

Data sheet of the exhibition

Danakil
Andrea Frazzetta

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Produced by

Associazione culturale ONTHEMOVE
on the occasion of Festival Internazionale
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Curated by

Arianna Rinaldo



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DANAKIL

"If you go to Danakil seeking adventures, you will not be able to go beyond your own shallowness. Which will appear unbearable even to you. The white-hot sun, the indifference of the Afars, the monotony of a desert devoid of colors will make you feel naked and helpless. And your balance, both mental and physical, will be in danger of going into pieces. You have to be able to defend yourself in the Danakil. You have to show, especially to yourself, to have a soul of a poet. The ones who venture to go to the Danakil do it to change their point of view."

From the book "Dancalia, camminando sul fondo di un mare scomparso" by Andrea Semplici, published by Terre di Mezzo.

Endless stretches of salt, lakes with psychedelic colors and active volcanoes: this land, which is constantly changing, is heaven and hell together – an ancestral place where you can still watch the phenomena that gave rise to the world.

Located in the northern part of the Afar's Triangle, which takes its name from the nomadic people who live there, the vast Danakil depression is the place where the constantly expanding of three tectonic plates join together, close to the border area among Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti. This land made of fire, salt and lava close to the Rift Valley – the long breach that bisects the continent – is a ghost ocean. It is from the retreat of the sea, evaporated twenty-thousand years ago, that the Danakil has gained its peculiarity: to be a spread of evaporitic rocks that gives rise to the Great Plain of Salt – a desert which stretches for about 600 kilometers. This is one of the most vulnerable places of our world: the fire is just below our feet, five kilometers away. There is a crust that is subjected to stresses of all kinds, a part of the planet where you feel the throbbing heart of the Earth.

In this vast plain, the Afars' huts built with mud and twigs appear like a mirage. These nomads, who are mainly devoted to the extraction of minerals, live in one of the most inhospitable places on earth, the hottest inhabited place in the world, with very little vegetation and temperatures that can reach 120°F degrees. The Afar people seem to have appeared from nowhere. They have kept a strong identity without having a testimony to their story. Their economy was, and is, precarious. They are nomads struggling with the hostility of the climate. They have adapted to survive in a harsh and impossible land.

ANDREA FRAZZETTA

Andrea Frazzetta (1977, Lecce, Italy) grew up in Milan, where he studied art and architecture. One week after his graduation, he took a flight for the Amazon Forest, following a small NGO, where he realized his first photo story. Since then, he decided to devote himself entirely to photography using it as a mean for discovery and storytelling. He started travelling and worked on several photo reportages, mainly in Africa, South America and in the Mediterranean area. He has worked on personal projects and assignments in more than 50 countries around the world and his work has been published by magazines such as: *Newsweek*, *The New York Magazine*, *The Times*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *The Guardian*, *Der Spiegel*, *GEO*, *L'Espresso*, *D - la Repubblica*, *National Geographic* and *Vanity Fair*.

Frazzetta has exhibited and screened his photographs in a large number of personal and collective exhibitions. His work has been recognized through several photography awards: Canon Prize Italian Young Photographer, Yann Geffroy Award, PDN photo annual, American Photography, and the PX3 – Prix De La Photographie Paris. He is a regular contributor to *The New York Times Magazine* and *National Geographic Travel* and is represented by Institute for Artist Management.

Title	Danakil
Photographer	Andrea Frazzetta
Number of prints	19 prints
Type of prints	Color, printed on Dry Photo Paper Satin 260 gr and mounted on dibond
Dimensions of prints	100 x 66 cm
Frames	107 x 73 cm "Shadow" type (5 mm of empty between print and frame) Thickness of 3 cm, depth of 4 cm Color dark cherry-wood



Linear development	20 linear mt minimum (spaces not included)
Set up annotations	Text material must be printed at the expense of the hosting organization. We provide introduction text, biography and captions both in italian and english.

