RIFUGIO DIGITALE

Body As a Living Archive
Izabela Jurcewicz

15.10 - 09.11.2025

From October 15 to November 9, 2025, **Rifugio Digitale** presents ***Body As a Living Archive*** by **Izabela Jurcewicz**, the sixth exhibition in the cycle ***The Body I Live In***, dedicated to contemporary photography and curated by Irene Alison and Paolo Cagnacci. The exhibition is organized in collaboration with **Forma Edizioni**. The opening will take place on October 15 at **6,30 PM** at Rifugio Digitale, preceded by a **talk** at **5:00 PM** at Spazio A – Archea Associati.

The body is a map, a memory, an archive of lived experiences.
The body is a negative, preserving in its cells the trace of everything it has endured.
But the body is also a garden, to be nurtured and brought back to bloom.

Izabela Jurcewicz's body tells a story of illness and rebirth, a story that can be read through the deep scars that mark it: at the age of 19, a severe internal hemorrhage on New Year's Eve revealed the presence of a rare inter-organ tumor – an unprecedented case in her native Poland. After a nine-hour surgery, her body, examined and scanned, would forever retain the memory of that trauma.

Photography became her tool to bring that memory to light, to process it, to exorcise it.
Her series, combined into a single narrative in the solo exhibition ***Body As a Living Archive***, curated by Irene Alison and Paolo Cagnacci, unfold along this complex path – a slow healing ritual, where profound somatic memory surfaces through the imagery: to restore wholeness to flesh and identity torn by the scalpel, to deepen empathy with the suffering of others, to be reborn – starting from the roots and generating new fruit.

Starting from the opening day, a catalog of **Izabela Jurcewicz's** works available in the gallery can also be consulted on our website www.rifugiodigitale.it and on the Forma Edizioni website www.formaedizioni.it.

RIFUGIO DIGITALE

Florence, via della Fornace 41
October 15, 2025

5,00 pm
talk with **Izabela Jurcewicz** and the curators at Spazio A - Archea Associati
Entrance from Lungarno Benvenuto Cellini, 13, Florence
Event by reservation only, please write to info@rifugiodigitale.it

6,00 pm
Press conference with Izabela Jurcewicz and the curators at Rifugio Digitale
Event by reservation only, please write to info@rifugiodigitale.it

6,30 pm
Exhibition **opening** at Rifugio Digitale in the presence of **Izabela Jurcewicz** and the curators

Body As a Living Archive
Izabela Jurcewicz
October 15 – November 9, 2025
Wed–Sat, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm

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

RIFUGIO DIGITALE



Izabela Jurcewicz

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in collaborazione con
FORMA

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RIFUGIO DIGITALE

Izabela Jurcewicz

Izabela uses photographic practice to explore themes related to identity, the body, memory, health, and illness. She was the recipient of the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation Award 2021 from the International Center of Photography, and the Dior Photography and Visual Arts Award for Young Talents 2020, presented by Luma Arles & ENSP. She was also a finalist for the COCA Center for Contemporary Artists Award 2020 and the second-place winner of the Ryan R. Gibbs Photography Contest 2018, organized by New Delta Review.

Izabela's work has been featured in over thirty exhibitions held at institutions and galleries such as the International Center of Photography, ClampArt, Baxter St at CCNY, the Flatiron Gallery at the School of Visual Arts, Affirmation Arts in New York, the RISD Museum, and Padiglione Musa, as part of a collateral exhibition of the 59th Venice Biennale.

Her photographs have also been presented at numerous international photography festivals, including Unseen Amsterdam (Unseen Dummy Awards), Month of Photography in Bratislava (OFF), TIFF Festival in Wroclaw, the 12th Fotofestival in Lodz, and the 8th Biennale of Photography in Poznań. She has been a guest lecturer at the School of Visual Arts, and her work has been published by the International Center of Photography, Luma Arles, Serradifalco Editore, the University of the Arts in Poznań, Arsenal Gallery in Poznań, and BlackBox Gallery in Portland.

Her first photobook, Body as a Negative. Sensations of Return, was published by Yoffy Press in the winter of 2022.

She has given talks at the Philadelphia Photo Arts Center, the Griffin Museum of Photography in Winchester, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Izabela's work has been featured in numerous publications, including *Lenscratch Magazine, It's Nice That, Feature Shoot, C4 Journal, Fisheye Magazine, Contemporary Lynx, PhotoBook Journal, Musée Magazine, Vostok Magazine, Pupil's Sphere, and Canvas by Saatchi Art.*

Izabela holds a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Photography from the Rhode Island School of Design.

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Izabela Jurcewicz, photo by Rodrigo Lopez Gomez

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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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MOSTRA PROMOSSA DA
AN EXHIBITION PROMOTED BY
Associazione Rifugio Digitale E.T.S.

IN COLLABORAZIONE CON
IN COLLABORATION WITH
Forma Edizioni

DIREZIONE ARTISTICA
ART DIRECTION
Laura Andreini

MOSTRA A CURA DI
EXHIBIT CURATED BY
Irene Alison
Paolo Cagnacci

COORDINAMENTO SCIENTIFICO
SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION
Beatrice Papucci
Andrea Benelli
Chiara Mezzabotta
Ester Menichelli

RELAZIONI ESTERNE
EXTERNAL RELATIONS
Irene Borsotti

TRADUZIONI
TRANSLATIONS
Katherine Fay

TESTI IN MOSTRA
EXHIBITION TEXTS
Irene Alison

MUSICA DI
MUSIC BY
Izabela Jurcewicz

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

PROGETTO GRAFICO E DI ALLESTIMENTO
GRAPHIC AND SET-UP PROJECT
Veronica Paoli
Vitoria Muzi
Mattia Gerardi

INSTALLAZIONE VIDEO
VIDEO INSTALLATION
Associazione Rifugio Digitale E.T.S.

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