**ISSUE .07**

**Rituals**

**8-14 February 2021**

**Instagram Exhibition (@issue.07)**

*Sameer Raichur (1986, Bangalore, India)*

*Regina De Luca (1989, Naples, Italy)*

**ISSUE .07** presents Rituals, the second exhibition of the digital platform (@issue.07) aimed at supporting international contemporary photography. The last exhibition dealt with the relationship between silence and photography. This time, ISSUE .07 investigates the research of Sameer Raichur (1986) and Regina De Luca (1989) which explores the diversity of the culture of rituals and how their role changed through time. The exhibition will take place on ISSUE .07's Instagram page from the 8th to the 14th February 2021.

In a world where we strive to conform to socially constructed paradigms, how relevant are traditions and rituals for us? Nowadays, these events are not practiced and valued as in the past and their preservation will certainly be one of the challenges of the next generations.  Sameer Raichur and Regina de Luca's photographs investigate the ritual of marriage as an expression of the structural values of Indian and Italian culture over time.

Sameer Raichur’s interest in documenting Indian socio-cultural practices emerges in his series *Chariots of frolic*. In the district of Tamil Nadu, the photographer captures wedding chariots created out of socialist era cars, portraits of families and individuals engaged in the wedding 'decoration' business. In India, the ritual of marriage is a display of social and economic standing, the prosperity is mostly represented by the sumptuous ornaments of the chariots. In smaller towns, these rituals involve the entire community and are a means of garnering goodwill for the two families. Despite the critique to marriage as a social statement, the photographer believes that this Indian ritual has not changed over time. The preservation of traditions in relation to the modern progress is embodied in the chariots. An adjusted Fiat used as a wedding vehicle is turned into a hybrid between a road car and a horse driven chariot. This is a perfect example of the union of modern design with cultural practices of the past.

In *Matrimonio Anacaprese,*Regina de Luca’smeta-pictorial operation is featured by a social and artistic investigation. The short project is inspired by the painting ‘Marriage rite in Capri’ by the French painter Édouard Alexandre Sain who lived in Capri during the 1800s. The *mise en scene* of the setting with poses, lights, and colours, that recall an ancient painting, aims at triggering a reflection on the concept of marriage in Italy and on women emancipation. The photographer believes that the approach to marriage has radically changed in the last century from being perceived as a mandatory step to becoming an optional choice. Meanwhile, in Italy, as in the majority of Western countries, the role of women has evolved along with culture. Through this series, photography informs about historical traditions and reflect upon how these have changed during the past decades.

**ISSUE .07** is a not-for-profit organisation which aims at supporting emerging photographers while expanding their network, it offers a range of services ranging from advisory sessions to publication advice and exhibition curation.

**Sameer Raichur** (1986, Bangalore, India) lives and works in India. He is a cum laude graduate of the Hallmark Institute of Photography, his work favours a socio-cultural analysis of urban and rural India. His photographs have been selected for magazines such as Caravan Magazine, FT Weekend Magazine, Geo Magazin, GQ India, The Indian Quarterly, Libération, Mint Lounge, Sueddeutsche Zeitung and Time Magazine.

**Regina De Luca** (1989, Naples, Italy) lives and works in Madrid. Her photographic research aims to investigate the reality of everyday life through a detached transposition, as in a theatrical staging. Her works have been exhibited at Palazzo Caracciolo in Naples, in Istanbul in 2012 and in 2016 she opened a personal photography atelier in Madrid called 2DAMOREDEDIOS4. Finally, at the Naples Film Festival she conceived, directed and scripted several short films (La Pelle Secca - 2007 and I Will Wait - 2012).