



Von Buren Contemporary presents

# ***KAIROS***

solo exhibition of

## **Sofia Podestà**

*Vernissage*

**Sunday February 13, 2022**

**from 16.00 until 21.30**

Presentation text: **Mia Ceran**

Introduction by art critic **Luisa Grigoletto**

Curated by **Michele von Büren** of **VON BUREN CONTEMPORARY**

the exhibition will remain on show until March 8, 2022

**Von Buren Contemporary**

Via Giulia 13, ROME 00186

*... looking at her photographs..., I relived sensations that I seemed to have experienced, and it is no longer clear to me whether the place where I seem to have already been is a physical or an emotional one, because Sofia Podestà has captured them both.*

**Mia Ceran**

**Von Buren Contemporary** is delighted to present *Kairos*, the first major solo exhibition of young Italian photographer **Sofia Podestà**.

Podestà's work investigates man's relationship with the landscape, often with a focus on sweeping vistas where nature reigns in all its majesty. With *Kairos*, however, the photographer has changed direction: these images belong to a more delicate, almost intimate dimension, even if they derive from previous collections, from which they have been extrapolated. It was precisely in the work of re-examining her archives during the recent lockdowns that this new exhibition was born, with the selection of 12 images, taken between 2016 and 2021, and ranging in location from Iceland to the Italian mountain ridges.

In the words of art critic Luisa Grigoletto, "Podestà shows us a geography of small things, where the simplicity of a fallen branch, poised on a body of water, is accompanied by a hint of melancholy. Here and there you can see traces of a human presence, which nature slowly covers and conceals: it is only a matter of time, it is the order of the cosmos, the motions of which continue regardless of human affairs".

**Sofia Podestà** was born in Rome in 1991 and holds a degree in Art History with a specialisation in the work of Italian photographers Luigi Ghirri and Guido Guidi. After graduating, Podestà focused on her own passion for taking photographs, soon winning confirmation of her potential by being named one of the best twelve Italian creative talents under 30 in the field of photography in the so-called *Giovani Creativi (Young Creatives)* award, a prize which resulted in her participation in a 2019 exhibition at Rome's Palazzo Massimo museum. In 2021, she was selected to take part in the international photography show ImageNation in Paris, and this year she was picked to photograph overlooked national heritage sites in southern Italy by a section of the Italian Cultural Heritage Ministry.

Travelling widely, Podestà is drawn to remote, isolated places seemingly untouched by mankind. The emphasis on dramatic, scenic landscapes and startling colours turns her powerful images into portals to another world, creating moments of heightened contemplation for her audience. Recently, however, Podestà has begun exploring a more 'intimate' side of landscape photography, waiving horizons and skylines and instead using light, illusion and geometry to add a meditative element to close-up images, each of which becomes a delicate symbol of a more forceful power just outside the picture.

This exhibition has been specially chosen to help celebrate the opening of the gallery's new space at **Via Giulia 13** and its ongoing mission of discovering and promoting talented young artists.

