



The uninhabited village

Alessandro Mallamaci

ONE PHOTO | LEICA SL | ...

OCTOBER 22, 2024

In his *Un Luogo Bello* series, the photographer explores his homeland, Calabria, and in doing so stumbles across the relics of a speculative building project.

"Usually when I shoot, I don't have a very precise idea of what I'm doing. When I look at the pictures again after a long time, I notice details that I had missed – or perhaps captured on a subconscious level. In this case, I was struck by the similarity of this photograph to some of the work of the artist Maurits Cornelis Escher. In fact, Escher is an artist that I have particularly appreciated for years, going to his exhibitions, buying books of his work. I think this photograph has a double meaning. On the one hand, it seems to me to be an evocative photograph. When you look at it, you are guided by the complexity of the shapes, by the geometry and you are seduced by the light of the sunset. This photograph could be an aerial photograph of a post-apocalyptic landscape. It could also be a land art installation or a contemporary work exhibited 'en plein air'.

We're in front of a detail of a half-destroyed building. It's part of a village that has never been inhabited. It's one of many examples of speculation and the waste of public money. The village is located in Aspromonte, in the middle of that incredible mountain range at the tip of the Italian boot. This village, like many others, was planned in a complex way, including a school within it. Sadly, no child has ever attended.

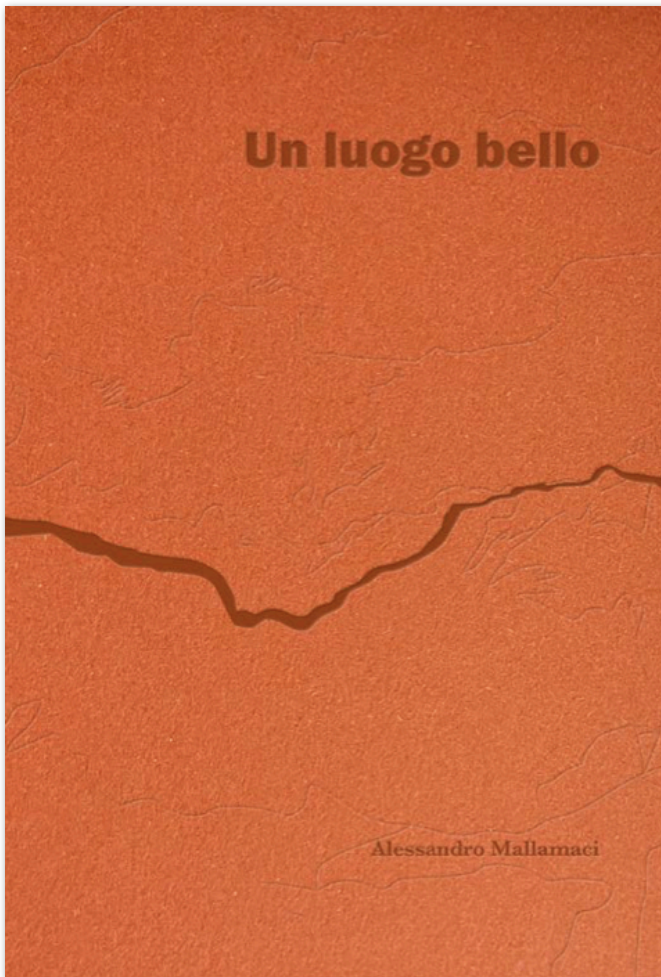
I like this image and find it representative of a certain way of interpreting photography, precisely because it is both evocative – anyone looking at it can read different meanings into it – but it also has content that could be part of a documentary photography work."

TEXT AND PICTURE: © ALESSANDRO MALLAMACI
EQUIPMENT: LEICA SL (TYP 601), SUMMICRON-M 50 F/2

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UN LUOGO BELLO

His photo book, *Un Luogo Bello*, is available [here](#).



ALESSANDRO MALLAMACI



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Up until 2008, the Italian photographer was working as an ambassador and trainer together with brands such as Leica and Fujifilm. He is currently teaching at the Academy of Fine Arts in Perugia. His artistic projects and the books he has designed, have been presented at art fairs and in galleries, including in China, France, Great Britain and the USA. His photographs have been published in different newspapers and books. [More](#)

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