

On the appearance of things — 2023
Laboratorio di cultura fotografica Città della Pieve

The work “On the Appearance of Things” originated from a commission on the territory of Città della Pieve, a territory formed in geological times on the border between land and sea, between marine and fluvial environment. Driven by a fascination with the geological history of the place, I decided to use geology solely as a starting point, leaving the field of action open to possibilities, working like a river, which at the same time carves out its bed and is guided by it. The origin of the land was only the first brick on which to build a path made of possibilities.

Thus, the two main guidelines of my work became the yellow color of the rock face, seen upon entering the town on the first recognition, and the water, which shaped the territory into its distinctive features.

“No ideas but in things” and “Let the writing be of words” reads the poem by William Carlos Williams in the opening, a poem I wanted to use as a manifesto, bringing photography back to the pure act of looking, no ideas but in things, no ideas but in images, left to be what they are, the saxifrage that splits the rocks.

A Sort Of A Song
by William Carlos Williams

Let the snake wait under
his weed
and the writing
be of words, slow and quick, sharp
to strike, quiet to wait,
sleepless.
—through metaphor to reconcile
the people and the stones.
Compose. (No ideas
but in things) Invent!
Saxifrage is my flower that splits
the rocks.

















































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Graduating from FSM in Florence with a degree in photography in 2007. He started his photographic research in 2005 with a project about coastal erosion, which affects 1500 km of Italian costline. The resulting project, “Among” aimed to investigate natural processes of the landscape. Over the last few years Barile’s work has been driven by an interest in science in relation to art - both conceived as tools for a better understanding of reality. His long-term project, “An Investigation of the Laws Observable in the Composition, Dissolution and Restoration of Land,” examines the manner in which geomorphology acts upon the land, serving as testimony to the vastness of geological time. The work employs photography to stimulate a deeper understanding of the landscape and our connection with the natural environment.

“At first glance, Fabio Barile’s practice could be said to follow in the long tradition of Italian landscape photography which includes practitioners such as Luigi Ghirri, Guido Guidi. On closer inspection, however, the images in An Investigation hew to a tight conceptual framework that belie their simplicity, asking deeper questions about the nature of Time, and geologic time questions whose philosophical implications underpin scientific endeavor, human perception, and the unknowable forces of creative destruction at work in Nature”
L. I.Naomi Itami

Selected exhibitions

2023
Tre-di-ci ,Sguardi sui musei di Lombardia (Group exhibition)
Palazzo Reale, Milano, Italy

2022
Fabio Barile & Domingo Milella — Le Forme del Tempo
Terme di Diocleziano, Museo Nazionale Romano, Rome, Italy
Regeneration (Group exhibition)
American Academy in Rome, Italy
Di Roccia, fuochi e avventure sotterranee (Group exhibition)
MAXXI, L'Aquila, Italy

2021
Di Roccia, fuochi e avventure sotterranee (Group exhibition)
MAXXI, Rome, Italy

Works for a Cosmic Feeling
Matèria, Rome, Italy 2020
Group exhibition, On Earth - Imaging, technology and the natural world
FOAM Museum, Amsterdam.

2019
Group exhibition, On Earth - Imaging, technology and the natural world
50th edition of the Rencontres d'Arles, in collaboration with FOAM Museum.
Fabio Barile & Domingo Milella - The shape of time
Centro Arti visive Pescheria, Pesaro, Italy

2018
Osservare la terra — a dialogue between contemporary photography and the historical archive of ICCD about photography as a tool for observation
ICCD — Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo e la Documentazione, Rome, curated by Benedetta Cestelli Guidi

2017
An Investigation of the laws observable in the composition, dissolution and restoration of land,
Matèria, Rome

2015
Homage to James Hutton
Matèria, Rome, Italy