

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

The new Fondazione Paul Thorel

Naples, Italy. October 13, 2022.

Headquartered in the great city of **Naples** with satellite offices in **Panarea** and **Hydra**, **Fondazione Paul Thorel** is deeply rooted in the **Mediterranean Basin**. A platform for artistic development, it will highlight the creative potential of the Mediterranean and particularly photographic research with a focus on new technologies and aesthetic languages.

Fondazione Paul Thorel kicks off its activities. Today it announces the **Paul Thorel Award, residency and workshop plans at its spaces in Naples, Panarea, and Hydra, its first exhibition at Artissima, and the development of the archives and catalogue raisonné of the artist's works.**

Following Paul Thorel's death in May 2020, the foundation's board decided to strengthen its activities in accordance with the artist's wishes and its charter. It has thus become a promoter of initiatives and projects related to the artist's legacy, associating his name and heritage with new ventures in the cultural and artistic fields both nationally and internationally. In this regard, it decided to keep the artist's vast and sophisticated Neapolitan studio alive, transforming it into a place of study and work for artists pursuing digital image research and establishing the **Paul Thorel Award**.

This prize, organized in collaboration with the Gallerie d'Italia of **Intesa Sanpaolo**, is granted annually. Starting in 2023, three digital photography projects will be selected and produced by each artist or art collective during a **one-month residency at the Studio Thorel guest house in Naples**, assisted by the team from the foundation. The project pays tribute to Paul Thorel and his role as a researcher and pioneer in this field as well as his interest in the creative dimension, his times and their needs. Sharing his studio with guest artists, allowing them to use the equipment and technologies he owned, seemed like the best way to remember Paul Thorel's generosity and support for artists, galleries, and art initiatives over the years. The three winning artists of the first edition will be announced in January 2023. At the end of the residency project, the foundation will also produce documentation in the form of a catalogue and curate a public exhibition in collaboration with partner institutions.

Always in the name of hospitality and sharing, the foundation will also organize **residency and workshop projects** in its other spaces on the islands of **Panarea**—located in the Aeolian archipelago, in Italy—and **Hydra** (Greece). For two decades, the big house on Panarea was Paul Thorel's summer retreat, a place where he hosted friends and artists, and an agricultural laboratory for growing grapes. An open and visionary project, the foundation's board has decided to keep it alive, preserving its potential as a laboratory for ideas, art, and

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

communal living. A similar project is underway on the island of Hydra, the artist's last unfulfilled dream, which will be completed and launched in the coming years.

Another part of the foundation's heritage is the extensive **personal art collection—including ancient, modern, and contemporary works**—built by Paul Thorel over his lifetime, often in connection with his art research. The foundation is already working on this legacy as well, making it as available as possible to the public and researchers through a dedicated loan and research policy. At **Artissima**, from November 4 to 6, 2022, the foundation will present its first exhibition of **Paul Thorel's works together with pieces by artists from its contemporary art collection**. The exhibition will be part of A SUD, a project that stems from Artissima's desire to promote the activity of galleries, foundations, and art institutions from the southern and island regions of Italy.

Fondazione Paul Thorel was founded in Naples in 2014 on the artist's initiative, and during its first years of operation, it has focused almost exclusively on organizing its archives and restoring his early works. The **Paul Thorel archives**, now almost completed, consist of about **1,600 works** spanning the artist's entire career, from the late 1970s until 2020, the year of his death. Housed at Studio Thorel, on via Imbriani in Naples, these archives contain at least one sample of all the works produced by the artist in his lifetime. They also contain detailed documentation on pieces that have become part of public and private collections over the years, as well as a large number of paper documents relating to the life and work of Paul Thorel. An extensive **catalogue raisonné of the artist's works**, commissioned to art critic and curator **Sara Dolfi Agostini**, has been in preparation since 2021 and is scheduled to be published in 2024.

For press requests please contact:

Enrichetta Cardinale

0034 656956672

enrichetta.cardinale@gmail.com