

THE COOL COUPLE

The Cool Couple is an artistic duo based in Milan and established in late 2012 by Niccolò Benetton (Arzignano, 1986) and Simone Santilli (Portogruaro, 1987).

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

2025

Territorial Machines: Extracting Nature, Martina Corbetta, Giussano, Italy

2024

Territorial Machines: Extracting Nature, MAAB Gallery, Milano, Italy

2020

Let's Not Be Honest, Spazio Neutro, Reggio Emilia, Italy

2019

Emozioni Mondiali, MLZ Art Dep, Trieste, Italy

2018

Time Travel Stuff, Fujifilm Faculty, Unseen, Amsterdam

Turbulence, Monastero del Carmine, Bergamo, Italy

2017

Karma Fails, Museo del Novecento, Milano, Italy

2015

Premio Graziadei, Fotografia Festival Internazionale di Roma, MACRO, Roma, Italy

Discovery Award. Les Rencontres des Arles, Parc des Ateliers, Arles, France

2014

Twist in the tail, METRONOM, Modena, Italy

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

2026

Clean|Clear|Cut, Malta Biennale, Birgu, Malta

2025

Performative 05, MAXXI L'Aquila, L'Aquila, Italy

2024

Winding and Unwinding, Monte Verità, Ascona, Italy

La scia del monte ou les outopistes magnetiques, Musée des Beaux-Arts Le Locle, Le Locle, Switzerland

Corrispondenze, Fondazione Modena Arti Visive, Modena, Italy

2023

L'Italia è un desiderio. Fotografie, paesaggi e visioni 1842-2022, Scuderie del Quirinale, Roma, Italy

Ph Museum Days, DumBO, Bologna, Italy

La Via della Seta. Arte e Artisti contemporanei dall'Italia, Art Museum of Sichuan Fine Arts Institute di Chongqing, Art Museum di Xi'an, Xi'an, China

Cremona Contemporanea, Cinema Teatro Filo, Cremona, Italy

2022

First Place in the Table?, TRAFo Center For Contemporary Art, Szczecin, China

Da – A. Gli artisti della collezione Bevilacqua la Masa 1998 – 2018, Galleria di Piazza San Marco, Venezia, Italy

2021

Porta Portese, SpazioMensa, Roma, Italy

Photo Open Up, Musei Civici Agli Eremitani, Padova, Italy

Spazio Leonardo loves A-Collection, Spazio Leonardo, Milano, Italy

Subterranean Virtualscapes, Virginia Bianchi Gallery, Bologna, Italy

Every Artist, City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand

Chi Non Salta. Calcio, cultura, identità, MuFoCo, Cinisello Balsamo, Italy

The Families of Man, Museo Archeologico Regionale, Aosta, Italy

Italian Twist, Fondazione Imago Mundi, Treviso, Italy

2020

Abnormal, Tbilisi Biennial, Tbilisi, Georgia

La Via della Seta. Arte e Artisti contemporanei dall'Italia, Beijing, Millennium Art Museum, China; Xi'an, Xi'an Art Museum, China; Yerevan, Hay Art Gallery, Armenia; Tbilisi, Tbilisi History Museum, Georgia; Ankara, Cermodern Museum, Turkey; Sofia, National Art Gallery, Bulgaria; Chisinau, National Art Museum, Moldavia

2019

Photo Open-Up, Festival Internazionale di Fotografia a Padova, Cattedrale Ex-Macello, Padova, Italy
Fotopub, Novo Mesto

The Revolution is us, Autostrada Biennale - International Biennale of Contemporary Art, Prizren

Karma Fails, Simposio, Ex-Eni Village, Borca di Cadore, Italy

Everyday Life, Galleria Civica di Trento, Trento, Italy

BienNolo, Biennale d'arte contemporanea di Nolo, Ex Laboratori Cova, Milano, Italy

