

THE TRAGEDY OF BEAUTY
by Papo Colo, 2010

“Images transfix. Images anesthetize.... After repeated exposure to images it also becomes less real.... In these last decades, ‘concerned’ photography has done at least as much to deaden conscience as to arouse it.”

“Photographs furnish evidence..... In one version of its utility, the camera record incriminates.”

“What determines the possibility of being affected morally by photographs is the existence of a relevant political consciousness”.

Susan Sontag, *On Photography*. 1977

I see a beautiful photograph but it is of the extinction of thousands of people, animals and plants. Words are swept by wind, images erased by memory but also words are recalled by sounds and images cemented by history.

Humans consume the planet and science facilitates its digestion.

Destruction and rebuilding is the law of science, the rule of nature and the scenery of the landscape.

“We are the world” says the popular song, but the world is not us. We are residents and can be temporary. Abuse is the final stage of annihilation and we are pushing the boundary of tolerance. The planet will implode with our mismanagement.

Doing something about it is better than lamenting our destiny. Art can be helpful. Publicity is always propaganda. Art is the invention of solutions with the artist’s free will.

We push innovation by denouncing catastrophes in a beautiful way. Every media are the tools. Photography or moving pictures are the most compelling, words can be complements of images or vice-versa.

The photographs of this exhibition are the tip of the iceberg of how hot and cold, deformed and reformed our planet turns out to be.

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