

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

## Paul Thorel

(London, United Kingdom, 1956; Naples, Italy, 2020)

Paul Thorel, an Italian-French artist, began painting at the age of fourteen in the Roman atelier of artist Carla Accardi, who organised his first exhibition in 1977, at just twenty-one years of age. From 1979, he dedicated himself to the electronic image, becoming a pioneer of digital art. Thorel approached computer language before the global spread of personal computers, collaborating with some of the most technologically advanced centres in Europe — the INA *Institut national de l'audiovisuel* in Paris, the informatics department of the University of Genoa, *RAI Radio Televisione italiana* in Turin, V.D.S. *Video Display System* in Florence, and SBP CGE (*Computer Graphics Europe*) in Rome — for the development of new techniques of digital creation and production between 1979 and 1990. In the same period, he also worked for various computer and multimedia companies for the production of background videos for theatrical performances, television themes, educational videos, digital special effects, interactive films and adverts for companies such as Coop and Rocchetta. In 1994 he moved to Naples to continue his career as a contemporary artist dedicated almost exclusively to new digital technologies.

In the 1980s, Thorel's work was included in the first international art exhibitions dedicated to art and new media at the *Salon de la Photographie et de la Video* in Paris (1989), the *Palais de Tokyo* in Paris (1989 and 1992) and *Les Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie* in Arles, France (1993). In 1994 he was one of the artists included by Aperture in *Metamorphoses: Photography in the Electronic Age*, a special issue focusing on the integration of computers and photography, art and technology, which became a traveling exhibition at the *Fashion Institute of Technology Museum* in New York, N.Y. (1994), the *Ackland Art Museum*, UNC -Chapel Hill, NC, the *San José Museum of Art*, CA, the *Philadelphia Museum of Art*, PA, the *Tampa Museum of Art*, FL, the *Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art*, Kansas City MO, and the *Blaffer Art Museum*, Houston, TX.

Notable participations in collective exhibitions include the exhibition *Imprimatur. Artisti internazionali inediti in mostra*, curated by Achille Bonito Oliva at the former church of San Carpofo in Milan (1992), the exhibition *Il Ritratto Maltrattato*, curated by Lanfranco Colombo at the Galleria Il Diaframma in Milan on the occasion of the *Kodak Cultura* festival (1995), the exhibition *Open Space* at Modena per la Fotografia (1996), the exhibition *Natura Inurbata: Pittura, scultura, fotografia e altri media* at the Palazzo

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delle Esposizioni in Rome (1998), the *Felici Coincidenze* exhibition in the Art&Maggio exhibition in Bari (1999), the exhibition of the international festival @rt Outsiders, curated by Henry Chapier and Jean-Luc Sor, at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris (2001), the exhibition *La Camera dello Sguardo. Fotografi italiani* curated by Achille Bonito Oliva, at Palazzo Sant'Elia in Palermo (2009-10), the exhibition *Incontri...dalla Collezione di Graziella Leonardi Buontempo* at the Académie de France à Rome, Villa Medici, Rome (2003), the exhibition *Une histoire privée: la photographie italienne contemporaine dans la collection Anna Rosa et Giovanni Cotroneo* curated by Jean-Luc Monterosso at the Maison européenne de la Photographie, Paris (2006), the exhibition *O Vero! Napoli nel mirino*, curated by Eduardo Cicelyn, Mario Codognato and Giovanni Fiorentino, at the Madre Museo di Arte Contemporanea Donnaregina in Naples (2010-11), the Digital Life exhibition organised by Roma Festival at Macro Mattatoio, Rome (2012 and 2013), the exhibition *Quarantanni d'arte contemporanea. Massimo Minini 1973-2013*, at the Triennale di Milano (2013-14), the exhibition *Colloquio mitico*, at the Galleria Fonti in Naples (2017), the exhibition *Sette opere per la misericordia*, curated by Mario Codognato, at the Church of Pio Monte della Misericordia in Naples (2018) and the exhibition *Prospettiva Arte Contemporanea. La Collezione di Fondazione Fiera Milano*, curated by Alessandro Rabottini, at the Gallerie d'Italia in Milan (2019).

Paul Thorel also had solo exhibitions at Galleria Il Labirinto, Rome (1977), Centre Culturel Français, Rome (1980), Galleria Ferro di Cavallo, Rome (1985), Biennale Internazionale della Fotografia, Turin (1991), Galleria Extra, Taranto (1992), Galleria Il Ponte, Florence (1993), Depot Gallery, Bologna (1994), Galleria Paola Verrengia, Salerno (1995), Incontri Internazionali d'Arte, Galleria d'Arte Moderna Spoleto (1996), Galleria Neos, Santeramo (1997), Galleria Bonomo, Rome (1998), Studio Trisorio, Naples (1998), Fendissime, Rome (2000), Galerie Taché Lévy, Brussels (2000), Art&Maggio Castello Svevo, Bari (2002), Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples (2003-04), l'Institut français Firenze (2009), Galleria Massimo Minini, Brescia (2010), MEP Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris (2012), Galleria Guido Costa Projects, Turin (2015), and Museo Madre Museo di Arte Contemporanea Donnaregina, Naples (2018).

Paul Thorel created the Fondazione Paul Thorel in Naples, Hydra and Panarea in 2014.