

Press release

Mar Sáez

Terza vita

25th March to 25th May 2023

Opening 25th March from 11 to 14.

Terza vita is Mar Sáez's (Murcia, 1983) new project, carried out in the city of Rome between 2021 and 2022, during her year of residence at the Spanish Academy and later trips to the city, to complete her work. As in her previous series *Vera* and *Victoria*, Dedicated to those who travel, Own places or Gabriel, her interest focuses on social and anthropological issues that bring her closer to the relationships that human beings establish in different aspects of their life. Her photographs want to discover, in depth, the life of the others through their faces, their social environment or the nature around them, as the artist herself claims.

The series *Terza vita - Third life* – delves into these concepts of personal relationships, landscape and the surroundings offered by the city of Rome. Mar Sáez shows us the fruitful potential of new interpersonal relationships after the pause of two years forced by the lockdown. Rome is the scene from which she decided to observe people and, as can be seen in the exhibition, specifically *young lovers* on the popular beaches of Ostia, that were pulling themselves together in a city pierced by its monumental character and its artistic representations. The photographed spaces appear unrecognizable, full of empty places and far from the usual tourism.

Her investigation suggests looking at its inhabitants from an invasive as well as knowing proximity, since the photographs were intended to be permeable to the intimacy of those portrayed, she wanted to observe their vulnerability, in an interchange agreement photographer/photographed/future spectator and in a time of transition of the historical and social context. From an emotional dimension and through a combination of photography with video recordings and radio interviews, *Terza vita* brings up in an iconic intertemporal city – that links past, present and future- an approach to the concept of freedom and the map of affections born into a third life, a life beyond the longing for a stable past or the shock of the uncertainty in the present, arising from the most unfavourable conditions.

Mar Sáez establishes this third life, this return to freedom, as a historic moment for our society, therefore her photographs of young couples in sensual attitude, almost dancing, are related to the photographs she took of classical sculptures and paintings found in the city of Rome itself. The photographs of the youth are transformed into something stony, motionless and the sculptures seem to gather movement as the sequence of their poses is gazed at regarding the young people photographed on the beaches of Ostia.

In the exhibition an audiovisual and another sound piece will be presented, in them the artist continues investigating about the moment experienced by the city and its inhabitants. She gave voice to people who also expressed their desire for a “third life” in spite of the change in the historical-social context, a new way of facing life that breaks with the old dialectic limit/freedom - optimism/pessimism.

Mar Sáez has got a Degree in Psychology and Audiovisual Communication by the University of Valencia. Her photographs have been shown in The Gabarron Foundation in New York, the Retine Argentique gallery in Marseilles and F22 Foto Space in Hong Kong. Also in festivals like KLAP Maison pour la danse de Marsella, Arlés, GuatePhoto in Guatemala or fairs like Paris Photo, London Art, ARCO and Estampa. In 2022 she was shortlisted for the International Prize of International Contemporary Photography Pilar Citoler, selected for the Photography Prize Enaire and previously award winner for two years of the LUX Prizae by the Spanish Association of Professional Photographers (AFPE). She is the author of photo book *Vera and Victoria* (2016) and *Gabriel* (2018), published by the French publishing house André Frère Éditions. Her work is part of public and private collections in Europe, Asia and the United States.

The fulfillment of this work took pace in the context of a scholarship in the Spanish Academy in Rome and the exhibition has works produced as part of the artistic and research residence Programme MAEC – AECID.