

Public Lecture:

Photographing the Sacred



Jonas Bendiksen (Magnum Photos)
Manoël Pénicaud (CNRS-IDEMEC)

24 September 2019, 16:00 - 19:00

Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore
Venezia

The Centre for Comparative Studies of Civilisations and Spiritualities of Fondazione Giorgio Cini, and the Magnum co-organise a public lecture that will tackle the difficult task of photographing the sacred.

The Magnum photographer Jonas Bendiksen, will talk about his last book *The Last Testament*, co-published by GOST books and Aperture, in which he chronicles seven men who all publicly claim to be the biblical Messiah returned. Jonas Bendiksen will explore the mechanisms of faith focusing on belief and ritual.

“I’ve always been interested in reading the Bible and other religious texts. Faith has always been a bit of a mystery to me, one that I’ve always found fascinating to explore [...] People who believe in a God that takes a personal interest in humans’ lives seem to look upon the universe from a different perspective than non-believers. In a similar way, I wanted to touch and feel what a world where Christ has returned would be like.” (Jonas Bendiksen)



©Jonas Bendiksen, Magnum Photos

Manoël Pénicaud is a French photographer (Le Pictorium Agency) and anthropologist (CNRS-IDEMEC) specialized on Pilgrimage Studies. He will propose another perspective, that aims to combine the aesthetic dimension of photography with the comprehensive dimension of anthropology of religions. He will present his photographic approach of shared sacred spaces which are holy places frequented by the believers of different religions in Europe and the Mediterranean region. This topic is the heart of the international exhibition “Shared Sacred Sites” held in Marseille, Tunis, Paris, New-York, Istanbul.



Jewish and Muslim women praying in the Ghriba Synagogue © Manoël Pénicaud (Le Pictorium)

The public lecture, held the 24th of September, will start at 16:00 and finish at 19:00.
The lecture is free of charge, but the registration is mandatory.