

LISETTA CARMİ, A SOUL ON THE ROAD

Italy, 2010, HDV, 54'



Mvie subject, editing, directing: Daniele Segre

Cinematography: Franco Robust

Music: Maria Teresa Soldani

Direct sound: Edgar Iacolenna

Assistant director and editor: Maria Teresa Soldani

Production: I Cammelli S.a.s.

Distribution: I Cammelli S.a.s.

Daniele Segre and photographer Lisetta Carmi first met in Ravenna in January 2009 for a monographic exhibition on the photographer, who is originally from Genova. Some months later Lisetta wrote a letter to Daniele and invited him to Cisternino, in Puglia, where she has been living for the last forty years. She wanted to tell him the story of her life. On that occasion, Lisetta took out of her archives all her photos, told the film director about them and, after many years, she played the piano again, her first great passion.



Lisetta had an incredible life. She was born on February 15, 1924 in Via Sturla 15 in Genova in a middle-class Jewish family. She started studying music when she was very young and she became a promising piano player. Later, she quit playing the piano and she devoted herself to photography, the other great passion of her life.

As in a great novel of the XIX century, stories and painful and extraordinary events took place amidst new choices and a new condition of awareness. Memories of a world disappeared after the war, of the racial laws and of when she fled to Switzerland bringing with her Bach's "Well-tempered Clavier" sheet music. Then her memories of Genova in the 1960's: the intellectuals and the artists with whom she started her career as a photographer, the

transvestites, the harbour workers, eroticism and authoritarianism in the monumental cemetery in Staglieno, her travels to document the world, the striking photographic encounter with Ezra Pound. Finally, her deep mystical encounter with Babaji and the building of the Ashram in Cisternino, the first Ashram of this kind built in the Western world, for which she abandoned photography for good. The background and the subjects of her life's events are Genova, Israel, Sicily, Sardinia, Paris, Venezuela, Mexico, England, Ireland, Greece, Afghanistan, India and the region of Puglia. Lisetta Carmi is one of the most important photographers in Italian and international history.

Her photos, her vision of the world and her passionate work, her alternative approach to mainstream trends in the society of the 1960's and the 1970's have left a mark in the world of art that is still visible today. Her pictures of Ezra Pound were awarded the Niépce Prize and, as many others of her pictures, they were published and exhibited all over the world. Lisetta Carmi is "a soul on the road" in the endless search for truth in people's life and in the world around her.



« It has been very important for me to meet Lisetta Carmi. I did not know her personally; I liked her work very much, especially the photos of transvestites and of Ezra Pound. I met her on the 17th of January 2009 in Ravenna, in occasion of the opening of an exhibition on her work. That's when I first felt the desire to make a documentary about her. After many months, Lisetta wrote me a letter. She had listened to an interview I had given on the radio and she invited me to Cisternino. So I went.

I needed to take this journey. Not only was it necessary to portray a great photographer's work, but also to depict the compassion of a person who has chosen to consecrate her many lives to others, bravely committing to this task. » **Daniele Segre**

© I Cammelli S.a.s. – www.danielesegre.it

Via Cantalupo 11, 10141 – Torino

P.IVA 03871000018

Tel. 011/56 95 620 Fax. 011/56 95 619

icammelli.torino@gmail.com