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LUCA SANTESE

TRAINING

2005 Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera – Nuove Tecnologie per l'Arte, Milan

2000 Diploma, ISA – Istituto Statale d'Arte, Monza

BIO ITA

Luca Santese è un artista, fotografo e curatore italiano. Ha studiato presso l'Istituto Statale d'Arte di Monza e l'Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera a Milano.

In contemporanea agli studi accademici lavora come assistente nel laboratorio di stampa di Alex Majoli e nel 2008 fonda il collettivo **Cesura**.

Nel 2010 è stato selezionato al **World Press Photo** con il progetto **Detroit 2009-2010**. Nello stesso anno ha esposto *Found Photos in Detroit* per la prima volta presso *Le Bal Space* a Parigi, seguito da mostre al *Kulturhuset* di Stoccolma, alle *OGR* di Torino e al *MoCP* di Chicago, oltre a numerose esposizioni internazionali. Nel 2012 ha pubblicato il libro **Found Photos in Detroit**, che ha ricevuto **sette nomination come miglior libro fotografico dell'anno** ed è stato selezionato da Martin Parr e Garry Badger per **Photobook: A History Vol. III**, raccolta dei **200 migliori libri fotografici dal dopoguerra a oggi**. Il progetto curatoriale di *Found Photos in Detroit* è proseguito con **Italy & Italy**, libro che raccoglie immagini dalla Riviera Romagnola degli anni '90. Ha inoltre curato la **mostra Immaginario, dedicata ai 125 anni del Touring Club Italiano**, esponendo 125 immagini originali dall'archivio fotografico del Touring. La mostra si è tenuta presso il **Palazzo della Regione Lombardia** a Milano nel 2019. Parallelamente, ha realizzato un reportage fotografico attraversando tutte le regioni italiane per conto del Touring Club Italiano. Attualmente, il suo lavoro è focalizzato sulla **ricerca fotografica** e sulla **sperimentazione documentaria**, con progetti come **Realpolitik** (2018-2024) e i libri fotografici **Il Corpo del Capitano** (2020) e **Texas Trigger** (2025). Il suo lavoro è stato pubblicato su **testate nazionali e internazionali**, tra cui *Time*, *Vogue*, *L'Espresso*, *Libération*, *Vanity Fair*, *Internazionale*, *Vice*, *Corriere della Sera*, *Il Sole 24 Ore*, *Le Monde*, *Stern*, *Die Zeit*, *La Repubblica*, *Essenziale*, *Sportweek*, *Der Freitag* e *Politico Europe*. Le sue opere sono state esposte in Europa, Stati Uniti, Russia e Asia.

BIO ENG

Luca Santese is an Italian artist, photographer, and curator. He studied at the Istituto Statale d'Arte in Monza and the Brera Academy of Fine Arts in Milan. While attending art school, he worked as an assistant in the darkroom of Alex Majoli. In 2008, he co-founded the independent collective **Cesura**.

In 2010, he was selected by the **World Press Photo** for his project **Detroit 2009–2010**. That same year, he exhibited *Found Photos in Detroit* for the first time at Le Bal Space in Paris, followed by shows at Kulturhuset in Stockholm, OGR in Turin, and MoCP in Chicago, as well as numerous other international exhibitions.

In 2012, he published the book **Found Photos in Detroit**. The book received **seven nominations as Best Photobook of the Year** and was selected by Martin Parr and Garry Badger for *Photobook: A History Vol. III*, which features the 200 most important photobooks from the postwar era to today.

The curatorial trajectory of *Found Photos in Detroit* continued with **Italy & Italy**, a photobook compiling images from the Romagna Riviera in the 1990s. He also curated the exhibition **Immaginario, dedicated to 125 years of the Touring Club Italiano**, showcasing 125 original photographs from the Touring archive. The exhibition took place in 2019 at the **Palazzo della Regione Lombardia** in Milan. In parallel, he produced a photographic reportage across all Italian regions for the Touring Club.

Currently, his work focuses on photographic **research and experimental documentary practice**, with projects such as **Realpolitik** (2018–2024) and the photobooks **Il Corpo del Capitano** (2020) and **Texas Trigger** (2025).

His work has been published in national and international outlets including *Time*, *Vogue*, *L'Espresso*, *Libération*, *Vanity Fair*, *Internazionale*, *Vice*, *Corriere della Sera*, *Il Sole 24 Ore*, *Le Monde*, *Stern*, *Die Zeit*, *La Repubblica*, *L'Essenziale*, *Sportweek*, *Der Freitag*, and *Politico Europe*. His photographs have been exhibited across Europe, the United States, Russia, and Asia.

