

**SOLILOQUI: MILANO**

**Gianluca Vassallo & Living Divani.**

**Photo project and video installation: Gianluca Vassallo.**

**Set up project: Piero Lissoni.**

From Friday April 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>, the exhibition "Soliloqui:Milano" by Gianluca Vassallo is on stage at the Living Divani Gallery in Corso Monforte 20. The urban and human landscape coexist in the author's narrative, giving the observer the opportunity to lightly touch others' everyday life, almost feel the smell of the living, the talks on current times, deadlines, desires, memories that distract their eyes from the austere and stratified beauty of a metropolis that always unfolds, that always indicates a way to the future, a way of feeling the past.

A photographic presentation that does not end, but on the contrary finds its development in a video project: the Frog armchairs designed by Piero Lissoni for Living Divani become the means to complete Vassallo's story. The seats liven up; they are placed in different contexts around the city, and the story becomes fluid: passers-by interact with the product and the space, and the artist captures the moments, the actions and the emotions.

*"I remember as a boy, that Milan was already a woman. And I remember feeling confused, with my southern body and Sardinian eyes, walking amid a rigour that kept me on alert and silent, fighting the cold, telling me anything but blue, the opposite of the sea, as in the shadow of certain poetry, in the light of certain shoulders, in a beauty that you feel, without understanding, just because it is not time. Thirty years have passed since then and Milan is still a woman that, perhaps, was never a girl. And I am still the fool who stares at her in confusion, waiting to discover her eyes. To carry them into the world, to become a man".*

Gianluca Vassallo

*"Milan seen through Gianluca's lens and the citizens' eyes on his works through the large windows of the Living Divani Gallery. It is in this game of gazes that the space expresses its potential as a stage for art and culture: a sort of transparent gallery open to the city, to start a dialogue with other creative disciplines".*

Carola Bestetti, CEO Living Divani

*"There is light in Milan, a splendid light, in Gianluca Vassallo's work. Dense and halo-like, the light dazzles you and interrupts the mechanical reproduction of what the eye sees and measures, to open up a distorting gap that allows you to look through, as in a watermark, and recognise something other than the geometric rhythmic sequence or linear flatness to which Milan seems destined..."*

*Moments of suspension and of a deeper breath in which geography and architecture act as abstract places, geometries that reveal a new language for the eye, which becomes mobile and distracted, loses focus, renounces the fixity of its own point of view and of the perspective distance, to range over many senses and find itself wounded and more alive in the fatigue of a karst crossing".*

*From the critique of Maria d'Ambrosio*

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## **BIOGRAPHY GIANLUCA VASSALLO**

Gianluca Vassallo, 48 years old.

He lives and works in San Teodoro, Sardinia. Do not call him a photographer because he is offended. He expresses himself through video, sound, photography, installations with particular attention to the relational and process aspect.

His work has been presented by institutions and galleries in Italy and abroad. Among them: Palazzo Te, Mantua (2021), Fabrica, Treviso (2018, 2019); Caleum Gallery, New York (2017); Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Stockholm (2017); Fondazione di Sardegna, Cagliari (2016/2017); Padiglione Portogallo Biennale Architettura di Venezia, Venice (2016); Museo dell'Emigrazione, Asuni (2016); Spazio Soho, New York (2015,2016); Palazzo della Penna, Perugia (2014); Schauwerk Museum, Sindelfingen (2013, 2014, 2020); Museo MAN, Nuoro (2014); Stadtgalerie, Kiel (2014); Tempio di Adriano, Rome (2013); Masedu Museo, Sassari (2013); Fondazione Meta, Alghero (2013); Museo MART, Rovereto (2012, 2013); PAN, Naples (2010). He is among the winners of Premio Terna 2013, Special Mention Premio VAF 2014. Among the public art operations, Exposed (2013), Free Portrait (2013/2015), I was there (2016), Shoot Me Orlando (2016), La Città Invisibile (2016), Biancolabbra (2017). His works are present in dozens of publications, including, Faces, Peter Weiermair's book on contemporary portrait. He is the founder and artistic director of White Box Studio through which he brings his gaze and that of other Sardinian talents to companies of industrial design, fashion, publishing and cultural institutions trying to transform the communication activities into opportunities to investigate the complexity using empathy and lightness as primary tools.