

## **"FOTO & VIDEO" MAGAZINE**

<http://www.foto-video.ru/art/exhibition/72213/>

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On Tuesday, May 17th, in the Gallery of Classic Photography will open a personal exhibition of the Italian and American photographer John Randolph Pepper "Evaporation". The exhibition is presented with the support of the Italian Institute of Culture in Moscow and the Cultural Department of the US Embassy in Moscow.

The exhibition includes 38 works, which were created between 2012 and 2013. The pictures were taken on the coasts of different parts of the world - Naples, Thessaloniki, Chicago, New York, Geneva and St. Petersburg.

John Pepper is the observer, who, often subtly, describes the human life in its very essence, without cultural or distinctions of time and, above of all, in her solitude. Behind Pepper there are many decades as a 'street photographer'; he carries a camera with himself in all his travels, wandering around the world in anticipation of the sudden meeting with the image. Faithful to the classical tradition, which is already obsolete, according to some, he only works with analog black-and-white film. Catching images in viewfinder of camera and leaving them in the prints as they appear in the negative, Pepper doesn't recognize any additional manipulation. With these tools he conveys his vision of a world, where realism turns almost into mystical narrative and physical intuition - inner illumination.

Pepper's refusal of time results in his looking at the world in a special way, with indifference to the conditions, fashion and everything else - -we are not indifferent journalists. His pictures exists as if he turns back the clock, urging forth moments that could have belonged to the past decades. Breaking the laws of time and space, Pepper allows you to see something more meaningful and consistent in the individual, in human relationships, in public behavior as well as when the person is alone. His photographs tell us about the possibility of random encounters, they are evidence of those moments of life that are not intended for the camera or memory.

"Evaporations" by Pepper is not just a series of views and landscapes, it's a kind of journey through the land of loneliness, the fragility and alienation. The silent and isolated figures are standing at edge of the sea, set against the endless horizon - -a sky with curl clouds or with a city outline as background of. A strange feeling is caused by these simultaneously intense and lyrically creepy images.

John Randolph Pepper works and lives in Rome, Paris and New York. When he was 12 years old, he received his first camera, a "Pentax", from his father, who taught him the basics of photography. At 14 he became a student of Ugo Mulas, and his photo was published in Newsweek magazine. For thirty years he has made a career in theater, film and photography. In 1976, Pepper graduated from Princeton University with a degree in art history, then received a scholarship in Los Angeles an the American Film Institute. In the next years he worked as a photographer, director of theaters and films; he has directed plays that had great success on the stages of New York, for example, such as «Cubistique» (Tom

Cohen), "Cruelty of Miss Shnayd" (David Susedorf) and "Inner Voices" (Eduardo de Filippo). Exhibitions of John Pepper regularly conduct all over the world: in Italy, France, Russia and the United States of America.

At the present time John Pepper is preparing his new book and exhibition "Deserts/Drought", which is scheduled for release this year. In his new work, the question of whether man's presence has inexorably altered the landscape or whether the land is in essence still close to what it was before mankind arrived --the land under the "landscape" potentially still pristine, pure, untouched-- is explored. Is it possible the land survived, as a separate living entity, in spite of man having been there in it and upon it?

The exhibition "Evaporations" was conducted for the first time in the gallery of Paolo Morello in Palermo (2014) and then in the gallery Officina della Zattere (Venice, 2014), in the museum and exhibition center "ROSPHOTO" (St. Petersburg, 2014), and was also featured in 2015, in such cities as Vladivostok, Irkutsk, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Ekaterinburg, Samara. After Moscow the exhibition will travel to New York.

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