

# PRESS RELEASE

## SPASIBO



FRANKFURT AM MAIN, AUGUST 2014

### SPASIBO

#### DAVIDE MONTELEONE

4th CARMIGNAC GESTION PHOTOJOURNALISM AWARD

**August 30–September 28, 2014**

Opening: August 29, 2014, 7 pm

Press preview: August 29, 2014, 11 am

“*Spasibo*” a photojournalistic essay by Italian photographer Davide Monteleone, is the second exhibition in the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt’s new residence at Braubachstraße 30–32 in Frankfurt am Main.

As the winner of the 4th Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award, Davide Monteleone’s was able to produce the astute photographic documentary on the Chechen culture and identity. This project has its German premier from August 30, to September 28, 2014 at the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, after other tour stops at the Chapelle de l’École des Beaux-Arts de Paris, 2013, and at the Rencontres d’Arles 2014 this summer.

The exhibition “*Spasibo*” (“Thank You”) presents a selection of black and white photographs of Chechen street scenes and landscapes as well as portraits. The photographs are accompanied by short texts giving background information about the pictured scenes, countryside and its facets.

Monteleone knows the region well. In 2001, he worked in Moscow for the Agency Contrasto and later lived alternately between Rome and Moscow. His project “*Red Thistle*” about the Caucasus won the European Publisher Award in 2011. Davide Monteleone traveled for the first time to Chechnya as a reporter in 2003. On a further visit in 2007, he saw how much the country had changed through the Russian investments. For his project “*Spasibo*”, Monteleone spent time from January to April 2013 documenting the life and the people in a country marked by the autocratic government of President Ramsan Kadyrow. Concealed in the amenities of affluence and a deceptive calm, the reality of profound unsettledness and constrictions in Chechen life are kept secret.

During his travels across the country, through the cities as well as the small villages, through the mountains and the forests and through his personal contact with many of the local people, Monteleone was able to provide insight into the complex and constricted world that marks the life in Chechnya. What emerged is a photographic documentary in which the powerful imagery speaks for itself.

The collection of exhibited photographs of Davide Monteleone is complemented with a projection of photographs from the Social-Media-Site „Kadyrow\_95, giving an insight into the private interests of the Chechen president.

### **Davide Monteleone's report on his project**

[...] In short, *“Chechnya has won, Russia has won”*. Perhaps the losers are the many Chechens who chose to go into exile as a matter of honour. Those who stayed have returned to a normal life and can satisfy their basic needs after several decades of hardship. Such a “normal” life, however, requires them to make major compromises and often hold their tongues.

There is no alternative for those who want to work, have a home and carry on with their lives. In this state of reassuring stagnation, the authorities control everything, distributing favours as they please. The physical violence so prevalent in the post-conflict years, the kidnappings and the summary executions also seem to have decreased. The Chechens are so frightened that these acts of violence are almost no longer necessary. The violence is now psychological, a form of brainwashing that starts with the young.

The Chechnya of today has all the appearance of official power: a mix of “new traditions” and globalisation, of superficial grandeur promoted by the capricious and controversial President Ramzan Kadyrov, young, uneducated, violent and megalomaniac, who became a leader at age thirty.

Davide Monteleone's study on identity gradually became the story of a compromise, one that all the inhabitants of this republic are forced to make with the authorities in return for a better life. As he was told by a friend in the mountains around Itum-Kali who quoted a letter from Yermolov to Tsar Nicolas I during the Caucasus campaign: *“The Chechens are a combative people, difficult to conquer, easier to buy.”* *“Thank you Ramzan, thank you Russia”* for everything. *“Spasibo”*.

### **The Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award**

In 2009, Carmignac Gestion broadened its corporate sponsorship activities to support photojournalism by annually financing an in-depth photo reportage on a topic connected to current affairs. The first awards went to photographers covering the Gaza Strip, Pashtunistan, Zimbabwe, and Chechnya. Iran and France are the subjects for the upcoming awards.  
[www.fondation-carmignac.com](http://www.fondation-carmignac.com)

### **“Spasibo” at Fotografie Forum Frankfurt**

This exhibition is a cooperation of Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, Carmignac Foundation, Paris and Davide Monteleone. “Spasibo” is supported by the Carmignac Foundation, Paris, and the Förderkreis Fotografie Forum Frankfurt e. V.

