

Press release

Avanti! la Battaglia Continua

A tribute to Letizia Battaglia

LANGart has been representing **Letizia Battaglia's** (Palermo 1935 - 2023) work since 2003. Letizia Battaglia's photos, her actions and her passion for justice and freedom have inspired many artists. LANGart proudly presents this tribute to Letizia Battaglia with 17 artists. Artists who have worked or lived with her or to whom Battaglia has become a source of inspiration for their own work:

Gijs Assmann, Merijn Bolink, Santi Caleca, Olga Chernysheva, Pauline Curnier Jardin, Marlene Dumas, Alessandro Guerriero, Alfredo Jaar, Marion Kalter, Susan Meiselas, Lia Pasqualino, Sylvia Plachy, Maria D. Rapicavoli, Dayanita Singh, Shobha, Emo Verkerk, Franco Zecchin.

In 1992, Letizia Battaglia made perhaps her most famous photo: Rosaria Schifani, the widow of Vito Schifani, one of Giovanni Falcone's bodyguards, who was killed as collateral damage in the execution of Falcone, along with his colleagues and Falcone's wife, Francesca Morvillo. An intimate portrait with eyes shut, one half of the face in daylight, the other half in the dark of the shade.

Letizia Battaglia worked as a photo reporter for the left-wing daily newspaper L'Ora in that period and thus recorded the many accounts of the Mafia. She became famous for her photographs in which she documented the crimes of the Mafia. She recorded the 'years of lead' in Sicily. Many of her photos became famous, not because of their horror, but because of the often well-framed and, above all, human approach that characterizes her photos. Battaglia once said: "If the photo didn't work out, you're probably too far away." She therefore used a 35 mm lens, so that she had to be at arm's length from the subject, at a distance of a caress, as she herself called it. And it is precisely this closeness that gives her photos that humanity.



Rosaria Schifani, 1992 © Letizia Battaglia

The significance of her work is indisputable, and she is described as one of the most important photographers of all time. She has become the symbol of the fight of ordinary citizens against injustice. For freedom, for faith in the power of youth and especially of young women whom Letizia saw as the strength of life to shape a new world. Battaglia herself did not escape threats and had to leave the city for a year in 2005 as instructed by the mayor of Palermo.

Letizia Battaglia, the fighter of justice and peace passed away in April 13, 2022.

The exhibition 'Avanti! la Battaglia Continua' will be opened on Saturday 11 March, 2023 by Hedy d'Ancona (The Hague, 1937), former politician, sociologist, social geographer and feminist.

The concept was conceived with Alfredo Jaar during a studio visit in New York, May 2022.

The exhibition will be on display until 14 May, 2023.

A catalogue has been made for this exhibition, designed by Rebrandt.

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"Letizia Battaglia"
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