FOTOGRAFIE DI
JESSICA LANGE
still image

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The Royal Museums of Turin are particularly delighted to wel-come, for the first time in Italy, Jessica Lange's photographic work to the Sale Chiablese.

World-renowned for her extraordinary film career, the artist has, in parallel and with the utmost discretion, cultivated a photographic practice conceived as a personal travel diary, kept away from the spot-light and the public eye.

The exhibition and the catalogue do not follow a chronological or-der, but are structured around the movements and rhythms of a life lived with careful contemplation, through a geographical and exis-tential journey that takes her from the United States to Mexico, then on to Italy, Russia and Finland. Jessica Lange's photography does not stem from a desire to document places or collect images, but from a desire to interact with reality.

The book traces the sections of the exhibition: from the urban ex-ploration of Dérive, conceived in New York during the 2020 lockdown and inspired by Guy Debord's theory, to the autobiographical journey along Highway 61, a bridge between her childhood in Minnesota and the memory of a silent and desolate America. The journey continues through the rituals of the Tzotzil Maya communities in Chiapas, the nocturnal atmospheres of Mexico and the testimonies of Presences of the Past, where abandoned places and buildings become metaphors for memory and absence.

The artist places great emphasis on a refined, meticulous stylistic signature, characterised by saturated blacks and greys with translu-cent nuances. This exploration of materiality reaches its peak in the photogravures on Japanese paper from the Landscapes series, which engage in dialogue with Alfred Stieglitz's famous Equivalences, and in the photogravures of Freak Show, embellished with hand-painted de-tails and drawing on the legacy of Diane Arbus and Mary Ellen Mark. Finally, in the Gesti series, the artist's acting experience resurfaces in her ability to capture the narrative power of a single movement.

All the images gathered here encapsulate a single, fundamental attitude: Jessica Lange's attentive presence in the world. The heart of the work lies in her ability to transform geographical reality into a metaphysical experience where time seems suspended.

As curator Anne Morin points out in the catalogue, some of Jessica Lange's photographs evoke the atmosphere of Nordic painting. The Royal Museums of Turin also hold an important collection of Dutch works within their vast holdings. Visitors of the exhibition are invit-ed to revisit those masterpieces of the past, which the museums pre-serve as a memory and an inseparable link to the contemporaneity.

*Excerpt from the exhibition catalogue published by Moebius

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