### **Publication**

The accompanying publication to this exhibition, “Davide Monteleone. Spasibo”, published by Kehrer Verlag, edited by Nathalie Gallon, Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award, includes texts by Galia Ackermann and Masha Gessen. It is available in hardcover with 164 pages, 16 pages booklet and 86 illustrations, in English/French for 58 Euro.

# PRESS RELEASE

## SPASIBO



### Opening

“Spasibo. Davide Monteleone, 4. Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award” will open on Friday, August 29, 2014, at 7pm. Opening speakers are Celina Lunsford, Artistic Director at Fotografie Forum Frankfurt; Emeric Glayse, Project Manager of the Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award. Davide Monteleone will be present.

### Special Events

Saturday, September 6, 2014, 6 pm

**Lecture** “From the Soul to Thank You”

**Davide Monteleone**, Photographer, Rome/Moscow

The lecture will be held in English.

Saturday/Sunday, September 6./7., 2014, 10 am–6 pm

**Workshop** Documentary Photography „Ideas and Practice“

**Davide Monteleone**, Photographer, Rome/Moscow

The workshop will be held in English.

### Venue

Fotografie Forum Frankfurt

Braubachstraße 30–32, 60311 Frankfurt am Main

Tel. +49 (0) 69 29 17 26, e-mail: [contact@fffrankfurt.org](mailto:contact@fffrankfurt.org)

[www.fffrankfurt.org](http://www.fffrankfurt.org)

Opening hours during the exhibition:

Tuesday–Sunday: 11 am–6 pm, Wednesday: 11 am–8 pm, Monday closed.

**Admission is free** for the duration of the exhibition “Spasibo”

**For more information** about the exhibition and press images, please contact Andrea Horvay by telephone +49 (0) 69 29 17 26 or by email at [presse@fffrankfurt.org](mailto:presse@fffrankfurt.org).

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **SPASIBO**



### **Carmignac Foundation - Supporting Contemporary Creativity**

Created in 2000, the Carmignac Foundation has its roots in Carmignac Gestion's corporate collection, which has been on display in the management company's premises from the start. Built up over the past twenty-five years with an open mind and no restrictions, this unique compendium of contemporary art reflects the personal favourites of Carmignac Gestion's founder, Edouard Carmignac, a seasoned fund manager and stockbroker. The Carmignac collection currently boasts nearly 200 works of art from the 20th and 21st centuries, including major ones by Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Keith Haring, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Gerhard Richter. Selected on the basis of how evocative they are, the quality of their composition and how powerful a message they convey, the most recent additions to the collection show a strong emphasis on emerging market countries.

The Carmignac Foundation has always been committed to sharing and open to dialogue with the widest possible audience. In keeping with that commitment, the Foundation, headed by Gaïa Donzet, plans to open new premises in 2016 on the protected island of Porquerolles. Architect Marc Barani and landscape architect Louis Benech will be designing the site in a way that fully respects this stunning natural environment and meets the rigorous building permit requirements. A programme of on-site sculpture commissions by young international artists has been launched in order to integrate contemporary art into an extraordinary setting that can both enhance the viewing experience and help make a new generation of artists better known.

### **Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award**

#### **Five years of free speech and artistic creativity**

The Carmignac Foundation launched the Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award in 2009 with the aim of supporting and promoting investigative photojournalism in areas not in the spotlight yet at the heart of complex geostrategic issues with global repercussions and where human rights and freedom of speech are often violated. The themes and winning photographers since 2009 have been Gaza – Kai Wiedenhöfer, Pashtunistan – Massimo Berruti, Zimbabwe – Robin Hammond and Chechnya – Davide Monteleone and Iran – Newsha Tavakolian. The theme selected for the sixth edition is "Lawless areas in France".

With a prize set at 50,000 Euros, this award aims to fund in-depth photographic report that reflects the complexity of the current situation. The Carmignac Foundation undertakes to support the winner throughout the project by monitoring his/her progress in the field as well as promoting and running a touring exhibition in France, Italy, Germany and the UK and financing a monograph. The Carmignac Foundation also commits to buying four photographs resulting from the winner's endeavours.

In keeping with the values of courage, independence, transparency and sharing held dear by staff at Carmignac Gestion, the Carmignac Foundation is committed to championing the views of involved individuals that are far from the standard blueprint.

[www.fondation-carmignac.com](http://www.fondation-carmignac.com)

**DAVIDE MONTELEONE** (b.1974) started his photographic career in 2000, when he became an editorial photographer for the agency Contrasto. The next year he moved to Moscow as a correspondent. This decision determined his ensuing career. He started working regularly with major national and international newspapers such as D, Io Donna, l'Espresso, The New York Times, Time, Stern, and The New Yorker, to name a few. Since 2003, Monteleone has lived between Italy and Russia, pursuing long-term personal projects and continuing his editorial work. He published his first book *Dusha - Russian Soul* in 2007, followed by *La Linea Inesistente* in 2009, *Red Thistle* in 2012 and *Spasibo* in 2013. His projects have brought him numerous awards, including the 4<sup>th</sup> Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award, three World Press Photo Prizes, the European Publishers Award and several grants like Aftermath. In recent years he is carrying out projects for leading international magazines, foundations and cultural institutions, exhibiting and teaching. Since 2011 Davide has been a member of VII Photo. He lives and works in Rome and Moscow.

*“Even though I come from the tradition of documentary photography, my goal is not only to inform, but to create images that are the interpretation of an idea. I want the audience to get curious about the subject of my research and to start investigating themselves.”*

### EXHIBITIONS

2014

*Spasibo*, Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany  
*Spasibo*, Les Rencontres d'Arles, Arles, France  
*Borderline Empire*, Kehrer Gallery Berlin, Germany  
*Spasibo*, Studio Francesco Messina Museum, Milano, Italy

2013

*Spasibo*, Chapelle de L'École des Beaux Arts, Paris, France  
*Red Thistle*, Bursa Festival, Bursa, Turkey  
*Dusha*, Casa studio Morandi, Modena, Italy  
*Red Thistle*, OFFICINE FOTOGRAFICHE, Rome  
*Red Thistle*, MICAMERA, MILAN, Italy  
*Red Thistle*, European Photography Award, Nobel prize Center, Oslo, Norway  
*Red Thistle*, VII Gallery, New York, US

2012

*Red Thistle*, Petite Noire Gallery, Paris, France  
*Red Thistle*, European photography Award, House of Photography, Hamburg, Germany  
*Red Thistle*, Freelens gallery, Hamburg, Germany

2011

*Ombre di Guerra*, MEP, Paris  
*La Linea Inesistente*, Ortigia, Siracuse

2010

*Northern Caucasus*, Castello Estense, Festival giornalismo di Internazionale, Ferrara, Italy  
*Northern Caucasus*, Fondazione cassa di risparmio di Trento e Rovereto, Rovereto, Italy  
*Northern Caucasus*, Lumix Festival in Hannover, Germany

2009

*La Linea Inesistente*, Palazzo Esposizioni, Rome  
*Ombre di Guerra*, Rotonda della Besana, Milan - collective  
*Prima e dopo il Muro*, Museo in Trastevere, Rome - collective  
Festival Giornalismo di Atri - collective  
*Clear Light*, Festival della Fotografia Reggio Emilia - collective

*From Body to Soul – Russian Caucasus*, FOTOGRAFIA Festival Internazionale di Roma, Palazzo Esposizioni, Rome

*Dusha – Russian Soul*, Micamera, Milan

2008

*Dusha – Russian Soul*, Voies off, Arles, France

*Dusha – Russian Soul*, Lumix Festival, Hannover, Germany

*Dusha – Russian Soul*, B>Gallery, Rome, Italy

2007

*Dusha – Russian Soul*, LuccaDigitalFotoFest 2007, Italy

*Scandinavian Muslim*, Noorderlicht Festival 2007, Holland - collective

*Altri Mondi*, FOTOGRAFIA Festival Internazionale di Roma - collective

2006

Israeli bombing in Lebanon, Luis Valtueña Int. Humanitarian Photography Award

2003

*circa 35 - High Society*, FOTOGRAFIA Festival Internazionale di Roma - collective

### AWARDS AND PRIZES

2013

Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award, *Spasibo*

POY 2013 MULTIMEDIA 2ND PLACE, *Multimedia Nordic Odyssey*

2012

Lead Award , Germany 3rd prize, *Red Thistle*

EPEA 01 GRANT, *Harragas*

Awaking award, Tehran art project, Iran, *Reversed see series*

2011

European Publisher Award, *Red Thistle*

Follow your convictions grant, *Reversed See* – Maurice Lacroix – World Press Photo foundation

World Press Photo

Milan Fashion Week – 2nd Prize Art single

2010

Aftermath Project Grant, Winner with *Red Thistle*, *Journey in the Northern Caucasus*

Lumix Freelens Award, Winner with *Northern Caucasus*

Emerging Photographer grant

Winner burn magazine grant *Northern Caucasus*

Sony World Photography Awards, 2nd prize Contemporary Issue Daghestan

2009

Leica Oskar Barnak Award, Finalist *Russian Caucasus*

World Press Photo, *Abkhazia* – 1° Prize General news stories

2008

Finalist at Aftermath Project Grant, *Russian Caucasus*

IPA Award, 2nd place best book *DUSHA Russian Soul*, 1st place general news editorial *Pakistan Turning Point*

FotoGrafia-Book Award, Best book at FotoGrafia Festival in Rome

Bastianelli Mention best book, Best “first book” at Bastianelli Prize in Rome

PDN Photo annual award, Magazine Editorial Categories for Internazionale

# DAVIDE MONTELEONE

## CV



2007

TAF prize, *Dusha – Russian Soul*

LuccaDigitalFotoFest 2007, Italy

World Press Photo, Israeli bombing in Lebanon – 1° Prize Spot news stories.

2006

FNAC *C'era una volta CCCP*, FNAC mention at the prize *Talento fotografico fnac*

2005

Prize Amilcare Ponchielli *C'era una volta CCCP*, 2nd prize at the Amilcare Ponchielli Milano

### MONOGRAPHS

2013

*Spasibo*, Kehrer Verlag

2012

*Red Thistle*, Actes sud, Dewi Lewis, Peliti, Kehrer Verlag

2009

*La Linea Inesistente*, Contrasto

2007

*Dusha – Russian Soul*, Edizioni Postcart

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2012

*Holler – Enel Contemporanea*, H+

*War is only half of the story vol. 4*, Aftermath Foundation

2011

*Time In Turkey*, Zaman

2010

*Burn 01 in print*, Magnum Foundation

*War is only half of the story vol. 3*, Aftermath Foundation

2009

*Foam Talent issue*, Foam

*Reportage Atri Festival*, catalogue Peliti Associati

*Clear Light*, catalogue Peliti Associati

*La Gioia*, catalogue Zone Attive Edizioni

2008

*Quotidianamente Fotografi*, Edizioni Postcart

# SPASIBO PRESS IMAGES

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### DAVIDE MONTELEONE

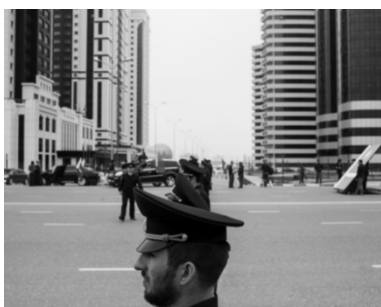
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[MOD13002\_008.jpg]

Spasibo, Republic of Chechnya, Russia, 03/2013, © Davide Monteleone/VII for Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award.

Security forces attending the celebration for the 10th anniversary of the Constitution Day. In the background Grozny City, five gleaming towers, the heart of the reconstruction of Grozny and a symbol of the city's recovery following the destruction wrought at the beginning of the millennium. Grozny, March 23rd 2013.



[MOD13002\_001.jpg]

Spasibo, Republic of Chechnya, Russia, 03/2013, © Davide Monteleone/VII for Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award.

Fireworks in the city's main square to mark the 10th Constitution Day celebration. At the end of the Second Chechen War, Russia installed a pro-Moscow Chechen regime. In 2003 a referendum was held on a constitution that reintegrated Chechnya within Russia, but limited local autonomy. According to the Chechen government, the referendum drew a turnout of nearly 80% and passed with 95.5% of the vote. Grozny, March 23rd 2013.



[MOD13002\_038.jpg]

Spasibo, Republic of Chechnya, Russia, 03/2013, © Davide Monteleone/VII for Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award.

A group of elderly Chechens praying in the mountains. Most Chechens practice Sunni Islam, and the majority of Chechen Sunnis belong to a Sufi order. Two recent trends have emerged in Chechnya in recent years. First, a radicalized remnant of the armed Chechen separatist movement has become dominated by Salafis who advocate abandoning nationalism in favor of pan-Islamism and merging with several other regional Islamic insurgencies to try to form a Caucasus Emirate. Second, Ramzan Kadyrov's Moscow-backed regime has engaged in its own Islamization campaign. Under Kadyrov's leadership, local governments have actively promoted and enforced their own version of a so-called "traditional Islam," including the introduction of elements of Sharia that have replaced Russian laws. Shatoy.





[MOD13002\_051.jpg]

Spasibo, Republic of Chechnya, Russia, 03/2013, © Davide Monteleone/VII for Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award.

A girl praying in the only official women's madrasa in Chechnya and in Russia. This is one of the oldest madrasas to permit girls to study Islam. In operation for the past 13 years, the school was previously burned down by Russian authorities with Ramzan Kadyrov's full consent. Thanks to Aiman Kadyrova, President of the Regional Public Foundation who was named for Akhmat Kadyrov, the madrasa now has its own fully equipped building. One village resident recounts, "I remember when President Dzhokhar Dudaev claimed that our girls needed not schools, but madrasas. That statement provoked a wave of indignation in the Republic. Dzhokhar Dudaev was criticized everywhere and by everyone. People said that he did not want our children to get good education, that the rights of women were being violated, and so on. Today, for some reason, no one protests against women's madrasas, against mandatory wearing of headscarves for young women, or against the introduction of some elements of Sharia. On the contrary, everyone thanks the government, and Ramzan Kadyrov personally, for that. That is, the outlook on life has dramatically changed in the past twenty years in our Republic". Chiri Yurt.



[MOD13002\_022.jpg]

Spasibo, Republic of Chechnya, Russia, 03/2013, © Davide Monteleone/VII for Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award.

The Special Forces of the "Batallion Sever" (North Battalion), training for security operations. The "Kadyrovtsy", a militia made up of thousands of armed men devoted to the Kadyrov clan, including many former rebels from the First and Second Chechen Wars, was initially created as Akhmad Kadyrov's personal security force and lacked formal legal status. After Akhmad Kadyrov was killed, the militia was formally liquidated and most of its units integrated into the system headed by the Chechen Ministry of the Interior. Two units were created: the "Akhmad Kadyrov" Second Road Patrol Regiment of the Police and the Oil Regiment, later renamed "Battalion North" and "Battalion South". As of 2008, Ramzan Kadyrov controls all of the Chechen forces, and has placed former commanders of his militia in important governmental positions. The two security units are involved in so-called "anti-terrorist operations", and, according to several organizations, have often violated human rights. Grozny.



[MOD13002\_011.jpg]

Spasibo, Republic of Chechnya, Russia, 03/2013, © Davide Monteleone/VII for Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award.

View of the Chechen-Caucasian mountains from the high peak of the Kharachoi village, at the border with Dagestan, one of the region's most turbulent areas and a suspected hiding place for insurgents. Although visitors to the area are required to pass through three separate checkpoints, the Chechen government is planning to transform it into one of the region's main tourist destinations. Karachoi.

# SPASIBO PRESS IMAGES



[MOD13002\_085.jpg]

Spasibo, Republic of Chechnya, Russia, 03/2013. © Davide Monteleone/VII for Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award.

Rada, 14, trying on a wedding dress inside a bus during a rehearsal for a movie on Chechen deportation. As in many other Muslim countries, child brides were very common in Chechnya. Although President Kadyrov strongly promotes a merger of Chechen tradition and Islamic law, the Russian federal government recently forced him to condemn the practice of child marriage, which is illegal throughout the Russian Federation. Shatoy.

**The offered photos may be published exclusively in connection with the exhibition “Spasibo. Davide Monteleone. 4. Carmignac Gestion Photojournalism Award”, Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, August 30–September 28, 2014.**

## **Press material**

For press images and more information about the exhibition, please contact Andrea Horvay by telephone +49 (0) 69 29 17 26 or by email at [presse@fffrankfurt.org](mailto:presse@fffrankfurt.org).