



CENTRO STUDI
DI CIVILTÀ E SPIRITUALITÀ
COMPARATE
fondazione ONLUS
GIORGIO CINI



Public Lecture “Life & Miracles”

Cristina de Middel



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Friday 21 April 2023, 5:30-7:00 pm

Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore

The Centre for Comparative Studies of Civilisations and Spiritualities of Fondazione Giorgio Cini and Magnum Photos co-organise a public lecture with Cristina de Middel, Spanish documentary photographer and artist. Cristina de Middel graduated in Fine Arts at the Universitat Politècnica de Valencia and in photojournalism at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and the University of Oklahoma. In 2013, she received the Infinity Award from the International Center of Photography, and in 2017 she won the prestigious Premio Nacional de Fotografía, awarded in Spain by the Ministry of Culture.



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Her impulse for an unconventional angle developed after a 10-year career as a photojournalist when de Middel stepped outside of straight documentary and produced the acclaimed series *The Afronauts* (2012). It explored the history of a failed space program in Zambia in the 1960s through staged re-enactments of obscure narratives, challenging the traditional depiction of the African continent.

Cristina de Middel investigates photography's ambiguous relationship to truth. Blending documentary and conceptual photographic practices, she plays with reconstructions and archetypes to build a more layered understanding of the subjects she approaches. Working from the premise that mass media is reducing our real understanding of the world we live in, De Middel responds to an urgency to re-imagine tired aesthetic tropes and insert opinion in place of facts.



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In this public lecture “Life & Miracles”, Cristina de Middel will discuss her artistic path and examine her books *This is What Hatred Did* and *Midnight at the Crossroads* (realised with Bruno Morais), where she explores African spirituality in South America, Africa and the Caribbeans. The philosopher Paolo Pecere (Roma Tre University) will animate the discussion on the relationship between art and research.