

## "Martin Karplus photographer: Color of the Fifties " and Photo Contest "Places and colors of Lombardy" Art Project by Elena Amodeo and Vittorio Schieroni



Grattacielo Pirelli - Spazio Eventi | 6 April - 26 May 2016  
Opening Wednesday 6 April, 5 p.m.

The Pirelli Tower is hosting the **first solo exhibition in Italy** by the photographer **Martin Karplus** (Vienna, 1930). He is a prominent scientist, who received the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** in 2013.

The project, presented at the headquarters of the Lombardy Region by **Elena Amodeo and Vittorio Schieroni - Made4Art**, consists of the exhibition "**Martin Karplus Photographer: The Colors of the 50's**", curated by **Sylvie Aubenas** of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, along with a **photo contest** dedicated to young Lombard students. The project has been developed in collaboration with the **Lombardy Region** and with the Università degli Studi di Milano.

On display are over sixty photographs on loan from the **Bibliothèque nationale de France**. They are representative of his artistic work and of the issues he addressed: color images from the 50's and 60's of Europe, the Americas and Asia that indicate his adventures and his reactions to the places he visited.

Images of nature in Brazil and Peru, where there appear the ruins of ancient civilizations and imposing modern buildings, faces and people of the Balkan's portrayed in their everyday life, the close link with water that characterizes the life of fishermen in Hong Kong, up to bursting colors of fruits and spices that fill Chinese and Indian markets. These are some of the subjects captured by the camera of Martin Karplus from the fifties to the present day, on a journey that touches cultures, different customs and habits, countries near and far in time and space, in a blend of personal and universal life, of the people and places he met on his way.

The body of Karplus' photographic work represented here is based on **more than 4,000 KODACHROME slides taken between the 50s and 60s**. They remained **unpublished for forty years** while the scientist continued to pursue his research. In 2000 a selection of these slides was scanned, revealing images that retain the original colors intact. The work of Karplus, who witnessed the transition from analog to digital, from his Leica IIIC to the new Canon EOS 70D, manages to reconcile the beauty typical of aesthetics with the emotional charge of the images, with all of its social, cultural and historical aspects.

The exhibition is an **important document** from more than fifty years ago by which Martin Karplus, primarily known as a scientist, wants to pass on to future generations a vision of the world in which he lived, much of which no longer exists.

To complete the project a section dedicated to the **Photo Contest "Places and colors of Lombardy"**, organized by the University of Milan presents the travel and color themes through the students' photographic work. The Committee, chaired by Martin Karplus, has selected the best works that focus on the proposed theme in the hope of attracting young people to the world of art and photography. They were invited to complement the vitality and colors typical of Karplus' photographs from the 1950's and 60's.

**Martin Karplus**, born in Vienna in 1930, moved with his parents and brother to the United States in 1938. After studies at Harvard, he received his PhD in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology in 1953. He spent two years at Oxford and then returned to the United States. He was appointed to the faculty of the University of Illinois and of Columbia University and in 1966 he became professor of chemistry at Harvard University, where he continues his research. In 1996 he also became professor at the University Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg, now active both in the United States and in France. He is member of the National Academy of Sciences the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, and a foreign member of the Dutch Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Royal Society of London. In 2013 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

**"Martin Karplus photographer: Color of the Fifties" and Photo Contest "Places and colors of Lombardy"**  
**Art Project by Elena Amodeo and Vittorio Schieron**

**6 April - 26 May 2016 | Opening Wednesday 6 April, 5 p.m. | Lecture, 3.30 p.m.**  
**Grattacielo Pirelli - Spazio Eventi, 1° piano Via Fabio Filzi 22, 20124 Milan - Italy**

Opening hours: Monday - Friday 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. | Free entrance

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**Art Project & Communication: M4A - MADE4ART | Communication and services for arts and culture**  
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**In collaboration with: Bibliothèque nationale de France, Regione Lombardia**

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