

Francesco Pignatelli was born in Milan in 1971.

From 1992 to 1994 he lived in London: here he started to develop the artistic language that subsequently constituted the distinctive feature of his photographs, which have always been poised between objectivity and subjectivity.

The artist investigates various aspects of the real world, seeking an unusual point of view that is able to transform what we see into what we would never have imagined we could see. In this way, he tried his hand at various themes, such as the human figure and its psychological dimension; the contemporary metropolises and the visual obsessions that they have in common, capable of combining apparently different cultures and places into one huge global city; Renaissance paintings presented from a contemporary perspective, where the original message is open to new interpretations; extremely visionary woods where nature shows itself in all its fragility, but acquires new power, so that it is, at the same time, both threatened and threatening; death and rebirth seen through the metamorphosis of the image; the sacred and its increasingly marginal position in everyday life; the language of the contemporary image that has become universal yet incomprehensible, the symbol of the increasing alienation of man in the twenty-first century.

Thus Pignatelli invites us to reflect, in a wholly original manner, on some of the fundamental themes of our time.

The use of negative colour prints allows him to suspend the images in a timeless dimension, obliging us to look at the real world in a more contemplative manner, as if we were not an integral part of it.

In fact, the artist makes use of photography in accordance with an ideology differing radically from its customary *modus operandi*: while photography originated as a process linked to memory, Pignatelli uses it, on the contrary, to eliminate recollection, abandoning every preservative function in favour of a recreative one.

From 1999 to 2020 Pignatelli created installations in galleries and public spaces in Turin, Milan, Rome, Venice, Arezzo, Lucca, Bologna, Köln, Bonn, Paris, Toulon, Strasbourg, Zurich, Lugano, Monte Carlo, Saint-Tropez, Toronto and Moscow. In 2014, on the occasion of the Winter Olympics in Sochi, he was one of the five foreign artists invited to Moscow to represent, with a work of his, one of the five Olympic circles to mark the centenary of the Olympic flag.

He lives and works in Milan.