

## **Open call – Traces of the Cold War**

**Deadline 16 October 2022**

Friuli Storia welcomes proposals from international photographers and artists who have in their portfolio artistic images of the extensive traces left from the Cold War period on the border between Italy, Austria and present-day Slovenia.

For those who lived in this borderland, the landscape was always a stark reminder that the Cold War could easily turn into an armed conflict. Within a few years after the end of World War II, the Western Allies concluded that the area was an easy entry point for a Soviet invasion of Western Europe, and the region was turned into a fortress. Dozens of barracks, shooting ranges, ammunition depots, and missile bases were built in a relatively short time. A secret defence line of over 1,000 bunkers and underground structures was dug under the Alpine front and in the Gorizia area and hundreds of thousands of soldiers were deployed in Friuli Venezia Giulia. It is estimated that over the course of the Cold War, around 3 million people served their military service in this region and 2/3 of the Italian army was based here.

Then, after the end of the Cold War, the process was reversed. Barracks were closed down and the military presence severely reduced. The secret underground defence line was abandoned, its existence still unknown to most of the population. When, in 1995 and 2004 respectively, Austria and Slovenia joined the European Union, the border was de facto eliminated. Fortress Friuli became a modern Fortezza Bastiani, its empty barracks and bunkers a monument to a conflict relegated to the dustbin of history.

The competition is open to artists of all nationalities born on or after 1 January 1988. Selected entries will be given the opportunity to exhibit during the international conference on “Cold War Borders and Borderlands in Europe and Northeast Asia, 1944-1991”, which will be held in Udine and Gorizia from 9-12 March 2023. All submissions will also be presented in the four underground defensive structures, which are currently opened to visitors in Friuli Venezia Giulia (municipalities of Paluzza, Malborghetto, Villa Santina and Savogna d’Isonzo). Authors will keep copyrights of their images.

Those interested should send personal data and an outline of their project by 16 October 2022 to [info@friulistoria.it](mailto:info@friulistoria.it). Images should be attached to the email via WeTransfer (or other file sharing platforms) link.

This project is jointly organized by Friuli Storia, University of Udine and Centro di Ricerca e Archiviazione della Fotografia, with the support of Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia and Fondazione Friuli.