

MATÈRIA

FABIO BARILE

An Investigation of the laws observable in the composition, dissolution and restoration of land

16.03.2017 – 11.05.2017

Matèria is pleased to present *An Investigation of the laws observable in the composition, dissolution and restoration of land*, Fabio Barile's second exhibition at the gallery.

The body of work draws its research material from James Hutton's book 'Theory of the Earth', and photographic works such as Timothy O'Sullivan's 'Geological survey of the 40th parallel', Bernice Abbott's 'Documenting science' and the Gaetano Ponte Archive.

The work is an analysis developed through geological evidence, photographic experimentation and analogue modelling of the intricate and complex elements that characterize the land we live upon.

Barile creates a wide array of imagery, that when condensed, unravels a panorama through which we can attempt a detailed "reading" of the landscape and its history. The attempt of reading through images entails the consideration of the complexity generated by the occurrence of natural processes over the course of the 4.5 billion years of history, during which the land, compressed, eroded and melted, generates the perceived and illusory stillness of the landscape we experience.

The project aims to dialogue with the history of our planet, going beyond human existence by paying homage to the brilliance of people, who through science create order out of disorder by making unprecedented connections between disparate elements and therefore opening new perspectives in the field of human knowledge.

FABIO BARILE

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Fabio Barile was born in Barletta (Italy) in 1980 and graduated from Fondazione Studio Marangoni in Florence in 2007. In the same year he was selected as one of 15 finalists of the 'Atlante Italiano 007' award and his work was exhibited at MAXXI, Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI secolo, in Rome.

His work is mainly focused on the study of landscape, with particular attention to geology, that has now become the subject of intensive independent investigation. He started this photographic research in 2005 with a project about coastal erosion that affects 1500 km of the Italian coastline. This project, titled 'Among', aims to investigate the relationship between the natural processes of the landscape and the impact of humanity upon it. This work is part of 'Visions and Documents', a ten-book set published by Documentary Platform. It also has been exhibited in several group shows, for example: 'Tempi Osceni. Moments de la photographie contemporaine italienne II' at the Centre d'Art Dominique Lang and at the Athens Photo Festival in 2009.

In the same year, he had his first solo show, 'Diary n°0, things that do not happen', as part of Fotografia, Festival Internazionale di Roma. This exhibition resulted in the publication of his first book, curated and produced by 3/3.

During the last few years, he has developed a major interest in the complexity of geomorphology acting upon landscape over time, using photography in order to stimulate a conscious and deeper understanding of it.



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