



present

# PASOLINI AND THE ARABIAN NIGHTS

Bergamo, March 9 - 17, 2019  
Ex-Chiesa della Maddalena - Via Sant'Alessandro, 39d

Opening event: Saturday March 9, 6.30PM

A poet, writer and director, considered one of the greatest Italian intellectuals of the twentieth century, this year Pier Paolo Pasolini will be the protagonist of a festival event consisting of a **photo exhibition**, a **panel discussion** and the **screening of three films**.

The project, which aims to be an analysis and a journey around the figure and vision of Pasolini, consists of an **exhibition** with photographs of Roberto Villa taken in 1972 on the set of *Il fiore delle Mille e una notte* (Arabian Nights, 1974), a selection of vintage posters and two video stations with rare footages from *Appunti per un film sull'India* (Notes for a film about India, 1967-1968) and *Le mura di Sana'a* (The Walls o Sana'a 1971).

Hosted at the former church of **La Maddalena** and scheduled to take place on **March 9-17, 2019**, the **Pasolini and the Arabian Nights** exhibition will open on Saturday, March 9 at 6:30 PM.

## INFO | PASOLINI AND THE ARABIAN NIGHTS

Bergamo, March 9 - 17, 2019 | Ex-Chiesa della Maddalena - Via Sant'Alessandro, 39d  
Opening hours: Mon. - Fri. 3:30PM - 7:30PM | sat. - Sun. 11:00AM - 7:30PM | Free admission  
Opening event: Saturday March 9, 6.30PM The photographer Roberto Villa will be present

## PASOLINI AND THE ARABIAN NIGHTS

Roberto Villa joined Pasolini on set with the aim of deepening a conversation with him about cinematographic language, but his 100-days long permanence on the set soon turned into an opportunity to create a series of incredible photographic shots portraying the landscape and surrounding environment. The exhibition highlights both candid snapshots portraying faces and bodies of Iranian and Yemenite people, and the set photography proper, with moments "stolen" from cast and crew during shooting or while on a break. In Roberto Villa's photos, Eastern culture appears at the same time remote and close, but a sense of proximity - both physical and emotional - prevails on the perception of distance from a world almost unknown and now inexorably lost: the humanity of a place is represented in its essence through a deep hidden dialogue between the photographers and his subject.

Roberto Villa's photographs elicit a reflection around the forms and cultural representations of Pasolini's cinema: more or less explicit references to the ethnic and social contexts explored by the director, make them a complex system of references worthy of investigation. Hence, the opportunity of further analysis through a panel discussion: a moment to dwell on the analysis of Pasolini's language and style from an ethnological, musical and artistic standpoint.

The exhibition will display around 80 original photographs, black and white proofs and few vintage film posters.

Born in Genoa in 1937, **Roberto Villa** lives and works in Milan. An electronics graduate, in 1957 he founded the company AudioVisualCommunication, a photographic and advertising studio also involved in the teaching of audio-visual communication. He studied computer graphics at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). From 1966 to 1969, he directed the avant-garde art gallery Carabaga in Genoa. In 1967, he began working as a photographer and, in 1969, became art director of the *Fotografiamo* magazine. Since 1973 he's been a regular collaborator of *Playboy* and also *Vogue*, *Photo Magazine*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Esquire*, *Photo 13*, *Epoca*, *National Geographics*, *Manchete*, *Amica*, *Grazia*.

In 2008 he donated his valuable archive to the Cineteca di Bologna, now Fondazione. Roberto Villa's photographs have been at the centre of numerous exhibitions over the years. After a first large exhibition at the Cineteca di Bologna, they were exhibited in Spain, in São Paulo, at the Centro Studi Pasolini in Casarsa and at the Palazzo Ducale in Genoa, where they were deeply appreciated by both visitors and critics.

*Curated by Roberto Villa and Associazione Culturale Hommelette, the exhibition is promoted by Bergamo Film Meeting and sponsored by Centro Studi Pier Pasolini Casarsa della Delizia.*

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