

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I could describe myself meticulously for pages and pages. I could appear to be intolerable and in reality be a truly pleasant person, and it is clear that the contrary might occur as well. I find it rather mysterious that somebody else could receive information on me that I myself provide him with...I could therefore say that I am very intelligent, nice, brilliant, smart, extroverted, creative and a thousand other positive adjectives or phrases, and the fact is that (despite whether you believe it or not) I would turn out to be overconfident, arrogant and haughty. On the contrary, if I begin to minimize myself and say that I am merely like everybody else, a very plain and modest person who is only eager to learn, I would sound too fragile and self-hurting. I could also try to mediate things, but then the presentation would become too "standard", and I would certainly be discarded for lack of character and personality. Subsequently, there is only one possible approach left: try to say the truth and nothing else but the truth. Besides the fact that I don't understand who could ever be interested in the truth, it often happens to me that people do not believe the things I tell them, which is a paradox as what I say is always true! I would therefore try to tell you the incredible truth about myself and my life, but you on your side have to try and believe me without saying that I haven't warned you...

I was born in one of the most ancient, artistic and creative nations in the world: Italy. I have spent my childhood within an extremely rigid, patriarchal family and have managed to discover my freedom only after the suffered and hallucinatory death of my grandfather, who was the pillar and patriarch of my family. From that day, at the age of nineteen, I decided to begin the making of my first long film ("Cinecitta Story"- 16mm/DVcam, colour, 120'min) which is still today in process of post production (for 4 years now! I believe my first film will never end as it has been my first school). During the making of this film though, I have spent a lot of my time travelling around the world, satisfying one of my greatest needs: photography. I have made numerous reportages on different peoples and have managed to win several photography awards. My second long film ("Black and White in Colours" – Dvcam/16mm, colour/B&W, 90'min) has been initiated in the first months of 2004 and is still in a phase of production: I believe that it has great potential, as it is not only my last work, but I also consider it the best film I have ever created, the one that to a greater extent comes close to my stylistic concept of the realization of a film (although I have been restricted by the lack of a sufficient budget and modified by the productive arrangement). I have also shot quite a few short films (mainly in super 8, for the love of film). All have participated in various national and international festivals, some have also won awards.

During my journeys, I have got to know incredible people, some well known, others completely unknown and distant from mundane life. What they have left me with, is this immense desire to tell stories through cinema. Travelling has also convinced me that I could never live without movement and discovering new realities.

Every time I return to my parents' house (that I perceive as a sort of starting point) I get an unstoppable urge to digest what I have seen and I contemplate through my second necessity: painting. I paint on canvas with oil colours, and I admit I have been influenced by Mark Chagall and his idea of painting as a surreal and fantastical expression against the great social

issues, psychological fears and pure love. I haven't realised many paintings (no more than ten) but I have managed to expose my work and even sell a few canvases.

Poetry is the last (not in order of preference) of my needs, mostly while I am on the road, observing and reflecting on different situations, that is when I feel like writing poetry, with the mere intent of expressing myself...I haven't written many poems, but I managed to win an award and even publish a small book of poems ("The Gardens of May", issued by S.ED Editore – 2000 – Italy).

My way of thinking has been influenced by personalities who belong to the worlds of my three necessities, I tend to consider them as imaginary "elder brothers": Francois Truffaut, when cinema is concerned (for the love for sentiments and the joy of life), Sebastiano Salgado when talking about photography (a photo reporter of the people in need who live far away from our well-being), Mark Chagall regarding painting (for the ability to express a deep sensibility in his paintings), Pier Paolo Pasolini when talking about poetry (his cinematographic poetry as well, which reflects the truth about freedom and the absurdity of rules).

Talking of what I think about myself, about my character, I believe that my biggest asset is that I am totally immune to "thirst" for power, "divism" or ego-mania. When such attitudes are manifested in my presence they give me a sense of sadness and make me imagine how lovely it would be if man was not inclined to such feelings. I consider myself an extremely optimistic person (and I still haven't managed to comprehend whether this is an asset or a flaw) and according to others I am almost "inhumanly" always very joyful, which I think is inborn and difficult to encounter in most people. I do consider myself rather unique for this quality of mine (without saying that it is effectively a positive quality). But I hope my ideology shall not to be misinterpreted; I do not by any chance think that everything is "roses and flowers" (as we say in Italy). Just the opposite: I realise that life is so horrid and unjust, that our only hope is happiness. In spite of that, my thoughts are mainly concentrated on people who on the contrary are unhappy, people who believe that this world needs a "revolution" that would eliminate all types of hierarchy and class division, people who believe that Altruism is the highest form of Democracy, and Egoism (so frequently encountered): the biggest social "wound" that exists.

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