



# MICHELE MARTINELLI

DOCUMENTARY & CORPORATE PHOTOGRAPHER

Born in Pietrasanta (Lucca) on August 29, 1979  
Italian nationality  
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## ABOUT

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**Born in Pietrasanta (Lucca) on August 29, 1979**, I currently **live in Lucca**. After a long artistic training journey, I work as a **freelance documentary and corporate photographer**, and I am also involved in the **restoration and conservation of cultural heritage**.

Sensitive to communication through artistic forms of expression, I turned to photography in 2009, a passion that, combined with the curiosity of a traveler, has profoundly transformed and given new direction to my life.

In 2015, I attended a **masterclass in photojournalism and documentary photography** at the **Fondazione Studio Marangoni** in Florence. Since then, I have worked as a freelance photographer, creating personal projects and consistently investing in my growth in visual storytelling.

My parallel **experience as a restorer of artworks**, accumulated **over 15 years of work**, has taught me the importance of patience, precision, and aesthetic sensitivity, elements that deeply **influence my photographic approach**, enriching it and allowing me to highlight details and cultural context in my projects.

My research primarily **focuses on anthropological, cultural, and environmental themes**, with particular attention to the essence of the human being in the Mediterranean territories.

Some of my works have been published in various magazines, including **GEO, Altreconomia, Messaggero di Sant'Antonio, Credere, Vi Menn, Daily Mail, Prier Magazine, L'oeil de la Photographie, ArtDoc Magazine, Asian Geographic, National Geographic Traveler USA, and National Geographic Italia**, receiving international recognition.

I am currently developing **MEDITERRANEUS**, a long-term project conceived as a contemporary odyssey. The project is divided into chapters that tell stories of land and sea, exploring the plurality of cultures and the current challenges of the Mediterranean area.

Currently, I am working on the chapter **AGRATERRA**, which narrates the authenticity of rural communities in the high mountains of the French island of Corsica. The first part of this work was carried out thanks to an **artist residency** at the **Centre Méditerranéen de la Photographie** and was exhibited at the **Photolux Festival 2024** (Italy). In addition, I am dedicating myself to a project that explores an ancient **swordfish hunting** practice carried out by fishing communities in the **Strait of Messina**, Italy.

I collaborate with companies in the **agro-food, tourism, and industrial sectors**, building personal projects that use visual language as a powerful means of expression, in **search of authenticity and essence**, which often remains hidden behind conformity.

## EDUCATION and TRAINING

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- In 2020, I attended a **portrait photography workshop** led by photographer **Paolo Verzone**.
- In 2018, I attended a **4-month masterclass (Pro-Photographer)** from June 2018 to October 2018, led by documentary photographer **Paolo Marchetti** in Rome.
- **Masterclass in photojournalism and documentary photography** at the **Fondazione Studio Marangoni** in Florence in 2015.
- **High school diploma in Fine Arts** obtained at the **Istituto Superiore Artistico "A. Passaglia"** in Lucca, specializing in painting decoration, in 2001.
- **"Master of Art" diploma** obtained at the **Istituto Superiore Artistico "A. Passaglia"** in Lucca, specializing in painting decoration, in 1999.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- **Independent Documentary Photographer** 2015 – Present  
[www.michelemartinelliphotography.com](http://www.michelemartinelliphotography.com)
- **TRICERA ART Gallery – My Shop** - 2022 – Present
- **Parallelozero Agency – Contributor Documentary Photographer** – 2023/2024  
<https://parallelozero.com>
- **VI MENN Magazine – Contributor Documentary Photographer** – 2021 to 2023  
<https://www.vimennpluss.no>
- **LUZ Agency – Contributor Documentary Photographer** – 2020 to 2022  
<https://www.luz.it>

