



Fra Nuvole e Vento: Gente di Civita Between Clouds and Wind: People of Civita Photographs by Brian Stanton

Photographic Exhibition Captures Resilience of “The Dying City”
March 4, 2024, through May 7th, at The Consulate General of Italy in New York
City.

Fra Nuvole e Vento: Gente di Civita, an exhibition of recent work by New York-based photographer Brian Stanton, opens at the Consulate General of Italy in New York. The work will be on display through spring 2024. The images document the magic of everyday life and cultural traditions in this uniquely beautiful hill town. Precariously perched on top of a plateau of fragile volcanic rock, Civita is often called “La Città che Muore” – “the dying city,” because of the earthquakes and landslides that threaten its very existence. Despite modern engineering efforts to slow the town’s erosion, Civita continues to slip away.

Stanton photographed the region and its people from 2016 to 2019. Building rich relationships with Civita’s 12 remaining year-round residents, Stanton’s sensitive portraits reveal the vibrant human spark that still animates a community long isolated from the world. “The people of Civita collaborated with a contagious enthusiasm. It was a moving experience.” Stanton said.

Printed in evocative black and white tones, Stanton's photographs showcase the striking landscape that surrounds Civita – deeply fissured volcanic stone ridges and arid clay valleys of the Calanchi Valley. The unique geology has shaped Civita's history and culture since Etruscan times.

"This exhibition by Brian Stanton is so important for the community and territory of Bagnoregio and the Calanchi area. It's a tribute to our roots, promoting and communicating the values of tradition, respect for the environment and a unique dimension of life, made of slowness and resilience", said Luca Profili, the mayor of Bagnoregio.

Focusing on moments that express centuries of tradition, the exhibition documents locals gathering chestnuts on the slopes below the cliffs, crushing grapes in volcanic stone wine cellars that their ancestors used for thousands of years, and cheering on the sidelines of La Tonna, Civita's high-spirited donkey race. One compelling sequence shows the revered 15th-century wooden figure of Christ being carried down the bridge to Bagnoregio as part of their 400-year-old annual Good Friday procession.

"Fra Nuvole e Vento explores the collective dream of a people who live in a place where the past is ever-present," said Stanton. "The photographs in this exhibition are inspired by the resilience and hope of people who refuse to let Civita disappear into the mist."

Brian Stanton is a New York photographer. He has specialized in portraits for over 30 years, working closely with design studios, advertising agencies and large companies. He studied art history at the University of Florence and lived and worked in Italy for a decade. He received a fellowship from the Civita Institute in 2016.

The official website for the exhibition: <https://www.civita-franuvoleevento.com/>

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Photography by Brian Stanton

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