

ROME CODEX

Photography by Albert Watson

May 29th – August 3RD 2025
Palazzo Esposizioni Roma
Curated by Clara Tosi Pamphili

LINK IMAGES > <https://we.tl/t-Mh9nA4GrhM>

Rome, May 28th, 2025 – On May 29th Palazzo Esposizioni Roma unveils “Rome Codex” the largest photography exhibition ever mounted in Italy dedicated to **Albert Watson**, one of the most iconic contemporary photographers.

Promoted by the **Assessorato alla Cultura di Roma Capitale** and **Azienda Speciale Palaexpo**, produced and organized by Azienda Speciale Palaexpo with **Studio F.P.**, the exhibition - curated by Clara Tosi Pamphili – provides a compelling photographic exploration of Rome defying visual and aesthetics stereotypes.

The New York photographer Albert Watson challenges conventional representations of Rome, mapping a contemporary anthropological narrative of the city and its most authentic essence.

Over five decades since beginning his career in 1970, Albert Watson has made his mark as one of the world's most successful and prolific photographers. Blending art, fashion and commercial photography with unparalleled versatility and depth, he has created iconic images.

Rome codex is a project conceived by Studio F.P. which together with Azienda Speciale Palaexpo has curated and produced the photographic body of work by legendary photographer ‘sir Albert Watson’ following him throughout his journey, coordinating locations and subjects, hence contributing to the artistic and visual narrative of the project. Special thanks the Primo Municipio of Roma Capitale for their collaboration in the realization of the project.

Living Rome

Albert Watson spent two years wandering through Rome without a predetermined itinerary. Fueled by the city's pulse and capturing its essence in the faces, architectural landmarks and movements, the photographer has grasped its most authentic spirit in photography artworks that spotlight the interplay between its historic *grandeur* and everyday vitality.

“I didn’t want to approach it with preconceived ideas or the pressure of capturing what people expected to see. The city is overflowing with history, but I was interested in what happens in the spaces between the monuments, the energy of its streets, the faces, the movement. I photographed instinctively, going from ballet schools to underground clubs, from artists’ studios to late-night cafés. Some moments were planned, but many were pure chance. That’s the magic of Rome: it presents itself to you, layer by layer, if you take the time to look,” says Albert Watson.

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Tracing a portrait of Rome's contemporary cultural landscape at the intersection of historic weight and the modern boundary-pushing energy, Albert Watson resisted the obvious.

"Rome codex – One City, Three States," is a layered atlas of the ebullient spirit permeating the city, a place in perpetual motion and evolution since its early days, a crossroad of cultures and different worlds.

200 photographs, a city to decipher

The exhibit showcases 200 large-scale, black-and-white and color images mounted in the first three halls of Palazzo Esposizioni Roma. Images are arranged instinctively rather than in thematic order, to match the free and contemporary way of engaging with art.

In the vast exhibition space, intimate and candid human moments are juxtaposed to the city's vast architectural and historical weight, creating a dynamic interplay between the city and those who inhabit and shape it.

Albert Watson levels all hierarchies: a portrait, a landscape, an interior, an unknown face or a celebrity all command equal narrative intensity.

"Rome codex – One City, Three States" provides observers with an instinctive yet meticulous compass for decoding a city layered with contradictions.

Symbolic places and unexpected portraits

Among the photographed places are the Colosseum, the Trevi Fountain, the Ara Pacis, the Foro Romano, Villa Medici, the Altare della Patria, as well as less conventional landmarks such as Cinecittà Studios, the Cripta dei Cappuccini, Campo de' Fiori, Via Appia Antica, the Terrazza del Gianicolo, Porta Portese, the Parco Archeologico of Ostia Antica, the Jazz Image Festival, the Imperial Circus.

A collective portrait of Rome today

The exhibition is also an homage to the human fabric of the city. Among the personalities portrayed are Paolo Sorrentino, Valeria Golino, Luca Bigazzi, Luca Zingaretti, Isabella Ferrari, Benedetta Porcaroli, Riccardo Scamarcio, Celeste Della Porta, Kasia Smutniak, Saul Nanni, Pierfrancesco Favino, Toni Servillo, Roberto Bolle, Eleonora Abbagnato, Alda Fendi, architects Massimiliano Fuksas & Doriana Mandrelli, Cardinale Silvano Maria Tomasi, Gran Maestro dell'Ordine di Malta, Maestro Giancarlo Giammetti, Elisabetta Benassi.

About Albert Watson

Albert Watson has made his mark as one of the world's most successful and prolific photographers since he began his career in 1970, blending art, fashion and commercial photography into some of the most iconic images ever seen.

From portraits of Alfred Hitchcock and Steve Jobs, beauty shots of Kate Moss, to Las Vegas landscapes and still-life photos of King Tut artifacts, Albert's diversity and body of work are unparalleled. His striking photographs and handmade prints are featured in galleries and museums around the globe and are included in the permanent collections of the National Portrait Gallery in London, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, and the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., among many others. He has won numerous honors, including an Order of the British Empire (OBE) and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Royal Photographic Society.

Over the years, Albert's photographs have appeared on more than 100 covers of Vogue worldwide and in ad campaigns for major companies, such as Chanel, Prada, Levi's, and Gap, in addition to Hollywood movie posters, such as "Kill Bill" and "Memoirs of a Geisha."

About Studio F.P.

Founded in 1990, Studio F.P. has established itself as creative agency specialized in photography, advertising, and cultural event production. Over the years, it has collaborated with global editorial powerhouses such as Condé Nast, Hearst, Rizzoli, and Mondadori, as well as legendary photographers, including Irving Penn, Bruce Weber, Patrick Demarchelier, Peter Beard, and Albert Watson.

Studio F.P. curates and produces international exhibitions as well as editorial and audiovisual projects, including photography books for Rizzoli New York. It is known for its refined aesthetic approach and strong commitment to cultural promotion.

INFORMATIONS

Palazzo Esposizioni Roma

Rome, Via Nazionale, 194

www.palazzo-esposizioniroma.it

Facebook: @PalazzoEsposizioni | Instagram: @palazzo-esposizioni | Twitter: @Esposizioni

OPENING HOURS

Sunday to Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Thursday to Saturday: 10:00 AM – 10:30 PM

Last admission one hour before closing.

TICKETS

Full price €12.50 – Reduced €10.00 – Youth (ages 7 to 18) €6.00

Free admission for children up to 6 years old.

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH free entry for visitors under 30 (from 2:00 PM until closing).

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