## AWARDS and EXHIBITIONS

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- ✚ Artist Residency "MITI e VISIONI" 2026 at Fondazione MOYSEION-ISAMA, Matera
- ✚ ONE WATER AWARD 2026 – CUORE LABRONICO – 3rd place
- ✚ PHOTOLUX FESTIVAL 2024 – AGRATERRA - Exhibition
- ✚ PHOCO Photo Art Contest 2024 – FAR SOUTH - 2nd place
- ✚ Festival Paesaggi 2023 – SOLVAYLAND – Exhibition
- ✚ Artist Residency at Centre Méditerranéen de la Photographie, Bastia, 2023
- ✚ Fotografia Calabria Festival 2023 – FAR SOUTH – Exhibition
- ✚ HIPA 2023 - Finalist
- ✚ ASISAfoto 2022 - 3rd place
- ✚ HIPA 2022 - Merit Medal
- ✚ Residenze Mediterranee PHOTOLUX Festival 2022 - Winner
- ✚ Mediterraneo Fotografia Special Edition 2021 - Selected
- ✚ F5.6 Gallery of Lucca – SOLVAYLAND in preview - 2021 - Exhibition
- ✚ MICROFESTIVAL in Celle di Bellino (CN) - FAR SOUTH - 2021 - Exhibition
- ✚ MICROFESTIVAL in Velva (GE) – SOLVAYLAND in preview - 2021 - Exhibition
- ✚ World Report Award 2019 - Finalist
- ✚ HIPA 2018 - Finalist
- ✚ Neutral Density Photography Awards 2018 - Honorable Mention
- ✚ Moscow International Foto Award 2018 - Honorable Mention
- ✚ Siena International Photo Award 2018 - Finalist
- ✚ OASIS Photo Contest 2018 - Work Highlight
- ✚ International Photographer Of The Year 2017 - 3rd place
- ✚ Travel Photographer Of The Year 2017 - Finalist
- ✚ World Nomads Travel Photography Scholarship 2017 - Finalist
- ✚ Prix De La Photographie Paris 2017 - 2nd place
- ✚ HIPA 2016 - Finalist
- ✚ International Photographer Of The Year 2016 - 1st place

- ✚ International Photographer Of The Year 2016 - Honorable Mention
- ✚ Travel Photographer Of The Year 2016 - Finalist
- ✚ Neutral Density Photography Awards 2016 - 2nd place
- ✚ Neutral Density Photography Awards 2016 - Honorable Mention
- ✚ Moscow International Foto Award 2016 - Honorable Mention
- ✚ Siena International Photo Award 2016 - Finalist
- ✚ Travel Photographer Of The Year 2015 - Finalist
- ✚ Siena International Photo Award 2015 - Finalist

## **PERSONAL SKILLS**

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### KEY COMPETENCIES

- ✓ **Teamworking:** ability to collaborate effectively in multidisciplinary contexts.
- ✓ **Artistic and cultural project design:** drafting and development of restoration and visual projects.
- ✓ **Proactivity and problem-solving:** identifying creative and operational solutions autonomously.
- ✓ **Photo and visual editing:** processing and optimizing images and visual content.
- ✓ **Visual storytelling:** ability to narrate stories through images and visual sequences.
- ✓ **Editorial writing for reportage:** drafting articles, descriptive texts, synopses, and narrative captions in support of photographic and documentary projects.
- ✓ **Video shooting and editing:** basic knowledge of recording and editing techniques.
- ✓ **Use of Artificial Intelligence tools:** support for research and drafting of textual content.

### DIGITAL SKILLS

- ✓ **Basic systems and tools:** Windows OS, Internet browsing, email, social media.
- ✓ **Office and productivity:** Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), UPDF.
- ✓ **Photo and visual editing:** Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Bridge.
- ✓ **Video editing:** Pinnacle Studio, Wondershare Filmora (basic/intermediate operational knowledge).

### LANGUAGE SKILLS

- ✓ **Italian:** native
- ✓ **English:** spoken – basic conversational level; written – good comprehension, assisted production of professional texts (e.g., synopses, briefs).

### COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Throughout my educational and professional career as a freelance and independent worker, I have developed excellent communication and interpersonal skills, having directly interacted with clients, commissioners, and people involved in various projects.

### ORGANIZATIONAL/MANAGERIAL SKILLS

In the context of my professional career, I have acquired and refined excellent abilities in organizing and managing the different phases of my work and that of collaborators. I habitually plan project activities in detail, share objectives and deadlines, with a strong results orientation, while ensuring ethical and high-quality outcomes.

### INTERESTS

- ✓ Inner research
- ✓ Personal growth
- ✓ Traveling
- ✓ Nature and environment
- ✓ Cinema and music
- ✓ Literature
- ✓ ...Everything related to art...