



HUNGRY GHOSTS

ROGER BALLEEN AND GABRIELE TINTI



book presentation

Tuesday **15 October**, from **6.30 pm**
Fondazione Sozzani, via Tazzoli 3, Milan

with the authors

Roger Ballen, photographer and artist

Gabriele Tinti, poet and art critic

thanks to

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Fondazione Sozzani presents a preview of the book **Hungry Ghosts**, with photographs by **Roger Ballen** and texts by **Gabriele Tinti**. In **Hungry Ghosts** images and words combine themselves to make present the absent. The title and the structure of the book come from *Petavatthu* (Tales of the Spirits, literally 'hungry spirit'), a Buddhist collection of 51 poems that evoke dramatic stories of ghosts and restless dead who suffer because of the bad deeds of their previous lives but are given a chance for redemption. The book maintains this formal and content-based approach by combining it with the suggestion of epigraphs from the ancient world. Gabriele Tinti's 51 poems are composed in the form of epigrams which, in relation to Roger Ballen's images, force to reckon with the mystery of the thirst of transcendence, with the desire and fear for death and the afterlife.

Roger Ballen studied psychology at the University of California and later obtained his PhD at the Colorado School of Mines, specialising in mineral economics. In 1973 he began travelling and crossed Asia overland. In 1974 he reached Cape Town from Cairo. In 1975 he took his first photographs for the project *Boyhood*, which was published in 1977. His publications include *Dorps: Small Towns of South Africa* (1986), *Platteland: Images from Rural South Africa* (1994), *Outland* (2001), *Shadow Chamber* (2005), *Boarding House* (2009), *Asylum of the Birds* (2014), *The Theatre of Apparitions* (2016) and the major retrospective volume published in 2017, *Ballenesque Roger Ballen: A Retrospective*.

Gabriele Tinti is an Italian poet and writer. He writes inspired by masterpieces of ancient art and collaborates with institutions such as the Capitoline Museums and the Metropolitan Museum in New York. His poems have been performed by Willem Dafoe, Kevin Spacey e Abel Ferrara. In 2016, he published *Last Words* in collaboration with the American artist Andres Serrano. In 2020 he released *The Earth Will Come to Laugh and to Feast*, a collection of poems in collaboration with the artist Roger Ballen. In 2021 he published *Rovine*, and in 2022 the poetry collection *Sanguinamenti. Incipit Tragoedia*. In 2023 he released *Confessions*, a collection of poems in English with unpublished drawings by Andres Serrano.

Fondazione Sozzani was established in 2016 by Carla Sozzani and is dedicated to the promotion of culture through photography, fashion, the fine arts, and applied arts. The Foundation has assumed the patronage of Galleria Carla Sozzani and continues all relevant public functions that the Gallery has supported since 1990. The Foundation also focuses on creativity and awareness, promotes the circular economy in fashion, curates and coordinates projects dedicated to education, responsibility, and the next generation of creatives.

Hungry Ghosts

texts by Gabriele Tinti
photographs by Roger Ballen
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182 pages
45 euro

FONDAZIONE SOZZANI

via Tazzoli 3 – 20154 Milan, Italy
t. +39 02 290041777
m. +39 338 7458427
galleria@fondazionesozzani.org
fondazionesozzani.org
[@fondazionesozzani](https://www.instagram.com/fondazionesozzani)