AXEL SWAN MALDINI

Between stereotype and counterculture, tradition and progress, didactics and fluid modernity.

The parameters of the project are aimed at exploring some aspects of the relationship between social change, in the field of adolescent education and Italian tradition.

An introspection into today's youth self-formation with the aim of portraying the ways in which masculinity and femininity are interpreted and exhibited in a country where tradition adapts to contemporaneity and internationality.

The photographs are a reflection on the general panorama of the country, comparing different realities: from large cities to the provinces, from cosmopolitan to rural and consequently the social and psychological aspect of the concept of being, having to be, feeling or not feeling onself in the "assigned" societal role, beyond the gender limits assigned at birth.

The point of interest is therefore to tell the personal journey in self-discovery and celebrate the finesse and fragility of adolescence understood as a period of self-discovery and acceptance, where masculinity and femininity can find a point meeting or simply one becoming the other or one overpowering the other and vice versa.

Manual work, a young head of a family, a uniform, competitive sport, the "clique", the mask, scars, loneliness, wearing a dress, wearing makeup.

Belonging, appearance, transition and identification.

The aim of the project would be to produce a series of portraits and images relating to the theme of adolescence and self-formation in the Italian context today.

Leaving aside the nostalgia of adolescence and the celebration of a particular place and focusing on the psychological aspect in order to create a realistic overview.

I would also like to add excerpts from personal diaries (or thoughts written at the time of the photo) and quotes from literature and art that may contradict or validate the reality of being a young individual in Italy today, creating a contrasting duality between tradition and stereotype and modernity and fluidity of expression.

As if it were a letter written with love from the future, a sort of travel diary intended as a training path that leads to reflection and what is up for discussion of the paradigms in the Italian context, putting to the test what are still largely some of the distinctive elements that characterize it: a consistent rigidity of gender models and contracts; demographic behaviors still quite "traditional" when compared to other European contexts; emphasis on the quality of intrafamilial care; a welfare model built, more than others, on the rigidity of the gender system, on the moral obligation of family subsidiarity, on the indefinite extension of economic ties between generations, on the role of female intergenerational networks considered primarily responsible for care work. As is easy to understand, the survival of such a system is still largely dependent on antithetical masculinity and femininity and traditional gender relations.







































