Linz FMR. Art in digital contexts and public spaces, Linz, Austria

2018

Every Breath You Take, Galleria Umberto di Marino, Napoli, Italy

RE.USE, scarti, oggetti, ecologia nell'arte contemporanea, TRA Treviso Ricerca Arte, Treviso, Italy

DIGITALIVE – MèTA, ROMAEUROPA Festival 2018, Mattatoio Testaccio la Pelanda, Roma, Italy

That's IT! Sull'ultima generazione di artisti in Italia e a un metro e ottanta dal confine, MAMBO – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

Helicotrema – Recorded Audio Festival, MAREA, Ravenna, Italy

Talking About Images, Galerija Kortil, Rijeka; Kunsthalle, Graz, Austria

STATI DI TENSIONE, MuFoCo – Museo di Fotografia Contemporanea di Cinisello Balsamo, Cinisello Balsamo, Italy

2017

Alchimie Culturali 2.0, Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venezia, Italy

Teatrum Botanicum, Emerging Talents, PAV – Padiglione Arte Vivente, Torino, Italy
ANTOLOGIA, METRONOM, Modena, Italy
Short Circuit #03, OK Corral, Copenhagen, Denmark
Dadaclub Online. The exhibition, Spazio Contemporanea, Brescia, Italy
POIUYT. Punto Zero. Critical practices in Italian contemporary, MLZ Art Dep, Trieste, Italy
Short Circuit #02, Palazzo Malipiero, Venezia, Italy

2016

Premio Graziadei, FOTOGRAFIA. Festival Internazionale di Roma, MACRO – Museo di Arte Contemporanea di Roma, Roma, Italy
Short Circuit #01, Stryx, Birmingham, UK
Good night, and good luck, A plus A, Venezia, Italy
2016 – Sulla Nuova Fotografia Italiana, Viasaterna, Milano, Italy
TOAST!, Atelier Salzamt, Linz, Austria
La disfatta dell'immagine, TRA - Treviso Ricerca Arte, Treviso, Italy

2015

I borsisti della 98ma Collettiva Giovani Artisti, Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venezia, Italy
VX30 / Chaotic Passion, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Villa Croce, Genova, Italy
Unseen festival, Barber, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Progetto Nord-Est. F4 Un'idea di fotografia, Fondazione Francesco Fabbri, Treviso, Italy
6PM Your Local Time, Link Art Center, Brescia, Italy
Fotopub festival, Novo Mesto, Slovenia
Rob Pruitt's Flea Market in Venice, A+A Gallery, Venezia, Italy
Italia Happening, Salon für Kunstbuch, Wien, Austria
Circulation(s), festival de la jeune photographie européenne, Centquatre, Paris, France

2014

Sinfonie Urbane, Fabbrica del Vapore, Milano, Italy
98ma Collettiva Giovani Artisti, Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venezia, Italy
Premio Francesco Fabbri per la fotografia contemporanea, Villa Brandolini, Pieve di Soligo, Italy
Kassel Photobook Dummy Award, Athens Photo Festival, Atene, Greece; The Photobookmuseum, Köln, Germany; PhotoIreland, Dublin, Ireland; IED, Madrid, Spain; Fotogalleriet, Oslo, Norway; Le Bal, Paris, France; Fotoleggendo, Roma, Italy; Paraty Em Foco, Paraty, Brazil; MIA, Milano, Italy; Madalena Workshops, São Paulo, Brazil
DIY 2.0, A photographic Issue, Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerp, Belgium
Leading personality disease, MLZ Art Dep, Trieste, Italy

2013

Premio Francesco Fabbri per la fotografia contemporanea, Villa Brandolini, Pieve di Soligo, Italy
Territori instabili. Confini e identità nell'arte contemporanea, CCC Strozzi, Firenze, Italy

SCREENINGS (SELECTED)

2023

The Cute and the Useful, Festival do Cinema Italiano, Cinema Sao Jorge, Lisbon, Portugal

