RIFUGIO DIGITALE

Flowers Drink The River
Pia-Paulina Guilmoth

17.07 - 07.09.2025

From July 17 to September 7, 2025, **Rifugio Digitale** presents ***Flowers Drink The River*** by **Pia-Paulina Guilmoth**, the fifth event in the series ***The Body I Live In***, dedicated to contemporary photography and curated by Irene Alison and Paolo Cagnacci. The exhibition is organized in collaboration with **Cortona On The Move** and **Forma Edizioni**. The opening will take place on July 17 at 7,00 pm at Rifugio Digitale.

Flowers Drink The River by Pia-Paulina Guilmoth is an intimate and visually enchanted narrative of her first two years of gender transition, set amidst the natural surroundings of rural Maine.

Organized in collaboration with **Cortona On The Move**, the exhibition will also be on view in Cortona from July 17 to November 2, fostering a complementary dialogue between photography and video.
The event also marks the launch of ***(Pre)Visioni***, **Rifugio Digitale's photography podcast** curated by Irene Alison and directed by Paolo Cagnacci. The first episode, dedicated to the artist's dark and poetic imagery, will feature **Paolo Woods**, artistic director of Cortona On The Move, as a guest.

Florence, via della Fornace 41
July 17, 2025

6,00 pm
Press conference with the **curators** at **Rifugio Digitale**
Event by reservation, by writing to info@rifugiodigitale.it

7,00 pm
Opening at **Rifugio Digitale**

Each photograph is a ritual, a promise, a secret. Each image is an open window onto a borderland of dreams

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and mystery, of grace and wonder. In Flowers Drink The River, on view at Rifugio Digitale starting July 17, American photographer Pia-Paulina Guilmoth tells and celebrates the first two years of her gender transition, lived within a conservative community in rural Maine. Through her connection with the natural world, she discovers a safe space in which to recognize herself in her new skin, nurture her desires, and weave her relationship with an ancestral dimension. In her images, Guilmoth traps stars in a web of spider silk and captures the moon in a pond, celebrating the beauty and magic surrounding her. Her work is built on long periods of waiting, wandering through the darkness of the forest, silent interactions with nocturnal creatures, surprising apparitions, and an ineffable quality that makes her photographs as powerful as a hymn and as delicate as a caress. Nature becomes a place of comfort, where she can observe and learn from the behaviors of animals, insects, and plants, drawing from them a lesson in perseverance.

In collaboration with Cortona On The Move, Pia-Paulina Guilmoth's work will also be exhibited in Cortona starting **July 17**. Conceived to exist in complementary dialogue, the two exhibitions form a single journey that, through photography and video, opens up a broad perspective on the artist's universe.

Pia-Paulina Guilmoth's exhibition will also mark the **launch of (Pre)Visioni**, the **photography podcast by Rifugio Digitale**, narrated by Irene Alison and directed by Paolo Cagnacci, will debut with an episode dedicated to the dark and psychedelic imagery of Pia-Paulina Guilmoth.
Special guest in the studio will be **Paolo Woods**, Artistic Director of Cortona On The Move.

From the day of the inauguration, it will be possible to consult the catalogue of works by **Pia-Paulina Guilmoth** available at the gallery, on our website www.rifugiodigitale.it and on the website of Forma Edizioni, www.formaedizioni.it.

Flowers Drink The River
Pia-Paulina Guilmoth
July 17 - September 7, 2025
Wed-Sat 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

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

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Pia-Paulina Guilmoth

Lives and makes art in rural central Maine. Pia-Paulina Guilmoth is a working class trans woman who lives with her girlfriend and two cats. In her free time she likes to lay in the dirt, hold her friends, shoot guns, and trespass into abandoned houses and barns. The artist's work is foremost about harnessing beauty as a form of resistance to a world full of terrors. Pia released her third book in November 2024 with Stanley/Barker titled *Flowers Drink the River*. Between 2024 and 2025 she has two major solo exhibitions open in London, and New York City with CLAMP Gallery, and Webber Gallery. In 2024 she won a Google/Aperture Creator Labs grant, and a Peter Reed Foundation grant in photography. In 2022 she was a MacDowell Fellow in Visual Arts. From 2018 to 2021 she was the winner of the Fujifilm Young Talent Award, a Mass Cultural Council fellow in photography, and a finalist for the Aperture Portfolio Prize. In 2021 she released her second monograph with Stanley/Barker.

Pia-Paulina Guilmoth, photo by Jesse Bull Saffire

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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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AN EXHIBITION PROMOTED BY
Associazione Rifugio Digitale E.T.S.

IN COLLABORATION WITH
Cortona On The Move
Forma Edizioni

ART DIRECTION
Laura Andreini

EXHIBIT CURATED BY
Irene Alison
Paolo Cagnacci

SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION
Beatrice Papucci
Andrea Benelli
Chiara Mezzabotta
Ester Menichelli

EXTERNAL RELATIONS
Irene Borsotti

TRANSLATIONS
Katherine Fay

EXHIBITION TEXTS
Irene Alison

PRESS OFFICE AND COMMUNICATION
Associazione Rifugio Digitale E.T.S.
Niccolò Natali
Giulia Guasti
Eugenio Pincelli

MUSIC BY
Greef (Iris M.), dall'album Visual Vibration, 2025

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

VIDEO INSTALLATION
Associazione Rifugio Digitale E.T.S.

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Cortona On The Move

The international photography festival Cortona On The Move has been held since 2011 in Cortona, Tuscany, in the province of Arezzo. A major player in global photographic production, the festival is a point of reference for photographers, curators, authors, critics, and the general public alike.
Now in its fourteenth edition, under the direction of Veronica Nicolardi, the artistic direction of Paolo Woods, and the photographic curation of Kublaiklan, the festival focuses on documentary storytelling and highlights contemporary and socially relevant themes.
At a time in history when photography has become the most universal tool for narrating the world we live in, the festival aims to make it accessible and understandable to a wide audience, turning it into a vehicle for cultural exchange and enrichment.
Each year, Cortona On The Move continues its exploration of the evolution of photographic language, placing increasing emphasis on the production and presentation of original, previously unseen work.
Throughout the festival, events and photographic exhibitions enliven the medieval town of Cortona, enhancing its artistic heritage: from the Fortezza del Girifalco, a Medici-era fortress overlooking the town, to historic buildings and evocative open-air spaces.

Cortona On The Move was founded and is produced by the cultural association ON THE MOVE, whose mission is to promote and disseminate contemporary photography.

Cortona On The Move
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RIFUGIO DIGITALE

Forma Edizioni

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.

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