

Arte in Salotto

DI CAMILLA PRINI

PRESS RELEASE
DOGMA - Aurélien Villette
April 9 - May 17 2024

In Milan, from April 9th to May 17th 2024, Arte in Salotto by Camilla Prini presents a preview of “Dogma”, by Aurélien Villette (Le Chesnay, 1982), a series of photographs dedicated to places of worship in ruins.

The exhibition - at the contemporary art gallery in via Milazzo 6 - presents never published medium and large format images selected from Villette's extensive research work based on their historical interest and at the same time refined aesthetic gaze.

A preview of “Dogma” will also be exhibited at the XIII Edition of MIA Photo Fair scheduled from 11 to 14 April 2024 in Milan at the Allianz MiCo Milano Congressi Pavilion in via Gattamelata 13. Arte in Salotto is now in its third fair participation, proposing varied exhibition projects from year to year and collaborating with the organization also in collateral projects.

Started in 2010, “Dogma” was first published in 2014, winning the first prize at the International Photography Award in the Professional Architecture, Historic category. The series collects photographs of places of worship in more than 50 countries around the world that Villette had the opportunity to visit in his explorations. Always a great traveler, Villette searches landscapes and architecture strongly marked by man's traces, often sleeping in these abandoned places to find the most favorable moment to shoot.

His worries are those of a traveler: which road to take, where it will be possible to pitch the tent, whether it will rain, whether it will be possible to light a fire. In Villette's case, these ritual habits also have a photographic function: sleeping on the roof of a building, for example, could allow him to take nocturnal photos, or camping in the rostrum of a church for the night would allow him to take shots at first light of dawn. It is thanks to his "nomadic" approach that the photographer is able to connect with the context, with its nature and its history, and to synthesize it in photography. What results is the representation of the "spirit of the place", understood as the soul of a territory, or its profound essence made up of all those typological, environmental, morphological and historical characteristics, which in their totality identify it as unicum.

“Dogma” investigates the link between the human will to build eternal and imperishable places of worship and their current state, showing that nothing is static and that anything could disappear. The fate of these buildings, like everything else, is in fact linked to history's torments, to the change in customs and territories. Strongly inspired by romantic representations, Villette decides to shoot by choosing a precise inclination of the light, trying to restore a sense of quiet and majesty to these ruined places.

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