

PRESS RELEASE

MUYBRIDGE RECALL

Duration: 19 May – 1 October 2016

Location: Galleria Gruppo Credito Valtellinese
Corso Magenta no. 59, Milan

Press vernissage:	Wednesday 18 May, 12.00 noon Galleria Gruppo Credito Valtellinese
Inauguration:	Wednesday 18 May, 6.30 p.m. Galleria Gruppo Credito Valtellinese

Italy will finally be hosting a major exhibition on Eadweard Muybridge (1830 – 1904), the photographer who “invented” movement, and whose images influenced Degas and the artists of his time, ahead of the dawn of cinema. The exhibition, curated by Leo Guerra and Cristina Quadrio Curzio, will be hosted from 19 May to 1 October in the Gruppo Credito Valtellinese Gallery.

Muybridge, an Englishman who emigrated to the USA, took his first professional steps in the world of photography with shots illustrating the potent beauty of Yosemite National Park. Subsequently, the curiosity of a businessman led him to verify whether all four hooves of a galloping horse were off the ground simultaneously, as they had been depicted by the French artist Théodore Géricault in the painting *Derby at Epsom* (1821).

By linking up 24 cameras with tripwires along a route, Muybridge obtained a sequence of images that showed the movement of the horses with absolute precision, which confirmed that for a few instants, the whole body of a galloping horse was effectively off the ground, although the shots also showed that the extension of the legs was entirely different from how it had been imagined by artists.

Paul Valéry acknowledged that “Muybridge’s photographs clearly reveal the mistakes made by every sculptor and painter when attempting to show the different gaits of horses”.

These images became famous, and many artists, including Degas, grasped the importance of photography as a source of documentation able to go beyond visual capacity. It became common to use photographs to copy not only movements invisible to the naked human eye, but also other aspects of reality, and some artists moved on to painting directly from photographs.

After horses, birds in flight and the movement of animals from Philadelphia Zoo, Muybridge turned his attention to Man, soon becoming famous for his nudes in movement, photographed against a background with a grid drawn on it, while running, climbing the stairs or carrying buckets of water. With the collaboration of the University of Pennsylvania, Muybridge developed the Zoopraxiscope, an instrument similar to the Zoetrope, which made it possible to project images, thus allowing a small audience to view them simultaneously, as at the cinema.

The exhibition will focus not only on the photographs taken by Muybridge during his career, but will also feature a contemporary reconstruction of the set he used to take shots in sequence. This set will come alive with a performance, during the inauguration evening, in which two or more characters and actors will pass through the sequence shot, thus generating pictures for a modern-day series of images à la Muybridge". The visitor route will also comprise "L'assassino nudo" (1984) and "Piccolo film decomposto" (1986), original documentary films by Paolo Gioli.

The catalogue will include a historical essay by Prof. Italo Zannier, a piece analysing the exhibition, and a small cinema section by Paolo Gioli.

Exhibition details

Titlw	MUYBRIDGE RECALL
Location	Galleria Gruppo Credito Valtellinese Corso Magenta no. 59 – Milan
Duration	19 May – 1 October 2016
Press Vernissage	Wednesday 18 May, 12.00 noon Galleria Gruppo Credito Valtellinese
Inauguration	Wednesday 18 May, 6.30 p.m. Galleria Gruppo Credito Valtellinese
Opening times	Galleria Gruppo Credito Valtellinese Tuesday – Saturday 1.30 p.m.-7.15 p.m. Closed on Sundays and Mondays, on 2 June and from 2 August to 5 September FREE ENTRY Special opening in September for schools
Information for the public	Galleria Gruppo Credito Valtellinese galleriearte@creval.it - www.creval.it
Press Office	Studio ESSECI – Sergio Campagnolo tel. +39 049.663.499 info@studioesseci.net

Exhibition produced and organised by Gruppo Credito Valtellinese Foundation
with the participation of Wellcome Library, Canon and NABA