

Mariano Doronzo | Visual Artist, Photography Lecturer, Darkroom Practitioner

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Mariano Doronzo is an Italian documentary photographer based in Rome. In 2013, after his studies, he moved to England to focus on his artistic practice. Here, he started working with photography, documenting his personal journey and exploration of the English culture and landscape through the lens of an old film camera. This body of work, named *Through The Looking Glass*, was exhibited in 2017 at Take It Easy Lab, a film lab, darkroom, gallery and photography hub in the city of Nottingham.

In 2019, in partnership with the FORMAT International Photography Festival of Derby, Doronzo held a two months residency for The Institute of Reminiscence. This resulted in *Slides on a Light Box*, an installation with a revisited visual map of the town of Derby: based on memories and stories of the local community, the body of work looked how many of the recalled places had been either deserted or replaced with new life.

I Don't Know What I Want is a series of photos intertwined with poems, journal notes, and video frames to question the concept of self-identity through masculinity. This work was created during a Long-Term (2021-2022) Mentorship at Magnum Photos with Matt Black and Susan Meiselas.

Lanterna Beach (2015-ongoing) is the longest project produced by Doronzo which explores the relationship between an Italian community of male bathers and the nature of the Pier where they sunbathe and rendezvous from Summer to Winter. In Dec 2024, the Podcast *Lanterna Beach* was released on Loquis Platform.

Experience

- Lecturer in Creative Photography (October 2023 – January 2024)
De Montfort University – Leicester (UK)
Delivering lectures, and mentoring students in both the theoretical and practical facets of Creative Image Production. While showcasing the utilization of equipment and photographic software the module focuses also on providing students with a comprehensive education that intricately nurtures the development of their personal portfolios and creative identity.
- Freelance Photographer (2014 – to present)
My work focuses on editorial portraiture and documentary projects about communities. Main duties: setting up backdrops, lighting and equipment to prepare for a photo shoot, directing models and subjects to capture the perfect image and editing the photos to remove blemishes and correct lighting issues.
- Delivering Camera Workshop (2021 – 2022)
Commissioned by National Justice Museum of Nottingham, UK to design and deliver Pinhole Camera workshop for mixed-ability classes. Provided learning support, technical support, demonstrations of equipment, processes and techniques.
- Darkroom Member (2014 – to present)
Member of “Make it easy lab” (former “The Photo Parlour”) Darkroom and Photography Studio – Nottingham, UK
Main duties (processing and scanning films, setting and using the darkroom for handmade prints, setting the studio, demonstrations and support for other and new users whilst using the lab).

Education and Qualifications

- Magnum Photos Long-Term Mentorship w/ Susan Meiselas & Matt Black (2021-22)
A workshop designed to complete a body of work under the theoretical and aesthetic guidance of Magnum photographers Matt Black and Susan Meiselas, other Magnum photographers and industry experts. This includes several seminars on photo sequencing, editing and bookmaking to prepare the finalized project for a variety of distribution outlets.
- Black & White Printing Workshop with John Blakemore and Dan Wheeler (2018)
Make It Easy Lab, Nottingham (UK)
A consideration of the emotional and metaphoric impact of different tonal structures - low key and high key prints. B&W the extremes of a culturally given symbolic system. Introduction to the zone system, negative exposure and development to allow exploration of full tonal scale prints or prints of extreme tonality.
- Photography Storytelling with Simona Ghizzoni (World Press Award and Map Photographer) (2018) Cortona, Italy
An examination of personal approach to photography and portrait in particular. Editing and creating a sequence of photographs. Exploring the process of developing and perfecting personal style and vision, and the process of planning a long-term project – how to conceive it, how to research it and how to fund it.
- Bachelor Degree in Engineering and Industrial Management (2006 – 2013)
Polytechnic of Bari, Italy

Extra/Featuring

IIFord Photo, Collateral, Manifesto, Magnum Photos, Polvere Mag, Nottingham Post, LensFayre, ifocus.gr

Exhibitions

- Lanterna Beach – La Cave, Roma, Italy 2024
- Lanterna Beach – Palazzo Dogana, Foggia, Italy 2024
- Lanterna Beach – Incontri Visivi, Roma, Italy 2024
- Lanterna Beach – Dialoghi di Trani, Italy 2023
- Lanterna Beach – No.12, Nottingham (UK), 2023
- Lanterna Beach – Tank Festival di Fotografia Analogica, Apecchio (IT), 2023
- An Exhibition of Film Photography – Tarpey Gallery (UK), 2020
- Slides on a Light-box – Format Photography Festival (UK), 2019
- Through The Looking Glass - Nottingham (UK), 2017
- Caleidoscopi - PARATISSIMA Art Fair, Torino (IT), 2017
- The Necessary Practice – NAE Gallery, Nottingham (UK), 2016
- Porti Urbani – Momart Gallery, Matera (IT), 2015