Out of the blue

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Abstract

Il contributo descrive il progetto fotografico Out of the Blue, realizzato da Pio De Rose tra il 2017 e il 2018 lungo la passeggiata Anita Garibaldi, Nervi (Genova).

The contribution describes the photographic project Out of the Blue, carried out by Pio De Rose between 2017 and 2018 along the Anita Garibaldi promenade, Nervi (Genoa).
Out of the Blue portrays the secret encounters of two lovers destined to be together and yet cursed to be apart. Growing on the edge of a man-made cliff-top promenade, these trees and shrubs can never reach the ever-moving waters of the sea upon which they gaze. For over a year, I photographed those rare nights in which the favour of the wind would allow the breeze to gently adorn these never-resting fronds with shimmering, dancing, salty pearls.

28th JUN 2017, cliff-top promenade Anita Garibaldi, Genoa, Italy; 11:37pm. That windy night I was walking along the promenade to photograph an entirely different project when, all of a sudden, I felt as if it started raining. However, I immediately realised that that was not the case, as the drops were definitely not coming from above. I then noticed the agitated fronds of a palm, almost waving in the dark to call my attention; taking this picture was the closest thing to witnessing a marvel or a miracle that I have ever experienced.

I kept revisiting the area every time conditions seemed to favour such phenomenon. However, very often, despite the rough sea, the waves and the wind, it simply did not happen. Sometimes – even more annoyingly – I could see it happening underneath the street lamps illuminating the promenade, just few meters away from where I was hoping to take a picture.

Given the unpredictability with which the breeze would carry these sea drops, I soon started looking for signals that could somehow help me choose when to press the shutter: a sudden change in the wind, the louder sound of a bigger wave crashing on the cliff... and then, after a few seconds, it was always – quite literally – a ‘shot in the dark’.

Figg. 1-12 - Dalla serie Out of the Blue, Nervi (Genova), 2017-2018 (foto: Pio De Rose).