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BOOKS:

Texas Trigger (2025)
Cesura Publish (unpublished)

Il Corpo del Capitano (2020)
Cesura Publish
ISBN 978-88-945611-0-4

Italy&Italy
by Pasquale Bove, Luca Santese
Cesura Publish, 2016 (Forthcoming)

Photobook: A History Vol: III
by Martin Parr, Gerry Badger
Phaidon, 2014
ISBN-13: 9780714866772

C PHOTO: OBSERVED
Ivorypress, 2013. Foreword by Elena Ochoa Foster.
Texts by Jörg Colberg and Aaron Schuman.
ISBN 978-84-940535-5-9

Found Photos in Detroit
Arianna Arcara, Luca Santese
Cesura Publish, 2012
ISBN: 978-88-906328-3-9

ANONYMES
L'Amérique sans nom : photographie et cinéma
David Company, Diane Dufour
Steidl, Le Bal
ISBN-13: 978-3869302157

EDITIONS:

Homo Silvio (2023) Published by Cesura Publish
Malatì (2023) Published by Cesura Publish
CESURA Fanzine #04 (2020) Published by Cesura Publish
Tik Tok Tak (2022) Published by Cesura Publish
Mask Off (2022) Published by Cesura Publish
CESURA Fanzine #03 (2020) Published by Cesura Publish
MoVimento Lento (2019) Published by Cesura Publish
Lega Nord Party (2018) Published by Cesura Publish
Popolopopolo (2018) Published by Cesura Publish
Boys Boys Boys - 2nd edition (2018) Published by Cesura Publish
Boys Boys Boys (2018) Published by Cesura Publish
CESURA Fanzine #01 (2015) Published by Cesura Publish
CESURA Fanzine #00 (2012) Published by Cesura Publish

AWARDS

Found photos in Detroit - ART BOOKS WANTED International Award 2013

Found photos in Detroit - Best photographic book of the year 2012 - Selected by Gerry Badger, Philippe Azoury, Erik Kessels, Michael Kominek, John Gossage

World Press Photo 2010 Contest - Daily Life: 3rd Prize Singles Winner

Photolucida Critical Mass 2009 - International new talent photographers Award Winner

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EXHIBITIONS

2025

Realpolitik
Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli
Festival della satira 2025
Milan, 13 June, 2025 – 13 July, 2025

2024

Realpolitik
Athens Photo Festival 2024
Benaki Museum / Pireos 138
6 June – 28 July, 2024

Realpolitik 2018-2023
Exhibition at Primo Piano - Palazzo Grillo
Genova, 3 May, 2024 - 25 July, 2024

Realpolitik 2018-2023
Exhibition at Contemporary Cluster
Rome, 21 Dec, 2023 - 7 Jan, 2024

2023

Malati Exhibition
Raise your Zine Festival
Naples, September 2023

Realpolitik 2018-2023
Exhibition at BASE Milano
23 Jun, 2 July, 2023

Mütter
The Kingdom of Forms
9 Jun – 2 Aug 2023
JERGON, Berlin

2022

Chema
Palazzo Monti
Artist Residence program, Brescia
June 20th – July 23th, 2022

Festa
Machina Live Nomadica
Spazio contemporanea, Brescia
Apr. 21st – May 16th, 2022

2019

Realpolitik Exhibition
Foto Forum Gallery, Bolzano
13.11. – 29.11.2019
Curated by: Stefano Riba

Realpolitik Exhibition + Masquerade Party
Milano Photo Week 2019, BASE, Milan

Realpolitik Exhibition - Magazzini fotografici
Napoli, May 13 – June 14th, 2019

Festa
Maurizio Caldirola Arte Contemporanea
Feb. 15th – Mar. 16th, 2019

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2018

Found Photos in Detroit

Frontiera Studio, Palermo, Italy
Sept. 17th – Oct. 7th, 2018

Le Terre della Resilienza. Un'Italia oltre

Geico Taikisha, Cinisello Balsamo, Italy
Sept. 13th - Oct. 30th, 2018

2017

Italy&Italy - Fotografie di Pasquale Bove - Curato da Luca Santese

Magazzini Fotografici, Naples, Italy.
April 1st – 25th, 2017

Italy&Italy - Fotografie di Pasquale Bove - Curato da Luca Santese

Gigantic Gallery, Milan, Italy.
February 16st – 25th, 2017

2016

CESURE

Museo di Casa Romei. September 24th to November 6th, 2016,
Curated by: Nicola Patrino, Andrea Sardo - Idea: Luca Santese

