



SUOMEN MERIMUSEO
FINLANDS SJÖHISTORISKA MUSEUM

Viaporin telakka – silta tulevaisuuteen

SVEABÖRGS DOCKA – BRO TILL FRAMTIDEN
VIAPORI DOCKYARD – A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

JACOPO BRANCATI:
VALOKUVIA | FOTOGRAFIER | PHOTOGRAPHS
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Press Kit

Infine Arts - Jacopo Brancati

Suomenlinna Historic Dockyard

Suomenlinna, The Fortress of Finland, situated on a small group of islands in front of Helsinki, is a fortress dating back to the 18th century, a shrine containing a shipyard whose main activity consists in the maintenance and restoration of traditional ships.

The Viapori shipyard boasts almost three centuries of uninterrupted activity. Where once galleys and war frigates were built, today ships with historical significance are repaired or restored. It's a place where the future is built on historical foundations - a cultural heritage is kept alive for the future. Viapori is the meeting point of different human experiences that developed during the history of Finland.

The human experience that is developed in the shipyard consists of different aspects: the sharing of personal experiences in order to reach a common goal (the ship) and the transmission of knowledge to the forthcoming generations. The heritage, which is handed over to the future

generations, is not only material, but cultural, technical and emotional.

Every winter the dockyard shelters what is left of a fleet of wooden sailing ships built in the aftermath of WWII for the coastal trade. Those sailing vessels are a precious but very fragile part of Finland's cultural heritage. They played a humble but no less fundamental role in the country's reconstruction. Meant to work hard and to live no more than 15 years, they sailed mostly from the East Coast to Helsinki, overloaded with sand, stone and other bulk, ensuring the supply of building materials to rebuild the capital.

Thanks to the tenacity and passion of two generations of people who sailed and lovingly preserved them, some ships survive to the present day.

The added value of Viapori lies in its human capital, in knowledge, development and transmission of traditional work techniques used on traditional ships.

The Photographic Work - The Exhibition

Fascinated by the history of the heritage ships and by the uniqueness of the Viapori experience, Jacopo Brancati realized a long photographic work that is a passionate homage to the beauty of the vessels, to the commitment and the skill of the people, old and young, that keep them alive.

Brancati's lens tells a kind of behind closed doors story, where real people and places almost rise to the epic dimension of a Scandinavian saga.

In the photos one relishes the bright colours, the unmistakable northern lights of Akseli Gallen Kallela and his fellow Finnish painters of the turn of the 20th century that inspired the author.

Along with them, a remembrance of Flemish masters pushes Brancati to build the mise-en-scène of his pictures through the meticulous choice of objects and details; materials and textures join in the game : stone and ice, fire and metal, flesh and wood...

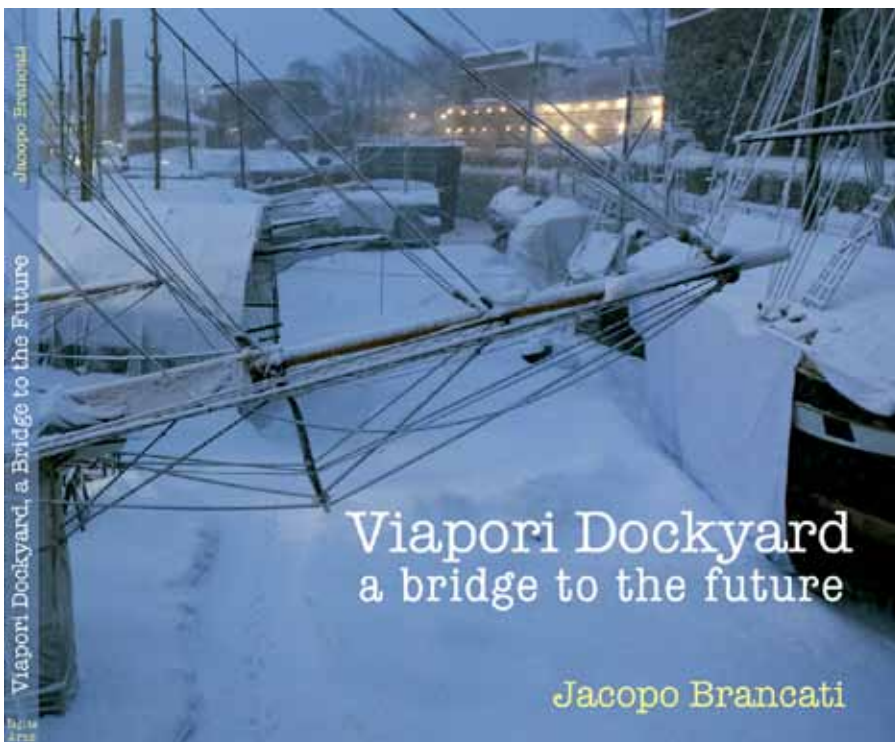
The photographer's eye seeks the psychological insight of the characters, through a light that sculpts their faces and accompanies their gestures. Brancati catches the infinite vibrations of that light: dim and hazy in the early morning hours and under the snowstorm, dreamlike and unreal under the reflectors at night, pure and bright when spring days close in.

The exhibition is composed by over 70 fine art colour prints, with a soundtrack composed and performed by Arja Kastinen and has been produced, then donated to the Maritime Museum of Finland, by the Viaporin Telakka r.y..

It received the financial support of Mister Robin Langenskiöld and the scientific support of Suomenlinna Hoitokunta, Merikeskus Vellamo, Society of Swedish Literature in Finland (SLS), European Maritime Heritage Association, Arte Navale (Italy), Chasse-Marée (France).

The Author, ten years of passion for maritime Finland

Brancati's first mission in Finland began in 2006, when he started following the maritime pilots to create Jäinen Matka Suomeen. The result of the reportage was the first temporary exhibition of the Vellamo Museum in 2008, taken to the Mediterranean the following year, when it was exhibited in Naples. Later came a series of long articles on the Finnish maritime heritage for French and Italian specialized magazines: among others, the Finnish maritime pilots, the ice-breaker Tarmo, the Åland windjammers' saga, Astrid and the other Finnish heritage galleasses, the Viapori dockyard... The discovery of the dockyard's unique experience pushed Brancati to make his second Finnish long reportage and photographic exhibition, hosted in 2014-16 in the premises of the UNESCO site of Suomenlinna Museum.



Viapori Dockyard
is also a photographic books
published by Infine Arts

*106 pages,
more than 100 colour photos,
Soft cover*

Photos free of rights for the Press



It's Spring! Water flows into the dock, soon the ships will be free



During the long boreal winter the ships are sheltered in the old galley dock of the fortress



3

The position of the plank to change is difficult. The bending amplitude is really high, mutual understanding and big skill are essential to make a fine job



4

Traditional bolts are forged one by one by Seppo the smith



Although everything seems quite still, work in the basin goes on



Time is tight; in a few days the dockyard will be flooded. Ships must get ready



Under the keen gaze of the elder skippers the young master Jouni must determine the right spot where to drill the mast

7



Preparing the new mast for m/aux Astrid

8

Contacts

Please, contact Infine Arts or Merikeskus Vellamo
to get the high-definition pictures

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