

Riflessioni veneziani

"If I say to the moment: 'Stay now! You are so beautiful!'"

From the play "Faust", written by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

Venezia, Venezia...

An evocation that reminds me of so much: Turner's watercolors, Impressionist painting, essays by Braudel, Thomas Mann's novel "Death in Venice", the movie "Don't look now", postcards, Venetian colorists from Tiziano to Tiepolo and notably my images of Venice seen by myself.

Attracted to this city since my artistic studies, I was and still am fascinated by all the substances of which Venice is created: by its light and colors, its water and sky, its art, the mentality of the Venetians, their skills and everyday life. Always happy in this *paradiso* during my successive stays, I repeatedly sought by various approaches to translate my experiences in order to seize a spirit of this place and construct my photographic visions of it. *Riflessioni veneziani* are part of this research.

At the beginning of my work *Riflessioni veneziani* were objectively existing images formed on the water surface of the canals and the lagoon. They provided me with a raw, visual material for my own images. As an artist, in other words an illusionist, I have become for Venice this narcissistic creature, her magic mirror, constantly assuring her in a flattering manner through my images "You are the most beautiful...". Thus, the beauty becomes my subject, the real subject of my 'Reflections', that is, of my photographic images: my contemplation of Venice beauty embedded in herself - admiration and beauty of my Venice, seen and processed in my magical mirror, the beauty added, created and existing on the surface of my images. In parallel, my "Reflections," my photographic images of ephemeral real images, being in essence similarly ephemeral, record my meditation on how the image is ephemeral, in all its manifestations. On this basis, one can construct a metaphor about the transience of art and life.

As I wrote, all these traces of my enchanted moments lived in this Paradise, my intensely personal images inspired by "La Serenissima peered at its image" are an expression of my deepest eulogy of the beauty. A serene, unshakable eulogy, in spite of the constant distress call of time which passes, despite the memento mori that reminds me that the days of the Venetian miracle are numbered, like mine.

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