Found photos in Detroit by Arianna Arcara & Luca Santese

MWW - Wroclaw Contemporay Museum
Tiff Festival 2016. Wroclaw, Poland - Sept 1st - 18th, 2016

Italy&Italy - Fotografie di Pasquale Bove - Curato da Luca Santese

Fotografia Europea 2016: Reggio Emilia
May 6th - July 18th, 2016

Dark/Light Exhibition

Il Giardino dei pensieri di Laura
Geico Taikisha, Cinisello Balsamo, Italy
Feb 28th - April 12th, 2016

2015

Cambiamenti Exhibition

MuFoCo - Museum of Contemporary Photography, Cinisello Balsamo, Italy
curate by Roberta Valtorta e Diletta Zannelli
Sept 20th, 2015 - January 31st, 2016
Collective exhibition by Cesura

Found photos in Detroit by Arianna Arcara & Luca Santese

Fotografia Europea 2015: Reggio Emilia
May 15th - July 26rd, 2015

Found photos in Detroit by Arianna Arcara & Luca Santese

Format Festival 2015: Evidence - Derby UK
March 13rd - April 23rd, 2015

Found photos in Detroit by Arianna Arcara & Luca Santese

Clark House Initiative - Focus Photography Festival - Mumbai
March 12nd - March 23rd, 2015

Found photos in Detroit by Arianna Arcara & Luca Santese

Giacomo Guidi - Arte Contemporanea - Roma
February 6th - March 7th, 2015

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2014

Found photos in Detroit by Arianna Arcara & Luca Santese
Daegu Photo Biennale - South Korea
Sept 12 - Oct 19, 2014

Archive State Exhibition

Jan 21 - April 6, 2014, Mosp, Chicago
Found Photos in Detroit project

2013

Found photos in Detroit by Arianna Arcara & Luca Santese
Destroyed images 040 Festival, Hamburg, Germany

Architettura in Città 2013

OGR Space, Turin, Italy Officine Grandi Riparazioni Torino
Found Photos in Detroit project

Cesura Collective exhibition 2013

Rosignano Photo Festival
Castello Pasquini, Rosignano, Italy

2012

Found photos in Detroit by Arianna Arcara & Luca Santese
Guate Photo - International photography festival Guatemala City

Slideluck Amsterdam

curated by Erik Kessels
Found Photos in Detroit project

Found photos in Detroit by Arianna Arcara & Luca Santese
Kulturhuset, Stockholm cultural centre - Sweden

TIFF International Photography Festival

Wroclaw, Poland selected by Marc Feustel
Found Photos in Detroit project

2011

Revolution(es)

Istituto Cervantes, New York city
Curated by Julien Jourdes and Matthew Craig
Evidence of Libyan Civil War project

Lybian civil war

Eclats D'Afrique exhibition
Spazio Gerra, Reggio Emilia - Italy

Cesura Inprint

Micamera Bookstore, Milano, Italy
Collective exhibition by Cesura

2010

Anonymes Exhibition

Le Bal Space, Paris - France
Found photos in Detroit project
curated by David Company and Diane Dufour.

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2009

Sull'amore Exhibition

Spazio Villas, Trieste, Italy
Cesura collective exhibition

The Family Album

Reportage Atri Festival
Collective exhibition by Cesura
June 9th - 19th, 2017 - Atri, Italy

Fotosintesi

International Festival of Photography, Piacenza, Italy
Collective exhibition by Cesura

Sull'amore

Collective exhibition by Cesura
Fotografia Europea 2009: Reggio Emilia
Festival at Circolo Artistico Godot, Reggio Emilia, Italy
Curated by Cesura in collaboration with Lollo.

Cesuralab Collective

Inauguration of Photographer's Room, Milan, Italy
Collective exhibition by Cesura

Dimensione Max 10X12 Exhibition

Festival Internazionale di fotografia, Roma, Italy
Collective exhibition by Cesura

2008

Collective Cesuralab

Inauguration of Cesuralab Studio,
Pianello Val Tidone, Piacenza, Italy

17 Giugno 2025

Luca Santese

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luca Santese', with a stylized flourish at the end.