

Datasheet of the exhibition

**La Ville Noire, the Dark
Heart of Europe**

Giovanni Troilo

La Ville Noire, the Dark Heart of Europe
Giovanni Troilo

Curated by
Arianna Rinaldo

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Print
Bottega Antonio Manta
Epson
SP Systema



La Ville Noire, the Dark Heart of Europe

Charleroi, La Ville Noire (The Black City), a town close to Bruxelles, is symptomatic of Europe in general. The collapse of industrial manufacturing, rising unemployment, increasing immigration, the outbreak of micro-criminality, as well as the decline of social welfare and the lack of a shared identity. This scenario is a journey to the roots of my family, which moved from Italy to the district of Charleroi in 1956 to work in the steel industry. Two generations have already succeeded in the promised land and, in the meantime, everything has changed. At this crossroads many populations, which were united under the same roof by employment opportunities, were left without anything to share once the work had vanished. Today social unease undermines the lives of our citizens. The roads, once blooming and neat, appear today desolated and abandoned. Industries are closing down and spontaneous vegetation eats the old industrial zones. The same thing is happening macroscopically throughout Europe. My project invites people to gaze into the very heart of Europe, unlike most stories of this genre which tend to focus on the margins of the old continent. Does it make any sense to stay together when the initial mission has almost failed? Will it be possible to get another chance? This is the crucial question for Europe. This is the primary challenge for the 'dark heart' of Europe.

I am a child of the culture that I have investigated, and what pushed me to tell this story was an investigation on my own identity. Half of my family still lives there, which is why I was granted such privileged and immediate access to the world I have captured in my photographs. The idea of the project was born a few years ago. My desire was to narrate this irritating, thorny theme by my familiarity with it, through my own relationship with these people and places. Our whole story is tied up with the European Community, with the political and social implications that the Union signifies for our lives, for our dreams and our ambitions.

The project unfolds on two different levels. The first level is connected to the way things are. It consists of a large body of work, presenting a long and profound investigation of reality. The second level is that of sublimation, where everything is condensed and becomes stylized. Photographers and the public are ready for new forms of storytelling in which reality blends with a more personal, subjective vision of the real world. In La Ville Noire you will find a mixture of languages and semantics. Sometimes the camera is passive, sometimes it is active. I believe there is no better tool than stylization to expose a complex reality, to tell a story that lies beneath the surface.

With my photographs I am offering my reality. A reality which is not revealed in the single frame, but through an emotional flow, through a sequence of images. The language of my project is metaphor, deeply rooted in reality and ambiguity. I do not aim at any conclusions, I just want people to start questioning.

The work requires an active approach on behalf of the viewer, not a passive one.

Those who look must waver.

Giovanni Troilo

Giovanni Troilo, 37, was born in Putignano. He graduated in Economics with a degree in Geography of Development. As director and photographer, Troilo moves between the worlds of cinema, television, publishing, and advertising. He began filming and taking photographs at a young age.

In 2011 he directed *Fan Pio*, his first feature length film, and published his first book *Apulien*, in Germany, which then won the Best Photographic Book Award at the International Photography Awards of 2012. Troilo has also directed a number of commercials, videos, and a series of short films. Between 2012 and 2014 Troilo directed three series of documentaries on famous Italian photographers for Sky Arte HD, *Fotografi*. In 2015 his project *La Ville Noire, the Dark Heart of Europe* received the People Photographer of the Year prize at the Sony World Photography Awards.

Director of photography on *Il Primo Incarico* for RAI Cinema, in competition at the 67th Venice Film Festival, more recently Troilo was director of photography for Montedoro, Antonello Faretta's directorial debut, and various documentaries produced by Sky Arte, RAI, La 7, History Channel and Cult. A member of the LuzPhoto agency until 2014, Troilo is currently working on a documentary about the South African artist William Kentridge; on his second feature length film, and on several photographic projects.

Troilo's work has been published in *Newsweek Japan*, *Der Spiegel*, *D di Repubblica*, *GQ Italy*, *CNN*, *Wired Italy*, *Wired UK*, *Wired Germany*, *Ventiquattro*, *Wallpaper*, *GQ Spain*, *Vanity Fair*, *Io Donna*, *Flair*, *Urban*.

Title		La Ville Noire, the Dark Heart of Europe
Photographer		Giovanni Troilo
Number of photos	24	Prints
Type		Color, printed on CansonPhotographique Satin paper, mounted on dibond, images in floating frames
Print size	1	60x40 cm
	11	60x48 cm
	3	60x90 cm
	9	60x75 cm
Frame size	1	68x48 cm Thickness of 4cm, Deph of 5cm Color black
	11	68x56 cm Thickness of 4cm, Deph of 5cm Color black
	3	68x98 cm Thickness of 4cm, Deph of 5cm Color black
	9	68x83 cm Thickness of 4cm, Deph of 5cm Color black Floating images in frame (0,5cm)
Linear development	18mt	minimum required linear space
Set up		hooks on the back
	2	Panel: intro, bio (text in appendix) and title, must be printed at the expense of the hosting organization
Shipping	1	box 104x20x74
	1	boxes 89x48x74
	2	box 73x35x63

