

RIFUGIO DIGITALE

## **SKIN**

### **Giulia Bersani**

*The Body I Live In*

Florence, via della Fornace 41  
**January 29, 2025**

**6.30 pm**

Opening at Rifugio Digitale with Giulia Bersani and the curators.

**From January 29 to February 23, Rifugio Digitale presents the exhibition *Skin*, by the photographer Giulia Bersani, as the first in a new cycle of exhibitions devoted to contemporary photography entitled *The Body I Live In*, conceived by Irene Alison and curated by Irene Alison and Paolo Cagnacci. This first event, organized in collaboration with Forma Edizioni and Associazione Infoto Firenze, will be inaugurated on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., with the presence of the artist and the curators.**

*The Body I Live In* is the third exhibition cycle of Rifugio Digitale devoted to contemporary photography. It is a study of the body as the foundational element of the human being – living matter that resists the virtualization of existences and creative processes – with a focus, in harmony with the themes already featured by the gallery, on the dialogue between the “inner life” (the intimate and introspective dimension) and the “outer world” (the physical and sentimental architecture we build).

The body is a sensitive topic, fertile terrain, a changing landscape. Giulia Bersani touches it with her camera's eye, without shame, without fear. Close up – very close – inside the folds of the skin, in its scars, between the hairs, between the legs. There is nothing reassuring about her rebellious bodies; they reject the rules, the expectations, the anxiety of judgement and the dictatorship of definitions. They are not smooth, not shapely; they are naked and hungry. Hungry for life, for intimacy, for freedom. And they don't give a damn about all the rest. They are bodies that pulsate, pant, weep. Crossroads of desires and passions, fluid bodies made of fluids: sweat, blood and saliva.

Giulia, 32, tells their stories, mingles with them, lies in their beds and in their arms, shows us their physicality in the most expressive sense of that word, appropriate for a project of flesh and matter – with analogue photography. Her work has gained traction in recent years, also thanks to the following she has acquired on Instagram. She has a raw, visceral energy that finds compromise impossible, whether it is toward media censure or the demands of the glossy reviews. She has totally interiorized her rough edges.

*Skin* by Giulia Bersani – the first personal exhibition of the new cycle that Rifugio Digitale devotes to contemporary photography: *The Body I Live In*, conceived by Irene Alison and curated by Irene Alison and Paolo Cagnacci – focused on the dimension of the human body as the outer limit of human identity, point of contact for our awareness of the world, on which we build our relationships, as a cry of rebellion.

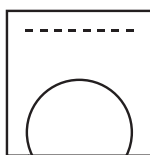


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From the day of the opening, it will also be possible to view the catalog of available works by **Giulia Bersani** both in the gallery and on the Forma Edizioni website, [www.formaedizioni.it](http://www.formaedizioni.it).

***Skin***  
**Giulia Bersani**  
**January 29 - February 23, 2025**  
Wed.-Sun. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Rifugio Digitale**  
via della Fornace, 41  
50125 - Firenze(FI)

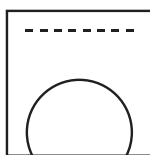


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Giulia Bersani, *Lux, bocca*, 2022

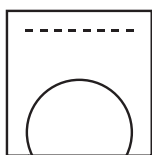


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Giulia Bersani, *Lux, occhio*, 2022



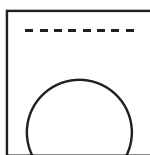
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Giulia Bersani, *Anna, mani con anello*, 2022

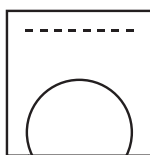


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### Giulia Bersani

Born and raised in Milan, Giulia Bersani became interested in photography during the final years of high school. This interest emerged from a profound fear of death and the passage of time; the idea of capturing precious moments of life reassured her, allowing her to preserve their value. Over the years, she has worked on various personal projects, developing an intimate and raw style characterized by her choice to shoot exclusively on film. She later sought to bring the same authenticity and sensitivity to her commissioned work.



Giulia Bersani



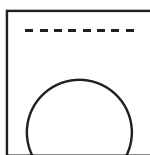
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## Irene Alison

Professional journalist and photo-consultant by profession, Irene Alison was born in Naples in 1977.

