

## Introduction - Letizia Battaglia: Life, Love and Death in Sicily

The Photographers' Gallery presents a solo show of work by the trailblazing Italian photographer Letizia Battaglia. In an interview in *The Guardian*, in 2019, she said:

'Photography changes nothing. Violence continues, poverty continues. Children are still being killed in stupid wars.'

Born in Palermo, Sicily in 1935, Battaglia began her photographic career in the early 1970s, when she was in her forties. She documented everyday life, alongside the brutal reality of the Mafia and their victims in Sicily during the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s. Her images are some of the best-known records of life in the shadow of the Mafia. In her relentless pursuit of organised crime, she used her camera to document the daily terror, putting it on the front page. Reporting for the daily newspaper *L'Ora* she, or one of her colleagues, was present at every major crime scene in the city over two decades.

Battaglia mainly photographed in black and white. She also captured daily life: women and children in their neighbourhoods and streets, showing the wealth of the area and at the same time the misery of a city almost abandoned to its fate. Her pictures capture the poverty on the streets as well as the life of the upper classes, religious processions, festivals, funerals and much more.

*Letizia Battaglia: Life, Love and Death in Sicily* is the first major exhibition in the UK following her death in 2022. The exhibition is curated by Paolo Falcone, in collaboration with the Letizia Battaglia Archive and Fondazione Falcone Per Le Arti and supported by the Fondazione Candido Speroni e Carla Fendi Speroni and The Italian Cultural Institute.

This exhibition contains potentially triggering content. Please email for further information or speak to a member of staff.