

TODI (PG)
FROM 12 JUNE TO 22 AUGUST 2021
WILL HOST THE EXHIBITION OF
RICHARD DE TSCHARNER



THE SONG OF THE EARTH

A PHOTOGRAPHIC POEM



Housed in the three venues of the Sala delle Pietre and the Museo Pinacoteca in the Palazzo del Popolo, plus the Torcularium, the exhibition presents the first-ever Italian showing of 58 images, taken in 22 countries all over the world, from India to Algeria, from Iceland to Peru, from Italy to the United States and from Cambodia to France, by the Swiss artist, who numbers among the world's most admired landscape photographers.

Curated by William A. Ewing



From 12 June to 22 August 2021, the three venues of the Sala delle Pietre and the Museo Pinacoteca in Palazzo del Popolo and of the Torcularium in the Lucrezie complex in Todi (Perugia) are set to host the exhibition of Richard de Tscharnier (Bern, 1947), one of the world's most admired landscape photographers.

Entitled ***The Song of the Earth. A photographic poem***, curated by William A. Ewing and organised by PHOTODI, the cultural association chaired by Mario Santoro, in partnership with the Todi Museo Pinacoteca, with the patronage of the Municipality of Todi, which has provided its most prestigious exhibition venues, the exhibition **presents 59 photographs that explore the Swiss photographer's creative universe.**

Drawing his inspiration from such great models as Ansel Adams and Edward Weston, Richard de Tscharnier has spent over twenty years travelling and working in more than 22 countries, from India to Algeria, from Iceland to Peru, from Italy to the United States, from Vietnam to Ethiopia and more besides, often reaching extremely remote and inaccessible places and bringing back his landscape shots, all strictly in black and white, according to Robert Frank the true colours of photography.

Adopting an approach to photography that is exquisitely philosophical and meditative, Richard de Tscharnier takes a special interest in the effects that geological transformations have had on the ecosystem, in the traces left by geological forces, such as the phenomenon of the erosion of rocks or that of the wind on the sands of the desert, which in the course of time have given our planet such diverse, magical surfaces.

“Landscape continues to be in the forefront of contemporary photographic practice, such is our enduring fascination with the surface of the globe on which we live”, states the curator **William A. Ewing**. “For the past twenty years, Richard de Tscharnier has travelled the world extensively, sometimes in or near his native Switzerland – Italy and France, for example – and more often to remote lands, in order to capture a vivid sense of the grandeur and complexity of our planet's ‘skin’. His is the long view of the earth and the geological forces which have transformed it, not over millennia, but eons. However, he has not set out to capture what is merely pretty or pleasing to the eye, but images which show the scars and ‘wounds’ suffered by the earth. De Tscharnier's method is slow, deliberate; he takes his time to make every photograph. With this studied method, he fulfils the challenge he has set himself, summed up eloquently by the photographer he admires most, Ansel Adams: ‘A great photograph is a full expression of what one feels about what is being photographed in the deepest sense and is, thereby, a true expression of what one feels about life in its entirety’.”



Reflecting his passionate interest in classical music, in particular Gustav Mahler, de Tscharnier decided to construct the Todi exhibition as a symphonic poem, comprising three movements, one in each of the exhibition's venues.

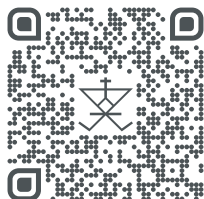
Visitors to the **Sala delle Pietre** will find panoramic landscape shots on one wall, counterbalanced by others illustrating details of the textures created by nature on the surfaces of rocks, of water and of wood.

In the **Museo Pinacoteca**, the precious home of ancient art, de Tscharnier proposes a series of photographs of the ruins left by ancient peoples, a reminder of our civilisation's evanescence when compared to the *longue durée* of the Earth.

Lastly, the section in the **Torcularium** focuses on the presence of humanity in the world's remotest spots, when people have preserved a more intimate relationship with the Earth than the majority of contemporary metropolitan dwellers.

Another approach to de Tscharnier's work can be found in the words of **Caroline Lang**, Chair of Sotheby's Switzerland and Deputy Chair of Sotheby's Europe: "For as long as I have known him, Richard has been a seeker of beauty and harmony. He finds them in nature and humanity alike, travelling across time and place. William Blake exhorted us to 'see a world in a grain of sand and a heaven in a wild flower...To hold infinity in the palm of our hand and eternity in an hour'. Richard does this through the lens of his camera, capturing a glimpse of eternity in a given moment."

The exhibition is accompanied by a digital publication, which can be downloaded here:
www.richarddetscharner.ch.





Biographical notes

Richard de Tschanner was born in the Swiss capital, Bern, in 1947, where he completed high school before enrolling at the University of Geneva to study economics and social sciences. After graduating in 1973, he joined the private bank Lombard Odier & Cie, where he worked for 34 years. As his sixtieth birthday approached, he decided that, gratifying though it was, he would leave his career in banking to devote himself to photography.

Although he had often travelled eastwards to the countries of the Orient and westwards to the Americas, Richard de Tschanner's travels had hitherto focused primarily on work trips to the major capitals. His desire to discover "the other world" drove him to venture on a trip around the globe, venturing far off the beaten tourist track, where he encountered what he himself calls the "Gardens of the Gods", an experience that changed his worldview for ever and one that marked a sea change in his life, leading to the publication in 2009 of *Our World*, his first photographic work, followed by an exhibition in Geneva.

Richard de Tschanner then continued his travels to distant destinations overlooked by (and saved from) civilisation, in a quest for the legacy our planet has left for us over the ages, in the process disclosing landscapes untouched by human hand, which he believes to be capable of expressing our planet's profound beauty and invoking the mysteries of life. The photographs he took were then presented in the exhibition *De Profundis*, held in Versoix in 2015, and in a one-man show at Sotheby's in Geneva in 2017.

Although he now lives in Dubai, Richard de Tschanner still returns to his native land, where he is currently engaged in an ambitious photography project of Switzerland's Alpine passes, which he intends to complete by the end of 2021. An exhibition and an book about these topics are planned for 2023.

While remaining faithful to traditional analogical photography in black and white, Richard de Tschanner now also includes digital photography in his work, which he usually publishes in limited editions of four prints, together with one artistic proof for each of the formats.

Todi, May 2021



RICHARD DE TSCHARNER. The Song of the Earth. *A photographic poem*

Todi (PG), Palazzo del Popolo | Sala delle Pietre (Piazza del Popolo)

Museo Pinacoteca di Todi (Piazza del Popolo)

Torcularium | Complesso delle Lucrezie (Via Paolo Rolli)

12 June – 22 August 2021

Opening hours: Wednesday – Sunday 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.; 3.00 – 6.00 p.m.

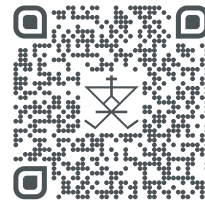
Tickets:

Sala delle Pietre and Torcularium: free of charge

Museo Pinacoteca di Todi: €5.00 (including the visit to the exhibition)

Information: tel. +39 347 570 7148

Download the **digital catalogue** from www.richarddetscharner.ch.



Press office

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