She is the creative director of the DER\*LAB studio of photographic consulting and design, and teaches at the European Institute of Design in Rome. She has collaborated as a tutor and consultant with several of the most prestigious Italian schools of photography (Isfci, Rufa, Scuola Romana di Fotografia in Rome and Fondazione Studio Marangoni in Florence, among others). As editor, she has worked for *Il Manifesto* and for *D - la Repubblica delle Donne*. As a freelancer, she has produced articles, with photographs, published in *Geo France*, *The Independent*, *l'Espresso*, *D*, *XL*, *Marie Claire* and *Riders*. Her articles of photographic criticism have also been published in periodicals like *La Lettura* de *Il Corriere della Sera*, *Il Sole 24 ore* and *Pagina99*. She has published two essays of photograph research, *My generation* (Postcart, 2012) and *iRevolution* (Postcart, 2014). Since 2020 she has been collaborating with CRFS Lipu in Rome, an important Italian rescue center for the recovery of wild animals, documenting its work photographically and managing its visual advertising. In 2022 the American publisher Yoffy Press put out *Holding Time*, a book written with the photographer Catherine Panebianco, for which Irene wrote the texts. Currently, she is the curator of the exhibition cycles *Homecoming* and *SuperNatural* at the Rifugio Digitale Gallery, devoted to contemporary photography. In 2023 her first photographic book was published by Postcart (*La Madre Attesa*, curated by Laia Abril). In 2024 she expects to public a new essay, *Muse col Muso*, the imaginary animal in contemporary photography: animals, and their cultural and iconographic representations, of which she write in her blog, *Zazie Dogzine*.

## Paolo Cagnacci

Professional photographer and photography teacher, Paolo Cagnacci was born in Florence in 1971.

He studied photography at Fondazione Studio Marangoni, where he currently teaches portrait photography and lighting techniques. He has done photographic projects for Regione Toscana, Festival della Creatività, Festival dei Popoli, Osservatorio dei Balcani, Fondazione Michelucci, Tempo Reale, Unicoop Firenze, Comune di Firenze, Fondazione Telecom, Mibact, CNA. He has worked for companies such as Patrizia Pepe, Diesel, Paula Cademartori, Peuterey, Starbucks, Stefanel, Ottodame, Dmail. He has published his images in magazines such as *D la Repubblica*, *Corriere della Sera*, *la Repubblica*, *La Stampa*, *Sette*, *SportWeek*, *L'Espresso*, *Pagina99*, *Specchio*, *Left*, *Donna Moderna*, *Famiglia Cristiana*, *La Lettura*, and *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. His projects have been distributed by Luz Photo Agency and Parallelozero Agency.

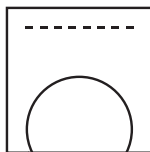


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**Skin**  
**Giulia Bersani**  
**29.01-23.02.2025**

AN EXHIBITION PROMOTED BY  
Rifugio Digitale

IN COLLABORATION WITH  
Forma Edizioni  
Associazione Infoto Firenze

ART DIRECTION  
Laura Andreini

EXHIBIT CURATED BY  
Irene Alison  
Paolo Cagnacci

SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION  
Beatrice Papucci  
Andrea Benelli  
Chiara Mezzabotta  
Ester Menichelli

TRANSLATIONS  
Katherine Fay

EXHIBITION TEXTS  
Irene Alison

MUSIC OF  
Palazzi D'Oriente, *Corpo Music*, 2025

PRESS OFFICE AND COMMUNICATION  
Associazione Rifugio Digitale  
Niccolò Natali  
Giulia Guasti  
Eugenio Pincelli

GRAPHIC AND SET-UP PROJECT  
Veronica Paoli  
Vitoria Muzi  
Mattia Gerardi

VIDEO INSTALLATION  
TNT Events S.r.l.



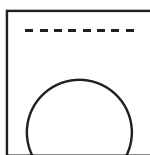
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## Forma Edizioni

*Forma* is an editorial (publishing) initiative developed in order to allow the dissemination and knowledge of avenues and experiences belonging to the world of art, architecture photography and more generally, to promote the best research in production and technology, following the changing lifestyles and contemporary living.

