Đani Celija

Shuffled Nudes

SHUFFLED NUDES

The Pula based photographer Đani Celija has been using the female body as the primary and exclusive theme of his artistic photographic opus for many years. With his black and white nudes Celia bears us a gift of aesthetic delight that is conveyed both with a classical photography mindset that is almost disregarded today and his photographic handling of the female body. It could be said that Celija, in a certain way, follows the path long set by Croatian photographers such as Aleksander Karoly or Jozo Četković that defined the perception of nude photography in Croatia in the sixties of the last century. In all probability, Celija does not find the mentioned artists inspirational in the least, but he does, among other things, come close to their work thanks to a personal artistic experiment during which he tries to achieve the postulates of analog photography by use of digital technology. Celija's nudes are black and white compositions in which the female body is the primary and only focus of interest; however, the body is not photographed as an object just for its sake: by use of photographic procedures Celija stirs the outlines of female bodies so that they wonderfully come to life. Celija knowingly nurtures the notion of the nude inveterate in the art photography milieus before the appearance of Mapplethorpe's aggressive and suggestive photography that appeared as an equivalent of the times we live in. It is evident that Đani wishes, as much as this is possible, to distance himself from the hypertrophic and stressful rhythms of modern life and he therefore reaches for the beauty of the female body as a metaphorical force evoking long lost times. His photographs bring one rest and relaxation, in an instant they take us into a timeless space because they simply emanate beauty. Nudes placed in natural or artificial backgrounds represent Celija's non-binding world, an environment in which he is relaxed and free, representing his haven and his flight from a stressful business and social everyday life. The photographs clearly manifest the intimate world of the author, a world much different than the one surrounding us, which we need to rediscover and surrender to. It is clear that the author enjoys his choice of framing that transpires with an utterly liberating, relaxing and intimate approach of an inspired light which is the true mover of Đani's photographic work. In fact, in his photographs the author suspends us in an indefinite time, between past and present, a time that has not stopped but that inexorably passes beside us. Of course, he does not achieve this just by an impeccable use of

Đani Celija

1977. - rodio se u Puli - Hrvatska.
1990. - počinje eksperimentirati s fotografijom.
1991. - kao srednjoškolac radi kao fotolaborant i fotoreporter (Glas Istre, La voce
      del popolo).
1998. - diplomira na ISFAV-u -Padova, Italija.
1997. - 2000. - radi kao asistent i fotograf (Italija, Austrija, Švicarska, Egipat).
2001. - 2007. - predaje fotografiju u Obrtničkoj školi u Puli.
2001. - 2004. - radi za Jutarnji List kao fotoreporter.
2002. - otvara svoj studio za industrijsku i reklamnu fotografiju.
do 2012. godine održao je 12 samostalnih izložbi.

Član je HDLU-a Istre i ULUPUH-a.
Živi i radi u Puli.

1977 - born in Pula -Croatia.
1990 - started experimenting with photography.
1991 - as a high school student worked as a darkroom printmaker and photojournalist (Glas Istre, La voce del popolo).
1998 - he graduated at ISFAV - Padova, Italy.
1997 - 2000 - worked as a photoassistant and photographer (Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Egypt)
2001 - 2007 - worked as teacher of photography at the Vocational high school.
2001 - 2004 - worked for the national newspaper Jutarnji List as a photojournalist.
2002 - opened his studio for industrial and comercial photography.
Untill 2012 he has had 12 solo exibitions.

He is a member of The Croatian Association of Artists - Region of Istria (HDLU Istra), and The Croatian Association of Artists of Applied Arts (ULUPUH).
He works and lives in Pula.