

Mosaic of Women – Shots by Alec Von Bargaen

When I think of the work of Alec Von Bargaen, *Veritas Feminae*, I was immediately reminded of a famous quote by Oscar Wilde:

"Do not ever try to understand a woman. Women are the images, the men are the problems. If you want to know what a woman really wants (which is always a dangerous thing to desire) simply look at her, do not listen."

With *Veritas Feminae*, it is as if Alec was trying to reproduce the image of women strating from their deepest and most pure point. Abandoning preconceptions and social structures that impose readings unique to the female reality.

His artistic research, in fact, goes beyond the pure aesthetic reading of the image and becomes a true photographic dialogue between the subject and the artist, filtered by the lens of the camera.

The picture becomes, then, the survey instrument of this method search for the 'Truth of Women', that mystery that always surrounds the female world and that makes the female waterproof to man.

Every shot, every click of the camera, thus becomes a question that the artist asks the woman and every image that produces this shot gets a response, a small fragment of truth that the woman gives back to the artist. This great artist's work lies in asking the right questions to these women, freeing them from their fears, making them feel at ease to disrobe their emotions and therefore their own truth.

Each subject gives her own answer, her own truth, this is not because the truth is relative but because every woman provides her own nuance to that concept, like a diamond in its purity and integrity has many facets and depending on the angle from which is observed provides a different refraction of light. This is how the work of Alec Von Bargaen becomes mosaics of images, in which we find ourselves spectators unaware of a story, that story of the woman and her encounter with the artist.

Alec Von Bargaen's is a journey into the complex world of women that the author tells by highlighting different shades. The photographs pay homage to specific women, especially those women whose truth is harder to read because their voice is more difficult to hear... the women that are most vulnerable, marginalized. From little girls to older women, from models to simple passerby's, each woman becomes the undisputed protagonist of images that attempt to grasp, at least in part, the inner world behind each of them.

Veritas Feminae is the result of the meetings of the artist with women which he came across over the course of his life. Moments he tried to capture in order to carry with him a small part of the women photographed. This is how a close-up, a detail and at the same time a simple look manage to portray both strength and weakness, light-heartedness and introspection and all of the other contradictions that characterize the articulated feminine universe.

Each portrait is characterized by a delicacy that pervades the entire work and showing the author's detailed attention in exploring the world of women without ever being intrusive and always showing great respect and sensitivity.

Mara Prandella
Head Curator – Nuova Galleria Morone – Milan Italy