

FRANCESCO BIASIA

Photographer curriculum

Francesco Cocco was born in Recanati, in 1960. He lives and works in Carpi, near Modena. He started working as a photographer in 1989. Cocco, always attracted by borderline social environments as well as by the universe of children, started travelling to "difficult" countries, especially in the Asian continent. In Bangladesh he photographed the living conditions of street children and documented child job exploitation. In Vietnam, immediately after the borders were opened, he completed a reportage whose pictures were shown at the Vietnam Oggi Exhibition (Modena, 1993). Later in Cambodia, in collaboration with Emergency, he faced the drama of the landmines. In the same country with the support of the NGO New Humanity, he shot a story on the prostitution of minors. In Brazil, he photographed the visually impaired at The Benjamin Constant Institute of Rio The Janeiro, and the exploitation of child workers on Marajoa Island, in the Amazon basin. In 1999, a selection of his photographs on the subject of childhood traumatized by the war shown at Ci sono bambini zig-zag exhibition (Carpi, MO).

In 2000, as part of the educational project called Semi di Pace (Seeds of Peace), financed by the Rainbow Mission, he authored works testifying to the post-war living conditions of the civilians in Mitrovica (Kosovo). In the meantime, Cocco undertook first-hand research on the world of handicap, and the so-called "different abilities", a work-in-progress called "Babilonia". In 2001, he embarked on a project at the paediatric onco-haematology ward at the Sant'orsola Hospital in Bologna.

In 2002, on behalf of the Equal Opportunities Commission in Carpi (MO), with the backing of the High Patronage of the President of the Republic of Italy, he embarked on the long job of documenting the conditions of both men and women in penitentiary institutions in Italy, which eventually led to an exhibition (Prisons, Modena, 55th Festa provinciale dell'Unit , September 2006; Rome, Sala Santa Rita, March 2007) and to a book (Prisons, Logos, Modena, 2006, with texts by Adriano Sofri and Renata Ferri).

Since 2003, he has been represented by the Contrasto agency. His reports have appeared in La Repubblica, l'Espresso, Panorama, Marie Claire, Vanity Fair. starting in the same year and in collaboration with Doctors Without Borders (Médecins sans Frontières, MSF) Cocco has been working on a project about immigration in Italy. He participated, together with thirteen other photographers, in the Eurogeneration project - researching youths and their life style in the 25 countries on the new European Community - which culminated in a n exhibition at Palazzo Reale in Milan (June-September 2004) and in a book published by Contrasto. In 2005, a selection of pictures from the reportage on living conditions in penal institutes in Italy was presented to Visa pour l'image Perpignan.

In 2006, a portfolio of the same reportage was selected by Oskar Barnack Leica Foundation and was shown in Arles, during the Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie.