

PREMIO UMANE TRACCE

FOTOGRAFICO

Dedicato alla memoria di Nicola Paccagnella

05

PRESS RELEASE | 5th Edition of the Umane Tracce Award | ANNOUNCEMENT

The jury for the 5th edition of the Human Traces Award, established in 2020 in memory of photographer Nicola Paccagnella, convened on January 28, 2026, to select the winners of this year's competition. Conceived by Paola Riccardi, Stefano Bianchi, and Enzo Cortini, the initiative aims to honor and celebrate Nicola's legacy through the art of photography and visual storytelling. Composed of prominent professionals in the fields of image and communication, the jury reviewed all submissions received in 2025, evaluating their expressive quality, style, narrative strength, and originality of concept. The winning project will be published as a Crowdbooks monograph, generously donated by publisher Stefano Bianchi and curated by Paola Riccardi. Additionally, it will be featured in a traveling exhibition produced by the Award, touring five Italian venues with support from our Media Partners.

JURY COMPOSITION - 5th Edition

Stefano Bianchi | publisher | Crowdbooks | Jury President

Andrea Frazzetta | photographer

Cornelia Marchis | photoeditor | 7 magazine

Giorgio Palmera | photographer | Fonder of FotografiSenzaFrontiere

Marco Pinna | photoeditor | National Geographic

Paola Riccardi | curatrice | Artistic Director of Umane Tracce Award

Antonino Valvo | director

Commenting on this year's edition, Artistic Director of the Award **Paola Riccardi** stated: "This year, we witnessed numerous high-quality works, characterized by a widespread ability to tell stories through images using innovative approaches that steer clear of clichés. The winning project, '**Un passo indietro**' by **Nicola Vinciguerra**, explores the theme of neurodivergence with empathy and sincerity through the story of Matteo, a young man with autism. The depth of this six-year emotional journey skillfully evokes his inner world and emotions with great respect and poetic sensitivity."

Media Partners Al142 | Crowdbooks | CSF Adams Centro Sperimentale di Fotografia Adams | ColornoPhotoLife | Livorno Photo Meeting | Lorenzo Lessi Stampa Fine Art | NOC - New Old Camera | Shelfie Cafe | Spazio Kryptos | Vada Photo Festival

Technical Sponsor: Crowdbooks | Società Agricola Gerolimetto



FIRST PRIZE

Nicola Vinciguerra for the project *"UN PASSO INDIETRO"*

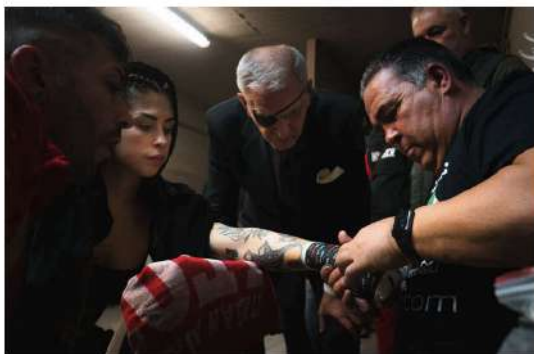
**JURY MOTIVATION:**

For the ability to portray Matteo's life— a 15-year-old with an autism spectrum disorder— beyond clichés, through intense and empathetic images that delve into his inner world. This narrative, developed over six years, poetically evokes Matteo's perceptions and emotions while respecting his dignity and authenticity. The project stands out for its humanistic approach and delicate treatment of such an important and sensitive subject.

The winner will receive a monographic Crowdbooks publication, curated by Paola Riccardi and produced by Stefano Bianchi, distributed through art and photography bookstores, Shelfie Cafe, and the publisher's distributors. The traveling exhibition, featuring prints returned to the photographer at the end of 2026, will preview in Milan and then tour other Italian cities such as Rome, Livorno, Vada, and Colorno.

SECOND PRIZE

Massimo Russo for the project *"MARIA HURRICANE, LA RAGAZZA OLTRE IL RING"*

**JURY MOTIVATION:**

For choosing and portraying, through powerful portraits, the story of a strong and free woman, a former professional boxer who, after leaving the ring, embarked on a new life in Ibiza filled with passion, music, and sensuality. Russo captured Maria's authenticity and delicacy, illustrating her journey of rebirth and inner transformation.

HONORABLE MENTION

Giuseppe Ermes Signorile for the project *"BLUE WHALE"*



JURY MOTIVATION

For tackling the themes of youth depression and the Blue Whale Challenge with sensitivity and courage. This online phenomenon, originating in Russia, led some young people to undertake extreme trials with tragic outcomes, including suicide. The project presents a powerful and difficult-to-address image, shedding light on a highly relevant and complex issue.

For further information and updates, please visit the official website of the Human Traces Award.

www.premiومانettracce.it



CROWDBOOKS

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Dedicato alla memoria di Nicola Paccagnella

Premio istituito da

Paola Riccardi | Direzione Artistica
Stefano Bianchi - Crowdbooks | Presidente giuria
Enzo Cortini | Direzione Organizzativa

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<https://www.facebook.com/nicola.paccagnella.92>

