

PHOTOLOGY®



## LUCA VITONE ROMANISTAN

### Photology Online Gallery 1° December 2021 - 28 February 2022

<https://www.photology.com/lucavitone>

#### Artworks in high resolution

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1V03Uvi9LTcj5DioWFC3SimkgGsisPFzY?usp=sharing>

**Romanistan** by **Luca Vitone** is the winning project of the fourth edition of Italian Council (2018), and it was originally promoted by Centro per l'Arte contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato. A whole new exhibit is now available with a total 3D experience **on Photology Online Gallery** (1 December 2021 - 28 February 2022).

Photographic installations, works on paper, together with the original video and a sculpture, **feature a 43 day journey** by Luca Vitone from Bologna to Chandigarh, **on the same route the Roma and Sinti people took from northwest India to Italy**.

Tracing a migration path that occurred between the 8th and the 14th Century, the artist explores his deep interest in the Roma community travelling through Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Greece, Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Iran and Pakistan.

The Roma migration route featuring nomadism, marginalization and segregation becomes a tool for a broader reflection on the idea of place, travel, community, tradition, and the perpetuation of social clichés.

The title **Romanistan** derives from the words of **Manush Romanov**, a Roma spokesperson from Bulgaria, who imagined the possibility of creating a country for the Roma people.

For Luca Vitone instead the Roma population, living without a homeland, no army and borders, represents a modern and transnational ideal of a population, almost becoming a forerunner, even in light of the current mass migrations that are upsetting the socio-political balance of the planet.

The journey of the artist back to the roots of the Roma people is in fact represented through the external gaze of those who do not share their culture or traditions.

Vitone makes a wish to go beyond the stereotypes of marginality and poverty with which the Roma are commonly associated, focusing instead on representing the intellectual bourgeoisie through encounters with political personalities, social activists, academics.

*Luca Vitone: Landscapes are the remains of the Roma people passage. They have been witnessing what Roma ancestors culturally left through centuries. This is why I chose Bologna as a starting point for my project: the local University Library holds the oldest document proving the Roma presence in our territories since 1422. Through Romanistan I have truly experienced the profound meaning of "journey". I think modern travelers are migrant. They leave without knowing what their future will be, without any idea of what to expect.*

Luca Vitone (Genoa, 1964), who started his artistic career in the mid 80's has been focusing on the idea of "place", which in the artist's reflection assumes a renewed meaning. Individual memory is linked to collective history whereas post-modern cultural and political conventions are lost. Over the years, Vitone's artistic research has concentrated more and more on the concept of nomadism and identity of ethnic minorities. Maps and cartography are the basic elements of this kind of production, although they lose a topological value. Instead they represent the lack of a relationship between contemporary human beings and their environment. A geographical place for Vitone is a social space which is explored through video, installation, photography, sound and performance. His exploration covers territories which are turned from physical into mental.

The Romanistan film will be available for special viewings during the period of the exhibition. Please contact [shows@photology.com](mailto:shows@photology.com)

The book Romanistan published by Humboldt can be ordered directly: <https://www.humboldtbooks.com/it/book/romanistan>

## PHOTOLOGY ONLINE GALLERY

If there were one trait that characterizes Photology it would be its ability to evolve and keep up with the times. A spirit of adapting that, in its 30 years of activity, has allowed us to organize more than 350 exhibitions worldwide, collaborating with international artists, archives, foundations, galleries, museums and Universities.

After opening various exhibition spaces worldwide – Milan (1992-2015); Cortina (1992- 1995); London (1997-2000); Bologna (2000-2003); Paris (2007); Noto (2013-ON); Garzón, Uruguay (2015-ON) – Photology has chosen a new path, actualizing the concept of a gallery as a physical space, with the creation of a new virtual reality: Photology® Online Gallery. Since September 2020 commercial exhibitions produced by Photology are entirely and uniquely visible on-line. Therefore allowing a broader pool of viewers to take pleasure in the photographic works displayed, and to have the opportunity to purchase them directly through the site [www.photology.com](http://www.photology.com).

The 3D platform has been developed with a system of navigation that permits users to navigate within a virtual space that is totally realistic. The texts and information's are inserted in the exhibition context, including videos. In the case of interest in a private view of the individual works, there is the possibility of making private appointments directly with a team of specialists in principle Italian cities.

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