Patrizia Mussa

PALAZZO DREAMS



June 28 - August 30, 2025

2525 Michigan Avenue Suite B2, Santa Monica CA 90404 (424) 252-9004 galeriexii.com Galerie XII is proud to present a solo exhibition by acclaimed Italian artist Patrizia Mussa. Known for her technique of distinctive handenhancing photographs with pastel, explores the theatrical Mussa essence and scenographic beauty of Italian architecture.

This evocative body of work invites viewers on a visual journey through Italy's most iconic and dramatic architectural spaces, blending photography with hand-painted detail to create an immersive and dreamy atmosphere. What Mussa offers is far more than descriptive photographs of Italy's opulent theatrical heritage: she reinterprets theaters as organic architectural forms gradually consumed and transformed by time.

The theater then becomes an object and an instrument, a temple, a shining and golden cave in which silence and light promise us of a story of its history, and of even more stories to come.



In her photographic work, Mussa adopts a visual language that initially appears objective-characterized by natural lighting and a frontal perspective. However, for Mussa, the photograph is merely a starting point.

Once the image is captured and printed on cotton paper, she meticulously reworks it with colored pastels, retracing ornate architectural details by hand. This process creates a deliberate departure from traditional photography, guiding the viewer into an unnamed artistic realm where the photographic act merges seamlessly with painterly gesture.

Patrizia Mussa lives and works between Turin and Paris. Since 1985, Mussa has produced photo shoots in Turin for leading architecture and interior design magazines, as well as for major publishing houses including Condé Nast and Taschen.



Mussa's works have been exhibited and are part of major museum collections, including the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo (Turin), the Museum of Photography (Moscow), the Maison Européenne de la Photographie (Paris), and the Palais des Beaux-Arts (Lille), as well as prestigious public and private collections across Europe, the United States, and East Asia.

The TEATRALITA project, curated by Antonio Galbi, which includes about 60 large size prints is currently exhibited at the Basilica Palladiana in Vicenza. It first opened at the Palazzo Reale in Milan, then went to Villa Zito in Palermo, Hôtel de Gallifet in Paris and will head to Rome next autumn.

The exhibition is accompanied by a book.



Teatralita Architecture for the Imagination Hardcover with jacket. 10 x 13 in. SilvanaEditoriale. 2023. 152 pages.

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Galerie XII, founded by Valerie-Anne Giscard d'Estaing in 2007, focuses on contemporary photography and strives to promote artists with a strong narrative sensibility, often working with a multidisciplinary approach at the intersection of photography, painting, sculpture and collage. Through exhibitions and participation in international art fairs, Galerie XII aims to showcase the evolution of contemporary photography as linked to the digital age, and its role in blurring the boundaries between photography and other visual arts.

Galerie XII Los Angeles opened in 2018 and is located at Bergamot Arts Center, Santa Monica. Since its opening, the gallery has received critical acclaim and consistently showcases four to five solo exhibitions a year both its Los Angeles and Paris locations, as well as group shows. It participates to several Art Fairs such as Photo Basel, Photo London, Art Paris, Moderne Art Fair, AIPAD, etc. Since its inception, the gallery has been representing acclaimed, international photographers and artists such as Mona Kuhn, Paolo Ventura, Margaret Lansink, Anja Niemi, Benno Graziani, Patrizia Mussa, and Jean-Marie Périer, among many others. The Gallery is a member of AIPAD (Association of International Photography Art Dealers) and CPGA (Comité Professionnel des Galeries d'Art).