INVENTORY OF IMAGES

		Captions	Size
1.		Ethiopia, Danakil. Assal, Salt Plain. A caravan of camels silhouetted on the horizon. The plain of salt extends itself from the north end of the Danakil Depression to the border with Eritrea. Here, from the Ethiopian plateau, caravans of dromedaries and mules arrive to load the slabs of salt.	100 x 66 cm
2.		Ethiopia, Danakil. The salt mines of Lake Assal, 116m below sea level, an arid and scorching desert of rock salt in the eye, where, from ages, Afar and Tigray extract blocks of salt which are afterwards transported with caravans of dromedaries towards the Ethiopian plateau. In this image a portrait of Mohamed Ali (Afar ethnic group), 42 years old, 6 children, who lives in Hamed Ela.	100 x 66 cm
3.		Ethiopia, Danakil. The salt mines of Lake Assal, 116m below sea level, are animated by excavators at work and animals waiting for the load. The salt extracted is only the one present on the surface. Once a certain area is worn-out, all workers move to a new one.	100 x 66 cm
4.		Ethiopia, Danakil. Assal, the Plain of Salt. A caravan of camels silhouetted on the horizon. The plain of salt finds itself 100m below the sea level. We are in an ancient arm of the Red Sea that earthquakes have isolated from the rest of the basin, transforming it into a sort of inland lake which after evaporation has left nothing else but salt.	100 x 66 cm
5.		Saba Canyon. The caravans crossing the canyon go down into the heart of the Danakil. This is the centuries-old passage of the salt transport. The riverbed Saba is the natural way to get to and from the Plain of Salt, up to the Tigrinya plateau where salt is sold and marketed.	100 x 66 cm

6.  Village of Hamed Ela. A hut has become a hotel in which the passing-by workers can sleep on one of the typical stuffed beds.

100 x 66 cm
7.  Assal, Salt Plain. The white surface of the salt lake. Ali meets his friend Mohamed who also works as a guide for tourists in the Danakil. Happy to meet again, they improvise a Keke dance.

100 x 66 cm
8.  Dallol, a volcanic explosion crater in the Danakil Depression, means the "Hill of the Spirits" for the Afar people. These craters are the lowest known sub-aerial volcanic vents in the world, at over 150 ft below sea level. It is a land of geysers, crystal formations and sulphurous springs.

100 x 66 cm
9.  Dallol volcano is located in the Danakil Depression in North-East Ethiopia, in a remote area subject to the highest average temperatures on the planet. It has been formed by the intrusion of basaltic magma in Miocene salt deposits and subsequent hydrothermal activity. These craters are the lowest known sub-aerial volcanic vents in the world, at over 45m (150 ft) below sea level.

100 x 66 cm
10.  Dallol. Military take visitors inside geological site. Close to the Eritrean border, the site is located in a politically unstable region and therefore it is required to be accompanied by an armed escort to be able to visit it. The term Dallol was coined by the Afar people and means dissolution or disintegration, describing a landscape made up of green acid ponds.

100 x 66 cm
11.  On a slope of Mount Dallol rise ramparts of salt, mud and potassium as high as 25m, dominating a maze of gorges and ravines. The winding forms are created by storms and cloudbursts.

100 x 66 cm

12.  A view of the Erta Ale volcano. It is notable for holding the longest-existing lava lake, present since the early years of the twentieth century (1906). Volcanoes with lava lakes are very rare: there are only six in the world. 100 x 66 cm
13.  A view of the volcano Erta Ale. Erta Ale is a continuously active basaltic shield volcano in the Afar Region and is the most active volcano in Ethiopia 100 x 66 cm
14.  On the edge of the crater Erta Ale. In this photo the portrait of a young Afar guides who accompanies travelers to the edge of the crater. 66 x 100 cm
15.  The lava lake inside the crater of the volcano Erta Ale. 100 x 66 cm
16.  Erta Ale volcano. A small settlement consisting of a few stone huts is the only outpost to the crater rim where you can spend the night. 100 x 66 cm
17.  A view of the Erta Ale volcano. Erta Ale is a continuously active basaltic shield volcano in the Afar Region and is the most active volcano in Ethiopia. 100 x 66 cm
18.  Dallol volcano is located in the Danakil Depression in NE Ethiopia, in a remote area subject to the highest average temperatures on the planet. The average daily maximum temperatures here could be of 110°F. 100 x 66 cm
19.  Salt Plain. An Afar loading the camels and prepares to leave. The salt mines are animated by excavators at work and animals waiting for the load. The salt extracted is only the one present on the surface. Once a certain area is worn-out, all workers move to a new one. 100 x 66 cm