

RAW STREETPHOTO GALLERY
PRESENTS

ROME 1969, AN HOMAGE TO ITALIAN NEO-REALISM

BY JOHN R. PEPPER



©John R. Pepper, 1969
"I BAMBINI CI GUARDANO"
by Vittorio De Sica

OPENING SEPTEMBER 15 AT 4:00 PM

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PRESS RELEASE

The RAW Streetphoto Gallery is delighted to announce the opening of its new season with a solo exhibition of international photographer **John R. Pepper** and his series **“Rome 1969, An Homage to Italian Neo-Realism”**. It is his first exhibition in The Netherlands and RAW Streetphoto Gallery wishes to show to young, emerging artists, photographs, taken by this renowned photographer when he was in his early teens,

The exhibition brings you back in time to when Rome was a large village and it was safe to roam at night (even as a teenager), where one could eat in a local restaurant for a few lira and everyone felt alive because they had survived the war!

The exhibition is an homage to Italian Neo-Realism because, as Pepper does with the photographs in the show, filmmakers such as Visconti, Zavattini, De Santis were filming directly on “location” – in rural areas, working class neighbourhoods and often with non-professional actors. A notable example is ‘Bicycle Thief’ (1948, De Sica). John R. Pepper saw these films in his youth and was influenced by them.

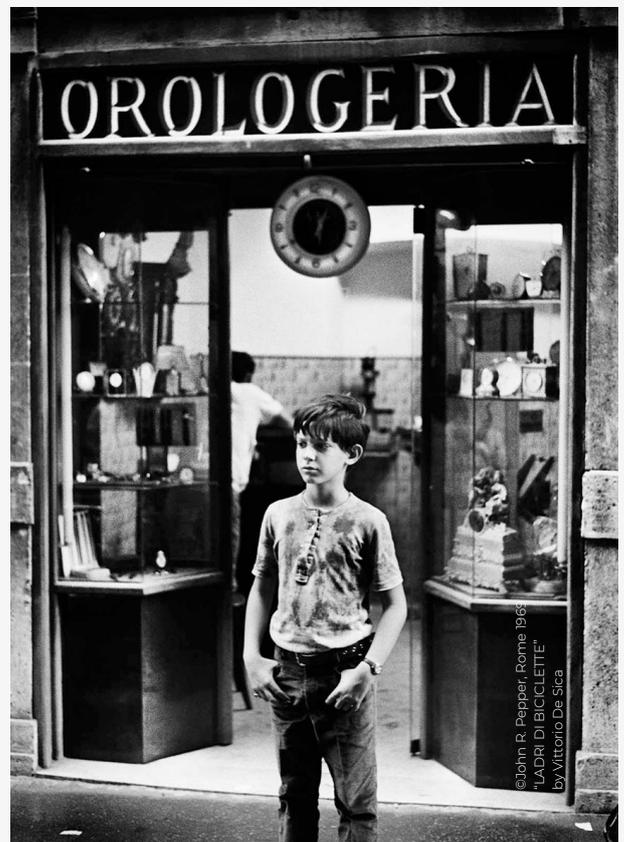
“Rome 1969, An Homage to Italian Neo-Realism” shows photographs taken 40 years ago in the working class neighbourhoods of Trastevere and in La Garbatella where young Pepper felt at most at home.

John R. Pepper was apprenticed at 14 to Italian photographer Ugo Mulas and, his wife, Antonina (Nini) Mulas (also a notable photographer) writes in her curatorial essay:

“John traveled in the streets and byways of youth, finding dramatic, enlightened faces in the theater of life... His reportage is filtered through the memory of many great

photographers – Diane Arbus, Cartier Bresson, Robert Frank, the first Richard Avedon, and William Klein to name a few...The characters interact with ease, and the photographer is part of the game. He uses black and white film enhanced by the fine art of printing – images stemming from classical photography.”

Mulas adds: “John lives and works in Palermo, an outward antithesis of New York. An American born and raised in Italy, it is as an Italian that he grasps the vital spirit, the soul, and the humanity of people. His choice to live in a region like Sicily, so full of contradictions and archaic values, will surely help him in chronicling the history of change in our era. Then, apart from making art, he will have absorbed it as his own – a part of his life that will recur in defining time, space, and the evolution of the human condition.”





John Randolph Pepper

American/Italian, was born and raised in Rome; he lives in Palermo and works worldwide.

Pepper started his career in black & white analogical photography with an apprenticeship to Ugo Mulas at 14. He published his first photograph at 15 and had his first show at 17.

He studied History of Art at Princeton University ('76), where he was awarded 'University Scholar' and was also the youngest member of the exclusive painting program, '185 Nassau Street'. He then became a 'Directing Fellow' at The American Film Institute, (Los Angeles) and subsequently worked as a director in theatre and film for 20 years. During that time he continued to take photographs with his camera Leica M6 always using the same Ilford HP5 film stock.

John R. Pepper is represented by different photo galleries (France, Russia, Israel) and

his photographs are in collections in various major museums around the world. He is considered by many in the Italian Foreign service as a 'Cultural Ambassador' and has collaborated with numerous Italian Institutes of Culture in many countries. Since 2008 he has exhibited his recent projects: 'Rome: 1969, An Homage to Italian Neo-Realism', 'Sans Papier', 'Evaporations' in the United States, France, Italy, the Middle East and Russia. He has published several books.

Since 2015 Pepper has been working on his project 'Inhabited Deserts', where he explores deserts and their effect on time, history and people. The series 'Inhabited Deserts' has been shown in a wide range of countries: Iran, UAE, Israel, France (solo exhibition and at Paris Photo 2018) and in Russia.

In 2020/2021 'Inhabited Deserts' will be seen in Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and finally return to Italy.

CONTACT

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Vernissage

September 13, 2019

The exhibition is open from September 14 until October 28, 2019

Opening time

Thu: 17:00 - 19:00

Fri: 17:00 - 19:00

Sat: 16:00 - 19:00

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"GERMANIA ANNO ZERO" by Roberto Rossellini