2022

The Cute and the Useful, MART, Trento, Italy

2021

Flyin' High, Milan Machinima Festival, online streaming

2020

Emozioni Mondiali, in *Abnormal Stories*, Tbilisi Architecture Biennial, online streaming

2018

The Third Chimpanzee, Treviso 2012, in *The Other Side of the Moon*, Galleria Bertoni, Cervignano del Friuli, Italy

2017

The Fuffy Wipe Case, episode II. Chemtrails, in *The Book is on the Screen*, SPRINT, O', Milano, Italy

The Third Chimpanzee, Vajont 2014, Biennale del cortometraggio di Vicenza, Vicenza, Italy

2015

The Third Chimpanzee, Treviso 2012, Washing by Watching, Lecce, Italy

The Third Chimpanzee, Treviso 2012, FIF, International Belo Horizonte Photography Festival, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

2014

The Third Chimpanzee, Treviso 2012, CuIT – Salone della Cultura, Venezia, Italy

The Fuffy Wipe Case, episode II. Chemtrails (homage to Beck), CuIT – Salone della Cultura, Venezia, Italy

The Third Chimpanzee, Bari 2014, MIC, Milano, Italy

GRANTS AND AWARDS (SELECTED)

2020

Italian Council, 8th Edition, MIBACT, Roma, Italy

Artevisione, Careof and Sky Arte, Milano, Italy

Bonotto Award, Artefiera and Fondazione Bonotto, Bologna, Italy

2019

Premio Johannesburg, IIC Pretoria and MIBAC, Johannesburg, South Africa

2017

Artverona Under 40 Photography Prize, Artverona, Verona, Italy

Euromobil Under 30 Prize, Artefiera, Bologna, Italy

2016

Level 0, Museo del Novecento, Milano, Italy

Nctm e l'arte, Milano, Italy (scholarship)

Shortlist, *Artevisione prize*, CareOf, Sky Arte, Milano, Italy (finalist)

2015

Premio Graziadei, Fotografia Festival Internazionale di Roma, Roma, Italy

Discovery Award, Les Rencontres des Arles, Arles, France (nomination)

2014

98ma Collettiva Giovani Artisti, Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venezia, Italy
Premio Francesco Fabbri per le arti contemporanee, Contemporary Photography Section, Villa Brandolini, Pieve di Soligo, Italy
Kassel Photobook Award, Kassel, Germany (finalist)

2013

Premio Francesco Fabbri for Contemporary Art, Villa Brandolini, Pieve di Soligo, Italy (finalist)

RESIDENCIES AND STUDY PROGRAMMES

2019

Premio Johannesburg, August House, Johannesburg; Nirox Foundation, South Africa
Digital residency, <http://lordsofchaos.sink.sexy/>

2018

Workshop, *Q-Rated, Ricerche Sensibili*, La Quadriennale di Roma, Italy
Artist in residence programme, MADE Program, Siracusa, Italy

2017

Artist in residence programme, Kūldīga Artist Residency, Kūldīga, Latvia
Artist in residence programme, Nirox Foundation, Nirox Park, Johannesburg, South Africa

2016

Artist in residence programme, Careof, Milano, Italy

2015

Artist in residence programme, Fondazione Spinola Banna per l'Arte, Banna, Torino, Italy
Plat(t)form program, Fotomuseum, Winterthur

2014

Artist in residence programme, Urban Symphonies, Exposed Project, DOCVA, Fabbrica del Vapore, Milano, Italy

COLLECTIONS (SELECTED)

Collezione Campiani, Italy
Collezione Maccaferri, Italy
Euromobil, Italy
Fondazione Francesco Fabbri, Italy
Graziadei Studio Legale, Italy
MuFoCo – Museo di Fotografia Contemporanea di Cinisello Balsamo, Italy
MAXXI – Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI secolo, Roma, Italy
Nirox Foundation, South Africa
Les Rencontres des Arles, France