with the objective of uncovering the very harsh working conditions.

The exhibition is accompanied by an extensive monographic **catalogue** published by Marsilio and accompanied by critical essays by Etienne Bernard, Nicoletta Leonardi, Giovanni Battista Martini and Luigi Fassi.

From Friday 4 December 2020 to Sunday 7 March 2021, the MAN in Nuoro is also presenting the *D'oro e verderame* exhibition, a selection of works from the museum's permanent collection curated by **Luigi Fassi** and **Emanuela Manca**.

## **PRESS CONTACTS**

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## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

### **Lisetta Carmi. Merry voices in the dark**

### **Photographs in Sardinia 1962–76**

curated by **Luigi Fassi and Giovanni Martini**

### **From Friday 4 December 2020 to Sunday 7 March 2021**

Open day: Friday 4 December 2020 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### **MAN Museo d'Arte Provincia di Nuoro**

via Sebastiano Satta 27, Nuoro

[www.museoman.it](http://www.museoman.it) | [info@museoman.it](mailto:info@museoman.it)

Tel. +39 0784 252110

**Opening hours:** 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. | closed on Mondays.

**Tickets:** adults 5 euros; concessions 3 euros (18-to-25-year-olds); free for under-18s and on the first Sunday of the month.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

### **Lisetta Carmi**

Lisetta Carmi (Genoa, 1924) was born into a middle-class family of Jewish origin and was therefore forced into exile in Switzerland at an early age. After a long period dedicated to music and the piano, Carmi gave up her career as a pianist to devote herself to photography as a means of political commitment and personal inner research. She was self-taught and learned the basics of her trade by working for three years as stage photographer at the Teatro Duse in her home city, before producing a series of reportages, such as the one on Genoa's port workers. Her commitment to photography continued with numerous trips to Israel between 1958 and 1967, then to Latin America in 1969, before heading East, where she visited Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal. Between 1962 and 1974 she was a frequent visitor to Sardinia, taking shots that documented the island's social life, particularly in Barbagia.

Her book *I travestiti* was published in 1972, causing a certain scandal. During one of her trips to the Orient she met Babaji, an encounter that triggered a radical change in her life and led her to found the Bhole Baba ashram in Cisternino, Puglia, in 1979, where she devoted herself to practising and sharing her guru's teachings.

### **MAN | Museo d'Arte Provincia di Nuoro**

The MAN opened to the public in 1999 inside a 1920s building in the historical centre of Nuoro. The initial nucleus of the collection was created by bringing together a number of public collections (belonging to the Province, Municipality, Provincial Tourist Board and Chamber of Commerce).

The idea for a provincial art gallery soon developed into a museum project, in which research and conservation would feature alongside exhibitions and workshops. New acquisitions were added to the collection and its activity expanded to encompass more of the local area. In 2004 the museum became autonomous and joined Amaci, the national association of contemporary art museums. In 2013 the MAN obtained regional recognition as a museum of excellence.