

F O N D A Z I O N E
PAUL THOREL

On Sept. 11, 2023 at 7 p.m., the Paul Thorel Foundation will inaugurate its new exhibition space with the *Family & Friends* exhibition at the historic site of its Archive / Studio in the Chiaia neighborhood of Naples, and present for the occasion artist Lina Pallotta, the third winner of the first edition of the Paul Thorel Prize.

The Foundation began its first public activities in fall 2022 with the launch of the first edition of the Paul Thorel Prize, a residency project for Italian artists. Now, a year later, it opens an exhibition space to the art public with a special program of exhibitions at the Studio/Archive's historic headquarters at Via Vittorio Imbriani 48, Naples.

The series of exhibitions is curated by Sara Dolfi Agostini, curator of the foundation and responsible for the ongoing work on the catalogue raisonné dedicated to **Paul Thorel** (1956-2020), a pioneer of the electronic image, whose home has been in Naples since 1994. Pending the publication of the catalogue, the exhibition program inaugurates a shared course of reinterpretation of his artistic practice, in dialogue with contemporary artworks by Italian and international artists he collected during his lifetime.

The first exhibition, titled ***Family & Friends***, presents a series of vintage photographic works by Paul Thorel, some previously unpublished and all made between 1986 and 1995, years in which the artist altered photographic portraits of family and friends to experiment with new digital technologies. Thorel, an artist and programmer, anticipates some of the digital manipulation tools that would become popular with the photo editing program Photoshop, launched in 1990 exclusively for Macintosh operators and from 1993 also for Microsoft Windows.

In dialogue with Paul Thorel are **Alberto Giacometti** (1901-66) and **Michel Auder** (1945), who share with him a spirit of experimentation in their own research languages, respectively sculpture and video, frequent contaminations between life and art-as evident in the subjects of their works-as well as an elective affinity with the places that marked Thorel's life, Paris and Naples.

The exhibition opens symbolically with the bronze sculpture *Bust of Paola* (1958-59), a portrait of Paola Caròla, psychoanalyst and student of Jacques Lacan and mother of Thorel; a commission that also marks the beginning of a friendship with Mr. and Mrs. Giacometti. The exhibition continues with works by Michel Auder: the photograph *VIVA Positano* (1968) dedicated to his first wife, actress and Andy Warhol's muse, and *Polaroid Cocaine* (1993), a collection of images from books and magazines to which the artist entrusts the confession of his obsessive relationship with images. The work, a poignant journey between desire and destruction, is accompanied by music by Jean-Jacques Schuhl and the voice of Ingrid Caven.

For the occasion, the Paul Thorel Foundation welcomes artist **Lina Pallotta**, the third winner of the first edition of the Paul Thorel Prize, who will be present at the event and concurrently begin her month-long residency in the Archive / Studio spaces to create a new artistic production.

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Paul Thorel Foundation

With the great Parthenopean city as its headquarters, accompanied by satellite offices in Panarea and Hydra, the Paul Thorel Foundation is deeply rooted in the Mediterranean basin. It is a platform for artistic development that reinforces the focus on the creative potential of the Mediterranean, and especially on contemporary photographic research with a focus on new technologies and aesthetic languages, in response to the pioneering research of Paul Thorel (1956-2020).

Family & Friends

Paul Thorel, Michel Auder and Alberto Giacometti

Curated by Sara Dolfi Agostini

Opening: 11th September 2023, h. 7:00 – 10:00 PM

Dates: 12th September – 20th October 2023

Hours: Monday – Wednesday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM and by appointment

Entrance: free

Press office Fondazione Paul Thorel

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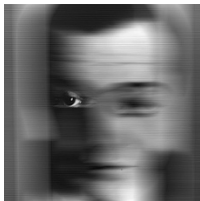
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LIST OF THE ARTWORKS IN THE EXHIBITION

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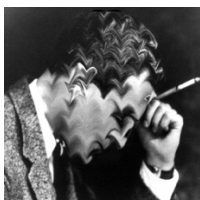
Paul Thorel, *Les passages du gorille*, 1987



Paul Thorel, *Regardez madame, l'escargot vola*, 1987



Paul Thorel, *La Troisième*, 1987



Paul Thorel, *La giovane signora se l'è portato sé dal viaggio di nozze*, 1988



Alberto Giacometti, *Busto di Paola*, 1958

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Paul Thorel, Il volatore obliquo, 1991



Paul Thorel, La volatrice obliqua, 1991



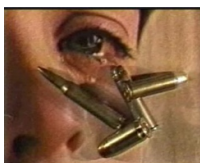
Paul Thorel, Otto Rank, 1990



Paul Thorel, La fumatrice, 1990

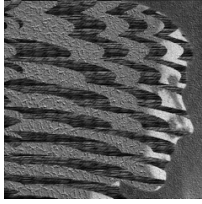


Paul Thorel, Le piccole mele gli piacquero fin dal paradiso terrestre, 1990



Michel Auder, Polaroid Cocaine, 1993

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Paul Thorel, La transvagueuse 1987



Paul Thorel, Eduardo, 1991



Michel Auder, VIVA Positano, 1968



Alberto Giacometti, H.C., c.ca 1958-60

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Paul Thorel, Trois fillettes s'en vont en guerre, 1992