Since its foundation in 2010, the catalogue has grown with about twenty titles a year giving "form" to the expressive traces that animate today's cultural debate, deepening both specific areas of knowledge already known to the public, and investigating those intellectual and artistic areas considered, for various reasons, revealing new points of observation of reality. A common feature of each project is the high quality of the product, images, printing, typographic or IT processes used, as well as a targeted diffusion and distribution in places of use, such as specialized bookstores, museum bookshops and exhibition sites, which they add to the normal availability on the net that necessary and indispensable presence in the "sites" where opinions and evaluations of merit are built.

The publications range from, important monographs dedicated to contemporary and renowned architectural works, such as *Cantina Antinori. Chronicle of the construction of a new landscape*, research and insights related to university study issues, catalogues of important exhibitions, such as the one hosted at the Cini Foundation of Venice *EST. Italian travel, city and architecture stories* curated by Luca Molinari or the monographic exhibition hosted at the MAXXI Museum in Rome *Gio Ponti. Love architecture* in 2019.

Exhibitions and events expand the cultural enhancement process that *Forma* sets out to offer to a refined and attentive public. The publishing house is in fact involved in the creation of volumes relating to the exhibitions annually hosted at the Forte di Belvedere in Florence and at the Stefano Bardini Museum and to the monographic exhibitions hosted in private galleries dedicated to artists of the calibre of Alighiero Boetti, Arnaldo Pomodoro, Lucio Fontana and Alberto Burri. There is no shortage of photography and design texts, such as the important monograph dedicated to the work and life of Karim Rashid, or the overview of contemporary Milanese design *The Design City. Milan city laboratory*. The *On the road city* architectural guide series is currently under construction. Mainly focused on contemporary works, each volume investigates the peculiar aspects of the most important cities in the world, proposing a critical reading of future scenarios. The publishing house has counted important collaborations with personalities of high intellectual depth and international fame such as the late Adolfo Natalini, founder architect of Superstudio, Bruno Corà, Luca Massimo Barbero and Sergio Risaliti, art critics and historians, Luca Molinari, architecture critic.

## Forma Edizioni

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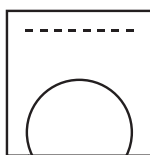


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## Rifugio Digitale

Rifugio Digitale is a new exhibition space in a former bomb shelter tunnel repurposed as a site devoted to the promotion of digital art, where architecture, design, photography, cinema, literature and all the other multiple forms of art and visual expression find their dimension and interact with one another. It was built on the foundations of an old anti-aircraft tunnel that served from 1943 as a bomb shelter in World War II. It was known as the *Forge Refuge* a safe haven during the tragedy of the war, and now it has been rechristened as the *Digital Refuge*, a place of rebirth, where technology meets art, offering a contemporary space where people can explore creativity through the modern language of technology.

The requalification project, handled by Archea Associati, will house digital expressions of every kind, with an eye always on the future and on the new vanguards. In collaboration with the publisher **Forma Edizioni**, it will house exhibitions, but also events and performances related to art, architecture, photography, literature, cinema and other initiatives linked to the digital world. It will show original views and more on the 16 screens positioned along the 33 meters of the tunnel, a new idea for Florence where the connection between art, people and technology generates an intense visual experience, unexpected and interactive. It is a space designed for constant change, always dynamic, with a new and exciting speed that distinguishes it from a traditional art gallery.

Rifugio Digitale occupies an area of 165 square meters and is a versatile structure ideal for organizing exhibitions, events, presentation, but also debates, lectures and simple discussions. It is expected to appeal to a vast public desirous of indulging their interest in ideas and novel cultural experiences right in the heart of Florence.

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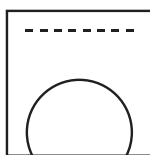


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Archea Associati, Rifugio Digitale, Firenze, 2022  
ph. Pietro Savorelli and Associati



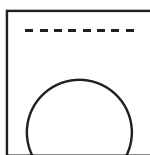
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Archea Associati, Rifugio Digitale, Firenze, 2022  
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