



LA LUNGA STRADA DI SABBIA
Photographs by Paolo Di Paolo
Texts by Pier Paolo Pasolini

Curated by **Silvia Di Paolo**

Organized by **Italian Cultural Institute in Lisbon, Sociedade Nacional de Belas Artes, Festa del Cinema Italiano**

Under the scope of **Italian Embassy in Portugal**

Promoted by da **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

In collaboration with **Fondazione Sozzani di Milano**

With the patronage of **Centro Studi Pier Paolo Pasolini di Casarsa**

Opening

Sociedade Nacional de Belas Artes, Rua Barata Salgueiro 36, Lisbon

March, 24th, 2022

18h00

With the presence of the Director of the Italian Cultural Institute and Cultural Attaché of the Italian Embassy in Portugal **Stefano Scaramuzzino**, of the curator **Silvia di Paolo** and of the author **Paolo Di Paolo**

On view

Sociedade Nacional de Belas Artes, Rua Barata Salgueiro 36, Lisbon

From March, 24th to April, 16th, 2022

From Monday to Friday 12h-19h, Saturday 14h-19h

Free Admission

For the 100th anniversary of **Pier Paolo Pasolini**'s birth, the Italian Cultural Institute in Lisbon presents "**La lunga strada di sabbia**". The exhibition features photographs by **Paolo Di Paolo** and texts by **Pier Paolo Pasolini** and it is curated by **Silvia Di Paolo**, in collaboration with Fondazione Sozzani and under the patronage of the Centro Studi Pier Paolo Pasolini.

In 1959 Paolo Di Paolo was a 34 year-old who had been photographing for five years for the historic monthly magazine "Il Mondo" and its Art Director Mario Pannunzio.

Pier Paolo Pasolini was a promising 37 year-old writer who had published *The best of Youth*, *The Street Kids* and *A Violent Life*. He was not yet a film director. In Italy, the economic miracle had just begun. The newspapers tended to offer to Italian families a microcosm of mythical characters as a diversion to the dullness and fear of war, emigration, and poverty. Arturo Tofanelli, director of the monthly "Successo" and the weekly "Tempo", entrusted the two young men, Di Paolo and Pasolini, who did not know each other, to do a report on the Italian Summer Holidays.

The writer and the photographer set off from Ventimiglia together, with the plan of traveling through the coasts of Italy to the south and climbing up to Trieste. But they have different visions. "Pasolini was looking for a lost world of literary ghosts, an Italy that no longer existed," recalls Di Paolo. "I was looking for an Italy that looked to the future. I conceived the title *The Long Road of Sand* meaning the strenuous road traveled by Italians to reach well-being and holidays after the War." A complex, delicate partnership was born between Pasolini and Di Paolo, uniting them only for the first part of their journey. That first experience would later be consolidated in mutual respect and trust.

La lunga strada di sabbia, the extraordinary picture story by Paolo Di Paolo was accompanied by texts by Pier Paolo Pasolini and was published by "Successo" magazine in three issues (4th July, 14th August and 5th September 1959). It told the story of Italians on vacation, from the Tyrrhenian to the Adriatic seas; from Ventimiglia to Ostia; from Calabrian Torvajonica to Sicily; from Apulian Santa Maria di Leuca to Trieste. Pasolini's words reflect both his eye for the beauty and his heart ache for the past when he speaks of "The mountains of Versilia... merry or gloomy? Here is one thing that can never be understood. A little crazy in their shape, and always inked with colors from the end of the world, those pinks, those flashes of marble that leak out as if by chance. But so sweet, mythical".

The exhibition "La lunga strada di sabbia" was presented for the first time at Fondazione Sozzani, Milan in 2021.

PAOLO DI PAOLO

Paolo Di Paolo was born in 1925 in Larino in Molise. In 1939 he moved to Rome to pursue his classical high school diploma. Immediately after the War he enrolled in the Faculty of History and Philosophy of La Sapienza University. Between the mid-forties and early-fifties he frequents the art circles of Rome coming in close contact with the group "Forma 1". His artist friends encourage him to develop his creativity through photography. He works in publishing and in 1953 is appointed editor-in-chief of the magazine "Viaggi Cit. Le tourisme en Italie". He presents himself as an amateur photographer "photographing for pleasure".

In 1954 he began photographing for the weekly magazine "Il Mondo" where Di Paolo published over 573 images. Between 1954 and 1956 he collaborates with "La settimana Incom Illustrata" and in the same period he starts working for the weekly "Tempo".

Many of his features and reports were signed with notable journalists like Antonio Cederna, Lamberti Sorrentino, Mino Guerrini, Luigi Romersa. In the early 1960s he travels as correspondent to the Soviet Union, Iran, Japan and the United States. He documents Pasolini during the shooting of the films Mamma Roma with Anna Magnani and of The Gospel according to St Matthew.

In 1966 Pannunzio's "Il Mondo" magazine closes, shortly thereafter the direction of weekly "Tempo" changes too. With the advent of television and paparazzi, information was increasingly oriented towards news and gossip scoops. Di Paolo concludes his photographic career by collaborating with Irene Brin, a celebrated costume journalist, with exclusive fashion reports on the international jet set. In 1968 Paolo Di Paolo abandons his camera and retires in the countryside outside Rome. He returns to philosophical studies and historical research.

From 1970 to 2015 he devoted himself to editorial publications, including the historical calendars of the Carabinieri Armed Service.

Di Paolo's photographic archives with over 250,000 negatives, contact sheets, prints and slides, remained hidden and perfectly ordered for decades. It was found by chance in the early 2000s by his daughter Silvia, who discovered an unknown part of her father's life and brought to light the extraordinary reading of these unrepeatable historical moments.

In 2019 the MAXXI museum, the National Museum of 20th Century Arts in Rome, dedicated an important retrospective "Mondo Perduto" to Paolo Di Paolo.

American photographer and director Bruce Weber just released "The treasure of his youth" a doc-film about Paolo Di Paolo's life.