PRINTS**Image size
cm (height x base)****Frame size
cm (height x base)**

1



60x75

68x83

2



60x75

68x83

3



60x75

68x83

4



60x48

68x56

5



60x48

68x56

PRINTS

**Image size
cm (height x base)**

**Frame size
cm (height x base)**

6



60x48

68x56

7



60x75

68x83

8



60x48

68x56

9



60x48

68x56

10



60x48

68x56

PRINTS

**Image size
cm (height x base)**

**Frame size
cm (height x base)**

11



60x48

68x56

12



60x75

68x83

13



60x75

68x83

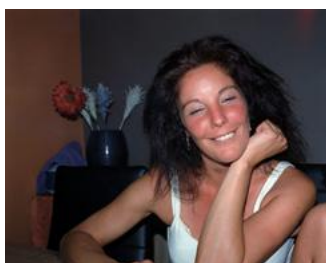
14



60x48

68x56

15



60x75

68x83

PRINTS**Image size
cm (height x base)****Frame size
cm (height x base)**

16



60x48

68x56

17



60x75

68x83

18



60x90

68x98

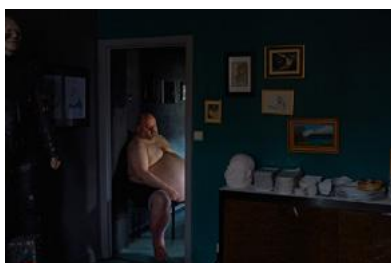
19



60x40

68x48

20



60x90

68x98

STAMPE

**Image size
cm (height x base)**

**Frame size
cm (height x base)**

21



60x90

68x98

22



60x75

68x83

23



60x48

68x56

24





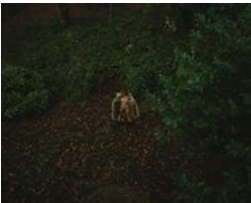





60x48

68x56

CAPTIONS

FILE NAME	PICTURE	ENG	ITA
LaVilleNoire_COTM_001		The gas supply tubes run along the houses built near the steel factories of Charleroi.	Tubature del gas corrono lungo le case costruite vicino alle fabbriche di acciaio di Charleroi.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_002		Belgium reached the quarter-finals at the last World Cup.	Il Belgio è giunto ai quarti di finale nell'ultima Coppa del Mondo.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_003		Mr Etienne and his son have an armoured tank from the Second World War in their garden between Mons and Charleroi.	Il signor Etienne e suo figlio tengono in giardino un carro armato della Seconda Guerra Mondiale, tra Mons e Charleroi.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_004		Elegant man at the tram stop.	Uomo elegante alla fermata del tram.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_005		A typical skyline in Montignies-sur-Sambre.	Tipico paesaggio urbano di Montignies-sur-Sambre.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_006		In this gym many youngsters practise kick boxing.	In questa palestra molti giovani praticano kick-boxing.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_007		Montigny-le-Tilleul, one of the highest populated neighbourhood of Charleroi.	Montigny-le-Tilleul, uno dei quartieri più densamente abitati di Charleroi.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_008		The husband of this couple was mowing the lawn.	Il marito, in questa coppia, stava passando il tagliaerba.

FILE NAME	PICTURE	ENG	ITA
LaVilleNoire_COTM_009		This old airplane, parked close to the Ring of Charleroi, houses a disco.	Un vecchio aeroplano, parcheggiato vicino all'anello di Charleroi, adesso è una discoteca.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_010		Magali likes to be photographed by her husband on improvised sets.	A Magali piace essere fotografata da suo marito su set improvvisati.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_011		A dummy for kickbox training.	Un manichino per l'allenamento di kick-boxing.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_012		Working out in a playground in Montignies-sur-Sambre.	Allenandosi in un parco giochi a Montignies-sur-Sambre.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_013		Naked in nature.	Nuda nella natura.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_014		Boy with gun in the suburbs of Charleroi	Ragazzo con pistola nei sobborghi di Charleroi.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_015		In a house in the suburbs of Charleroi.	In una casa nei sobborghi di Charleroi.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_016		Walking home in Goutroux.	Tornando a casa a Goutroux.

FILE NAME	PICTURE	ENG	ITA
LaVilleNoire_COTM_017		Friends hanging out in Goutroux.	Amici in compagnia a Goutroux.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_018		One of a thousand police officers of Charleroi.	Uno dei 1000 poliziotti di Charleroi.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_019		A woman in a psychiatric asylum and elderly home.	Una donna in un ospedale psichiatrico e casa per anziani.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_020		Philippe in his beautiful house in Marchienne au Pont.	Philippe nella sua bellissima casa a Marchienne au Pont.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_021		Police officers charging the hooligans. In Charleroi the highest building is the police station, a 75m high tower.	Ufficiali di polizia attaccano gli hooligans. A Charleroi, l'edificio più alto è la stazione di polizia, una torre alta 75 metri.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_022		Vadim, a painter who uses live models, creates a work inspired by an existing painting in his studio in Molenbeek.	Vadim, un pittore che utilizza modelli veri, crea un lavoro ispirato a un dipinto che tiene nel suo studio in Molenbeek.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_023		Maitre Doberman and Klara receive guests in a building in Marchienne au Pont.	Padrone Doberman e Klara ricevono i loro ospiti in un edificio in Marchienne au Pont.
LaVilleNoire_COTM_024		J. keeps his gun hidden in a box in the woods.	J. conserva la sua pistola nascosta in una scatola nel bosco.

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