

**Art | Basel**

SCOPE MIAMI BEACH

November 29 - December 4 2016

# **Occh-10 / *Eye-1***

by Annalaura di Luggo



The artist **Annalaura di Luggo** has exhibited around the world **Occh-IO/Eye-I**, her performance-photography project born in order to capture and amplify a peculiar aspect of identity, belonging to everyone: "the eye". It emphasizes the word "I" to evoke the singularity of each individual.

**"Occh-IO /EYE-I"** is a special and particular part of **Anna Laura di Luggo's** creative path.

It's a journey to discover the sublime, the beauty of human identity, the uniqueness of the self being considered as the basic assumption to explain relationships among individuals.

**Annalaura di Luggo's** work introduces the new concept of **"EYEPRINT"**.

The exploration of this **"EYEPRINT"**, partially apparent, but indelibly marked in everyone's eyes, evokes a peculiar trajectory of research, aimed to find a potential answer to the innermost questions of every single person about the knowledge of ourselves and of the world.

The artist has over a thousand shots in her archives that concern the wider variety of human types: the famous and celebrities, such as members of the **Kennedy family**, and those deviant, such as minor prisoners of Nisida jail, **Hollywood actors such as Antonio Banderas, Robert Davi and Jeremy Irons** and the homeless or individuals with disabilities ... Anyone is welcome, behind her lens.





The desire of **Annalaura** is to meet the human being, stripped of every type of prejudice, with an approach free from preconceived ideas that are automatically structured in relation to social status, age, sex, religion: the eye's artistic representation of **Annalaura di Luggo** puts the uniqueness of the iris at the center of a black universe, because it is able to "absorb" all colors, freeing subjectivity from any possible discrimination.

The artist work is a search for the individual identity, for other's nature, rummaging almost intrusively in the depth of a person's eye, digging among the signs of his/her uniqueness, to find traces of own one. A difficult and harsh trip, which runs on steep and dangerous paths, though being delicate deep and punctilious at the same time.

It starts catching the detail of a particular part, as a way to open a comprehension path over a wider scenario, made on a field where both the observer and the observed switch roles continuously.

The real issue at stake is the highest possible: the comprehension of the self-being.



"Every human being - **Annalaura di Luggo tells** - is a unique and wonderful creation of God which embodies a world to explore. For this reason I decided to start my investigation from the eye, which was the mirror of the soul for the ancients. I like to define myself a **Soul scout**".

In fact, the artist focuses not only on creating a large iris portrait, as this is only the starting point of an investigation into the character, history and identity of a subject.

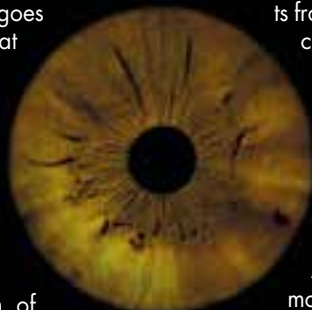
## PATH

The main assumption of this artistic path is the will to go beyond a superficial glance. A face-to-face interview with the protagonist, a dialogue about the important things in his/her life and personality, comes before the shooting. The intention is to create an intimate feeling between Annalaura and the person being shot, who, in a certain way, is pushed to express his/her emotions; a profound dialogue brings to light fundamental traits often hidden, forgotten or indeed removed.

Then the shooting starts.



Capturing in the eye something that goes beyond a superficial observation or that is not "technically" perceived by the simple look is the artist's desire. The focus is concentrated on the iris; the eye may be marked by stress and time, but the iris remains alive and wonderful, it maintains intact as the expression of the singularity of the individual.



Shooting strictly reflects the intuition of the photographer. The picture is taken in the dark, not allowing the iris to reflect the surrounding environment, minimizing the influence of the external space.

Most macro lenses are not sophisticated enough to capture the three-dimensional elements, so **the artist developed her patented technique to portray the iris** with no light reflection and imported instrumen-

ts from ophthalmology world to reproduce, as closely as possible, the structure of the eye.

Far from being a pure exercise in style on iris colors, the focus is on the image of the depth of the organ perceptible only through a three-dimensional rendering.

The post production is almost minimal, **Annalaura di Luggo** does a strategic move in order to achieve the best expressive result; while her work is high-definition and high-fidelity, she skips any kind of invention, without escaping "creative" needs, which require interpretation, as an essential condition of any representation.

The eye is the only protagonist, disclosing all its cracks and roughness, emergencies and depressions, particularities and special colors, both its empty and full parts.



Life, after all, is this synthesis, never fully accomplished, between presence and absence, difference and repetition, permanence and lack, balance and unbalance.

The work of **Annalaura di Luggo** wants to be a celebration of life proposed in its essential "complexity." It's a possible way to highlight the value of human being, its identity, its meaning, its rights.

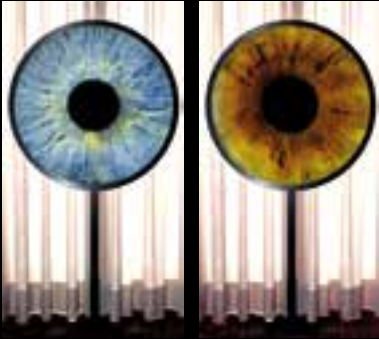
"The attention given to the eye - **Annalaura di Luggo** says - is emblematic of an overall interest in other's life, in personal sensibility that every individual shows in order to be able to comprehend and welcome him/her. It's also a way to remember how useful can be to look deeply in people's eyes, a concept which too many times, many people, tend to escape. In each there is a wonderful and singular essence to be discovered and **everyone is invited by me to reveal his/her uniqueness and to become an artwork** ".



