



SHELTERING SKY

John R. Pepper

November 28, 2024 – January 24, 2025

Opening: Thursday November 28, from 6 p.m.

PLAYLIST by GALLERIA GIAMPAOLO ABBONDIO

Via Carlo Poma 18 - Milano [entrance from via Archimede]

Galleria Giampaolo Abbondio is pleased to announce the opening of a **new solo exhibition by photographer John R. Pepper**, taking place on Thursday, November 28, at “Playlist,” the gallery’s Milan location

Sheltering Sky chronicles the artist’s three-year journey through the world’s deserts, regions that are both captivating and complex. As critic and curator Gianluca Marziani notes, “The desert is the ancestral space before inhabited space, the densest void on the Planet—an evocative geography that cradles seminal mythologies. The desert holds the weight of stories through ascetic silence, limpid atmosphere, and the absence of chaos. For where there is no noise, there can be no mystification: everything lingers in clarity, much like the source code of the Planet.”

“Pepper’s photography creates a subtle, pictorial atmosphere, where the interplay of black and white nuances is delicately balanced, revealing a spectrum of grays. Understanding the silent absences, the vast openness of the landscape, the weight of the sky, and the grounding force of the earth was no easy task. The endless space raises strategic questions, imposing a choice of perimeter, so that in the given boundary the grammar of the eye is delineated. For the artist, that boundary represents forces of gravity, stability, and balance—both an expression and a concept.”

John Randolph Pepper (b. 1958, Rome) is an Italian photographer whose early influences include Henri Cartier-Bresson, Sam Shaw, and other artists who were part of his family circle, including his father, Curtis Bill Pepper, editor of *Newsweek*. For 30 years, he alternated between photography and directing in theater and film. Among his best-known works are *Sans Papier* (2011) and *Evaporations* (2014). His latest project, *Inhabited Deserts* (2017), explores the human impact on the world’s deserts. He uses a Leica M6 and Ilford film, and his exhibitions have traveled across America, Europe, and the Middle East.

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Hours: Monday to Friday, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. (and by appointment)

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