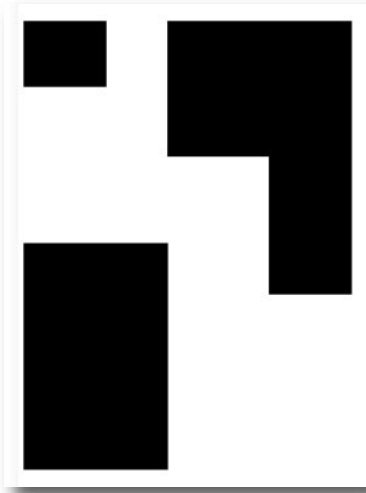


NEW RELEASE 2024

Alberto Gandolfo *Habitat*

Edited by Benedetta Donato
Designed by Tomo Tomo
Texts by Benedetta Donato, Cecilia Ferrara
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Informal dwellings of illegal migrants in southern Italy demonstrate the deeply human need for a safe place to live.

Alberto Gandolfo's research aims to document the circumstances of irregular migrants employed in undeclared work in southern Italy. Over the course of two years, the author traveled between the various informal settlements, which are cyclically dismantled by local authorities.

The house is the context to which human beings feel they belong, the symbolic place that represents the point of departure and return, refuge and security, intimacy and stability, but which can turn into something insecure, unstable, and precarious, subverting the same concept of habitat which provides the conditions conducive to development and well-being.

The book is a visual testimony to the need of human beings to create a place of reference, a refuge that corresponds to their identity.

From the text *Invisible Homes* by **Benedetta Donato**:

Gandolfo used photography to explore the concepts of otherness and marginality, seeking to reduce distances and make it possible to develop a narrative different from the one we are used to, bringing together multiple voices and looking for less well-known aspects of people's lives in an attempt to combine the political and creative potential of the camera. What exists in these settlements is unforgettable; the faithful representation of reality, without sensationalism or distortion, is absolutely undeniable. The resulting work is honest and balanced, intended to show what lies beyond what we know but which we pretend we do not know.

From the text *Life Elsewhere, Life Here. A Brief Account of Migration to and from Italy* by **Cecilia Ferrara**:

Alberto Gandolfo's work is only partly about this. That is to say that while it is about the ability to survive demonstrated by a

population of invisible workers, Gandolfo mostly shows the humanity that each member of that population puts into their own survival. He does not photograph the ugliness of the slums, or the despair. On the contrary, he reveals the will to live and the beauty of the small, or large, decorations placed on the thresholds of makeshift dwellings.

Alberto Gandolfo (b.1983) is an Italian photographer based in Sicily, specializing in portraiture. His work has been exhibited internationally, including at the Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Palermo and the Head On Photo Festival in Sydney. In 2016, he co-founded Église to promote photography in Palermo. He won first prize at Fotografia Europea Festival 2018 for *Quello che resta*, published as a book in 2019. *Habitat* is his second book.

Exhibition

Habitat
Église, Palermo. Italy
04. – 25.10.2024

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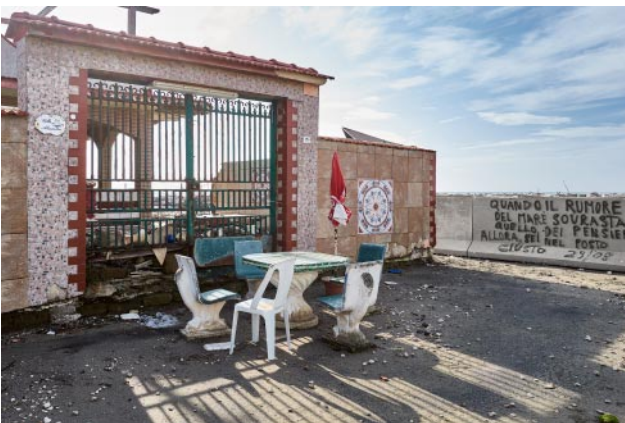
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