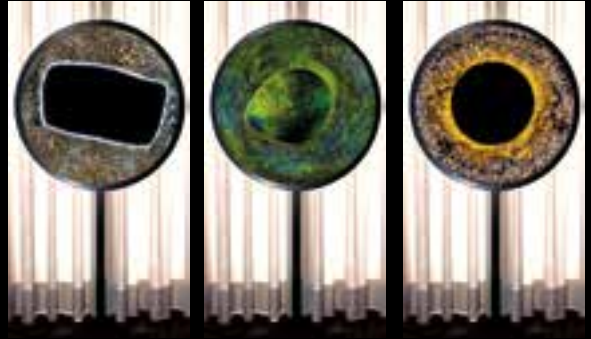
# MIAMI ART BASEL - SCOPE exposition

**Annalaura di Luggo** started her research on animals with various fish species including, sea bream, octopus, groupers, moray eels as well as domestic animals such as dogs and cats, and various species of insects including the bee and dragonfly.

## *Gaze of man*



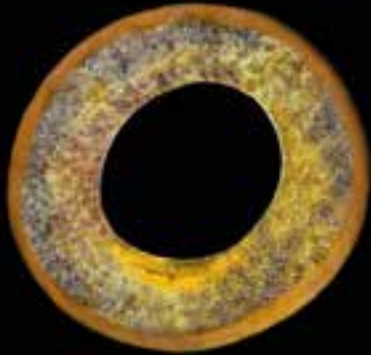
## *Gaze of the sea*



Octopus

Green wrasse

Moray



Red sea bream



Man's gaze / Cat's gaze

# Show and shooting moments







Sea Photos by artist Annalaura Di Loggio

# Future projects

## Blind vision

After her last, most significant exhibitions - such as "**Journeys**" in the USA **curated by Raisa Clavijo**, "**Never Give Up**" **curated by Guido Cabib** dedicated to the world of juvenile prisoners of Nisida Jail, "**An Triebe Im Wandel**" at the Heidelberg museum, "**Sea visions**" **commissioned by the International Boat Show in Genoa which counted 130,000 visitors,**" **Movision** "dedicated to the world of cinema and fiction - **Annalaura di Luggo** next step is a work dedicated to blind people named "**Blind vision**"

Can a blind man see? This idea seems paradoxical. And yet, if we think of "seeing" as the ability to create internal mental representations that can contain visual details, the idea of blind vision becomes a concept under investigation.

We see the world through our own eyes. It really couldn't be any other way, of course. As Bateson put it "**every observation is made by an observer**". In other words, we ourselves create every representation of things.

And based on a research on mental imagery, spatial cognition, and compensation mechanisms in sensory, cognitive and cortex in people with total or profound visual impairment, you get to find out that our brain does not need our eyes to "see".

**Annalaura di Luggo** decides, through her art project "**Blind Vision**", to **sensitize the collectivity "to the world of those who can't see the world "**



It is another, far-from marginal example of the many aspects of this artist's journey and her search to find a key to the mystery of human existence. This is not an easy journey. It winds its way down difficult, thorny paths, in search of any viable and effective key to understanding the meaning of life, its manifest and tangible dimension as well as its profound spiritual, sacred connotation. This is an exploration, a search for the creative power that drives the world into being, the energy that fuels human action, the power that is an imperceptible yet fundamental source of existential nourishment.

**The artistic representation of Annalaura di Luggo's work will be an exhibition presented in May 2016 at Colosimo Museum in Naples. The Vernissage will be on May 1st**

**Testimonial of the event the talented blind pianist Ivan Dalia** who will perform with an original composition

Sound designer **Paky Maio** will curate the audio portion of the installation and there will be an exhibition of scene photos by photographer **Sergio Siano**.

There will also be the premiere of the **documentary directed by Nanni Zedda entitled "Blind Vision, the inner light"** that will be presented in all main international festivals.





**Annalaura di Luggo** (1970) was born in Naples, graduated with honors in Economics from Federico II University; she lives and works in Napoli. She is also managing Director of Fiat Mare, CEO of Annydi Productions and President of 3xTe NPO.

### Solo Shows:

- **USA, Miami Beach**, Art Basel - Scope Miami Beach
- **Italia, Castellammare di Stabia** "MOVIsion" Gala Cinema Fiction
- **Italia, Genoa** "Sea Visions, 7 viewpoints" 56th Genoa International Boat Show;
- **Germany, Heidelberg** "Stimuli for change" University Museum of Heidelberg/Bel Etage;
- **Italy, Naples**, "Never Give up The Donation" curated by Guido Cabib; permanent exhibition - Juvenile Jail of Nisida;
- **Monaco, Monte-Carlo** Salle des Etoiles curated by Guido Cabib;
- **USA, Miami** White Dot Gallery;
- **Italy, Milan**, The Format Gallery, curated by Guido Cabib;
- **Italy, Turin**, "Never Give Up" / The Others Fair, Special Project, curated by Guido Cabib
- **Italy, Milan**, Le Stelline Foundation: vernissage and conference "occh-IO/Eye-I mirror of the soul, a journey between science and faith"
- **Italy, Milan**, Monte Paschi di Siena, event for Expo 2015

### Group Shows:

- **USA, Boca Raton, Florida**, "Journeys", curated by Raisa Clavijo;
- **Italy, Reggio Calabria** "This house is not an hotel" curated by Giuseppe Capparelli;

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**Occh-IO/Eye-I**

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