

5.10 –  
8.12.2019  
**Bi11**  
**Biennale**  
**dell'immagine**  
Chiasso  
Switzerland

# CRASH

PRESS RELEASE

Chiasso, 21st July 2019

*Save the date*

## CRASH

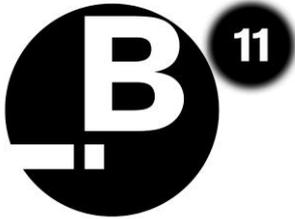
**From 5 October to 8 December 2019**

**The Biennale dell'Immagine di Chiasso returns with its eleventh edition. A rich programme of shows, meetings and screenings to explore those photographers who have turned the clash into the key to interpret the complexity of the world we live in.**

Entering a collision course right up to the inevitable fracture. CRASH recounts a world of contradictions, of positions that are poles apart from one another, of complex movements, ones resolved in an instant, when contrast is turned into impact. CRASH means observing what lies around us with an eye for the moments of transition, those which make up the very skeleton of life. CRASH means having to start all over again in order to find hope, rebirth, desire and liberation.

### **Opening**

The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Biennale, which will open on 5 October at the Spazio Officina in Chiasso, will explore these themes with shows by major national and international photographers, faithful to the spirit of its tradition.



### **The Temptations of Boris Mikhailov**

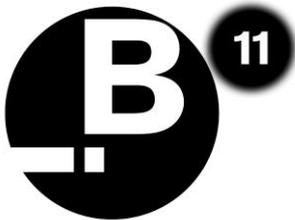
Boris Mikhailov was born in Kharkiv (Ukraine) in 1938. He began taking photographs in the mid-'60s, after obtaining a degree in engineering and finding a job in a Soviet missile factory. He displayed his work in the West only at the end of the 1980s, gaining major international praise, and exhibiting in prestigious museums such as the MoMA in New York and the Tate Modern in London. The show titled TEMPTATION OF DEATH, held at the Spazio Officina, is Boris Mikhailov's latest cycle of works. Made up of 24 diptychs and the projection of the complete work (comprising over 150 diptychs), it includes images from the past as well as new photographs taken inside an enormous crematorium in Kiev, built in the Soviet era. The works tell of a constant sense of uncertainty, ambiguity and change. As the exhibition curator Francesco Zanot states: "Mikhailov takes a stance against everything he dislikes. And against the institutional political system in particular." The works of the Ukrainian artist constitute an artistic act, both destructive and mocking, and ones waiting to be discovered.

### **The Swiss police officer and photographer Arnold Odermatt**

Arnold Odermatt, born in Oberdorf in 1925, served as official police photographer in the Canton Nidvaldo from 1948 to 1990. At the end of his career in the police force, his son Urs Odermatt discovered his photographic work and published a book on it. In 2001, Harald Szeemann displayed 32 photographs by the Swiss artist at the Venice Biennale. The same works will be on show in Chiasso, at the Sala Diego Chiesa, in a show titled *ODERMATT THE BIENNIAL SELECTION. 32 PHOTOGRAPHS FOR VENICE 2001*. Today, many of his works are part of private collections, and are on show in numerous international museums such as the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg and the Museum Morsbroich Leverkusen. As Francesco Zanot explains: "Odermatt's balanced shots were not in fact originally produced to end up on the walls of a museum, but constitute the outcome of the documentation of a brilliant police officer who from the end of the 1940s, had the intuition of backing up the reports on road accidents with visual proof. The multiple functions of photography come together and clash with one another, just like the cars lying crumpled along the roads. Odermatt discovered the strict poetry inherent to documentation, and over three decades, put together an exceptional catalogue of the results of these transformative events, as powerful as they are frightening: on the road, unforeseeable sculptures may be formed from one moment to the next, imbued with energy."

### **The many other shows**

Also in Chiasso, epicentre of the Biennale, other shows are scheduled. In Piazza dei Colori (Via Soave) the utopia of young, up-and-coming photographers takes centre stage. The dream of the students of photography of the renowned Ecole Cantonale d'Art of Lausanne – **ECAL**, under the title *Guardare l'utopia*, tells of the



clash between art of photography and the new, rapid and omnipresent technologies that have radically transformed the way of creating and distributing images. The photography students will therefore propose their own interpretations of the future of photography.

*Chiasso\_Culture in movimento* takes part in the Biennale dell'immagine with a creation by the Swiss artist **Aline d'Auria**. A project that aims to involve a number of immigrant citizens in Chiasso from Eastern Europe, and an invitation to establish new relationships to explore the theme of diversity as a resource for human nature. The m.a.x. Museum, on the other hand, dedicates its show to the father of Italian advertising billboards with an exhibition titled **Marcello Dudovich (1878 – 1962) e la fotografia**. A graphic journey into the advertising of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Instead, the Cons Arc Gallery will propose an exhibition of the work of the Belgian artist **Karin Borghouts**, who has dedicated her career to the exploration of the architectural environment with a style that couples visual art and photography.

Lastly, the Biennale dell'immagine will collaborate with Frequenze, an economic, cultural and social initiative designed to strengthen the Chiasso economy, and in particular that of Corso San Gottardo. On this occasion, the spaces of Frequenze will host various galleries and art associations temporarily visiting from all parts of the Canton.

Other shows are due to be held in Mendrisio, Ligornetto, Bruzella and in various communes throughout Italian Switzerland: more than 20 exhibition spaces, both public and private, each with a different and original perspective on the theme of CRASH.

### **The Biennale dell'immagine – Abi Association**

The ABI Association brings together lovers of the art of photography, and it is designed to respond to the needs of an event which is ever more future-oriented. It sets out to promote the culture of photography, of the arts and of contemporary media as means through which to interpret reality.

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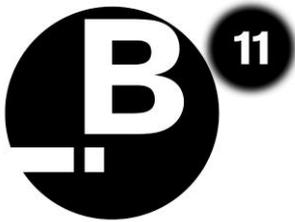
### **The Biennale dell'Immagine is supported by**

Municipality of Chiasso, Centro Culturale Chiasso, Repubblica e Cantone Ticino DECS – Fondo Swisslos, BancaStato, Fondazione Artphilein, La Mobiliare, Percento culturale Migros Ticino, Pro Litteris, Pro Helvetia, Fondazione Winterhalter, Stiftung Erna und Curt Burgauer, AGE, Lacasa, Vevey Images

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[www.biennaleimmagine.ch](http://www.biennaleimmagine.ch)

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