

Elena Mocchetti

Curriculum vitae

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Biographical note

Elena Mocchetti (Legnano, 1978) is an Italian artist and photographer whose practice lies at the intersection of documentary photography, video, and participatory practices. She studied at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts in Milan and within the research group of DASTU at Politecnico di Milano. She has developed an artistic practice that intertwines contemporary art, social research, and territorial investigation, in dialogue with cultural institutions, universities, and social organisations. Her work generally originates from public institutional commissions or from privately co-funded commissions.

Her research develops through long-term projects devoted to observing vulnerable human ecosystems, marginalised communities, and environmental and social transformations within the contemporary urban context. Through analogue photography, video, installations, and relational processes, Mocchetti's practice builds, over time, a visual archive of the transformations of the present.

Her main research projects include Nafta (2019-2020), an investigation into migration routes and systems of agricultural exploitation between Italy and North Africa; The Weary Goat (2018-2020), focused on the informal settlements of Roma communities in Milan; Il Santo Il Matto Il Fiume (2019-2022), developed in collaboration with seven psychiatric rehabilitation communities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; and the more recent Io Abito (2024-2028), a photographic and video project exploring the relationship between natural and social ecosystems.

The poetics that emerge from this practice take shape as a process in which Art and Imagination enter into a direct relationship with the reality we experience every day, in an attempt to reconsider and bear witness to the power dynamics of the systems that inevitably influence and shape us, through a vision of beauty that must be sought in the Nature of Things.

Her work has been presented at institutions and exhibition spaces in Italy and abroad, including GAMEC, Bergamo; Arsenal, Berlin; Arsenale Nord, Venice; and CAM, Milan. In 2023 she received the Arte Laguna Prize in the Video section, and in 2026 the Wandering Species Award, promoted by Connecting Cultures and Regione Lombardia.

Education

1992-1997 | Liceo Scientifico Galileo Galilei, Legnano, MI

2000-2006 | Brera Academy of Fine Arts, Painting Department, Milan

2004-2006 | Art Gallery Studio | Dublin | Ireland

2010-2013 | DASTU, Politecnico di Milano | Masterclass in Public Art and Urban Regeneration

2025 FOAM | Formazione AI, Communication and Management Training

Research and public commissions

Heritage

2026.2027

Fondazione Brescia Musei, BS

Università degli studi di Milano Bicocca, MI

Fondazione Cariplo

Io Abito

2026.2027

Connecting Cultures, MI

Fondazione Corrente, MI

Fondazione Cariplo

Il SantolIl MattolIl Fiume

2019.2022

Casa Testori, MI

Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca, MI

Impresa Cooperativa Sociale La Nuvola, BS

Regione Lombardia

The Weary Goat

2017. 2019

ASF, Architetti senza Frontiere Italia, ONLUS

Nafta

2019-2020

ASF, Architetti senza Frontiere Italia, ONLUS

Collezione Giuseppe Iannaccone, MI

CAM, Camera Arbitrale di Milano

Selected group and solo exhibitions

Io Abito, 2027

Fondazione Corrente, Milan
Curated by Anna Detheridge

Heritage, 2027

Civico Museo S. Giulia, Brescia
Curated by Fondazione Brescia Musei

ART NOVA 100, 2024

Beijing

Arte Laguna Prize, 2023

Arsenale Nord, Venice
The Hotel
Curated by Luca Beatrice

Il Santo Il Matto Il Fiume, 2022

Rocca di S. Giorgio, Brescia
Curated by
Casa Testori, Giuseppe Frangi
Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Prof. Ivan Bargna

Ti Bergamo, 2019

GAMEC, Bergamo
Curated by Casa Testori
Collezione Giuseppe Iannaccone

Nafta, 2020

CAM, Camera Arbitrale di Milano
Collezione Giuseppe Iannaccone
Curated by Risha Paterlini

Awards, mentions and publications

2026

Il Santo Il Matto Il Fiume
ISBN: 978-88-89154-11-3
Edited by Connecting Cultures

2025

Wandering Species Award
Connecting Cultures
Regione Lombardia

2023

First Prize - Arte Laguna Prize
Video section - The Hotel
Arsenale Nord, Venice, Italy

2021

Publication
La Repubblica, Milan