



Il Bel Paese

Stefano De Luigi

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- Beautifully presented with text printed in silver on black paper

Stefano De Luigi's images restore the landscape's semantic value. The Italian landscape is a complex one, subject to the continuous superimposition of new signs. Yet in some ways, it is also a resistant landscape. While on the one hand, in fact, these signs – mostly similar and very much the offspring of consumer society and mass tourism – make Italy alternately a commodified trophy to be exhibited or “one anonymous, unfriendly, messy suburb,” on the other hand, they are sometimes grafted onto different realities – the upshot once again of those local identities that have long characterized the various areas of the peninsula – giving rise to genuine short circuits of meaning and vision where, in a bizarre potpourri, the contemporary and the ancient, the beautiful and the ugly, the rare and the banal, the serial and the unique all dialog with one another.

Stefano De Luigi (born 1964) is an Italian photographer. De Luigi has been a member of VII Photo Agency since 2008 and lives in Paris. De Luigi was born in Cologne. He has been a professional photographer since 1988. He lived in Paris from 1989 to 1996, working for the Louvre Museum. In 1998 he completed the project *Celebrities*, about the fashion world. In 2000 he started the project *Pornoland*, a photographic journey on pornographic film sets, published as a book in 2004. From 2003 to 2006, he worked on his series *Blindness* - a photographic project on the blindness condition in the world, published as *Blanco* (2010). *Blindness* won the VV. Eugene Smith Memorial Fund grant in 2007 and *Blanco* the Pictures of the Year International Best Photography Book Award. In 2006 Luigi embarked on the project *Cinema Mundi*, a World Cinema exploration on the alternative cinematographic scene external to the Hollywood dream factory including China, Russia, Iran, Argentina, Nigeria, South Korea and India. His photographs have been published in *Stern*, *Paris Match*, *Le Monde 2*, *Time*, *The New Yorker*, *Internazionale*, *L'Espresso*, *Geo*, *Vanity Fair*, *El Pais* and *Sunday Times Magazine*.