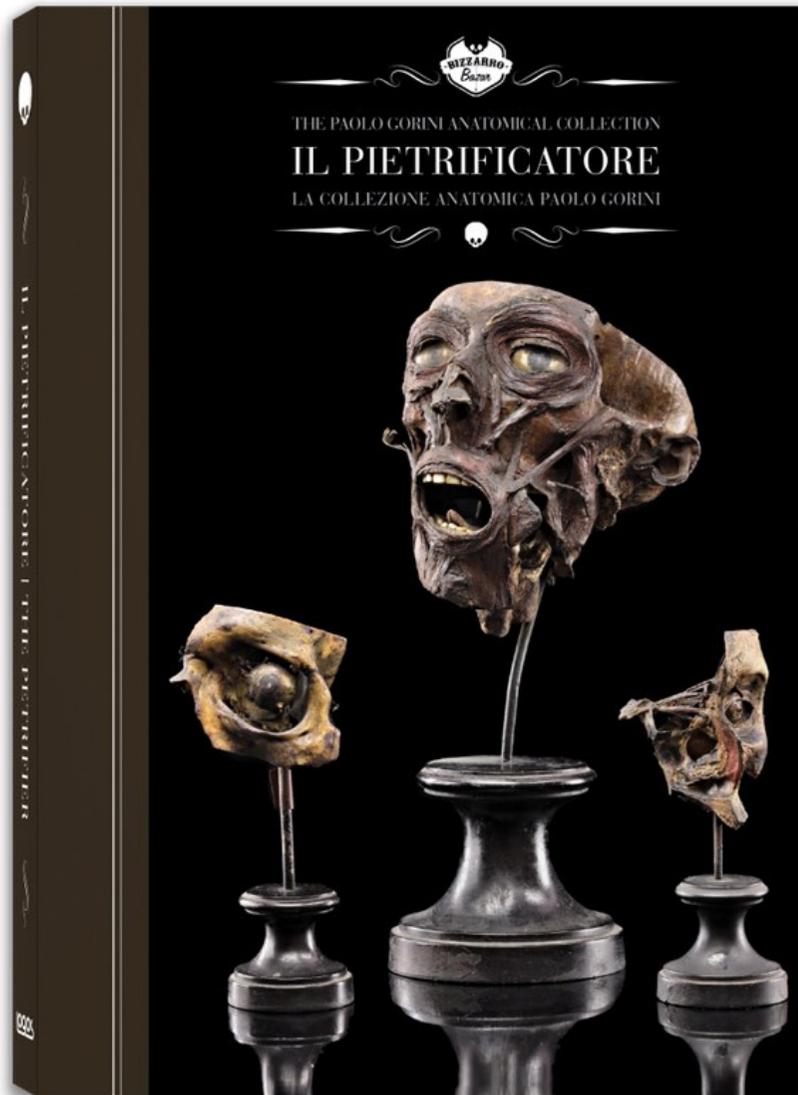


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THE PETRIFIER. THE PAOLO GORINI ANATOMICAL  
COLLECTION

Ivan Cenzi, Carlo Vannini

Bizzarro Bazar

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## THE PETRIFIER. THE PAOLO GORINI ANATOMICAL COLLECTION

Whole bodies, heads, babies, young ladies, peasants, their skin turned into stone, immune to putrescence: they are the "Gorini's dead", locked in a lapidary eternity that saves them from the ravenous destruction of the Conquering Worm.

They can be admired in a small museum in Lodi, where, under the XVI century vault with grotesque frescoes, a unique collection is preserved: the marvellous legacy of Paolo Gorini (1813-1881). Eccentric figure, characterised by a clashing duality, Gorini devoted himself to mathematics, volcanology, experimental geology, corpse preservation (he embalmed the prestigious bodies of Giuseppe Mazzini and Giuseppe Rovani), however he was also involved in the design of one of the first Italian crematory ovens.

Introverted recluse in his laboratory obtained from an old deconsecrated church, but at the same time women's lover and man of science able to establish close relationships with the literary men of his era, Gorini is depicted in the collective imagination as a figure poised between the necromant and the romantic cliché of the "crazy scientist", both loved and feared. Because of his mysterious procedures and top-secret formulas that could "petrify" the corpses, Paolo Gorini's life has been surrounded by an air of legend.

Thanks to the contributions of the museum curator Alberto Carli and the anthropologist Dario Piombino-Mascali, this book retraces the curious historic period during which the petrification process obtained a certain success, as well as the value and interest conferred to the collection in Lodi nowadays.

These preparations, in fact, are not silent witnesses: they speak about the history of the long-dated human obsession for the preserving of dead bodies, documenting a moment in which the Westerners relationship with death was beginning to change. And, ultimately, they solve Paolo Gorini's enigma: a "wizard", man and scientist, who, traumatised at a young age by his father's death, spent his whole life probing the secrets of Nature and attempting to defeat the decay.

### **The series:**

**This is the third book of the #BizzarroBazar series, edited by Ivan Cenzi.** The object of this series, with texts in Italian and English, is to enhance and explore some of our peninsula's hidden wonders and invite people to think about its artistic and cultural heritage. The series conveys to the reader the same sense of astonishment and delight that can be experienced when entering a *Wunderkammer*. **The absolute protagonists of the book are the amazing images by Carlo Vannini, one of the most recognized art photographers in our country, which offer the reader a perfect visual guide.**

### **The author and editor:**

**Ivan Cenzi** was born in 1978 in Asiago (VI). After graduating in Communication Studies at the University of Siena and specializing in Film direction at Cinecittà, he now works as a film director and producer for Interzone Visions, an independent company he has founded himself. Explorer of the uncanny and collector of curiosities, since 2009 he has been the editor of #BizzarroBazar, a blog that deals with anything weird, macabre and marvellous, which in a short time has become the Italian landmark for this kind of topics. Over the years #BizzarroBazar has been dealing with *Wunderkammern*, anatomical museums and collections, the history of circus and traveling fairs, the early days of science, photography, classic and modern art, music, literature but also anthropology, thanatology, psychology, cinema, sexuality, humour, etc. The blog's scrupulous editorial criteria aim to avoid the muddy cheap stuff of supermarket wonders, as well as TV "mysteries" (UFO, ghosts, and the like) choosing to emphasize the little known history of a human race that has always turned diversity into a creative force.

### **The photographer:**

**Carlo Vannini** is the photographer of all "cultural" objects: artworks, archaeological finds, restoration works, architectural structures, city views, but also ordinary handcrafted artefacts permeated by a strong historical feeling. He was born in Reggio Emilia in 1956, where his uncle, a painter, and his father, a decorator, made him familiar with artistic materials. After a short amateurish experience, Carlo developed a strong passion for the professional reproduction of artworks, which has been leading him through exciting adventures while documenting restoration works. He has gradually developed a mastery of photographic techniques such as ultraviolet, infrared, skimming light, transmitted light and mirrored light. Since 1983 he has been creating illustrations for catalogues and still-life advertising photographs and is acknowledged as one of the leading Italian fine art photographers.

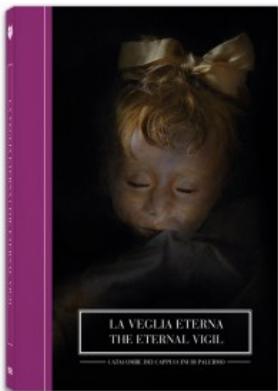
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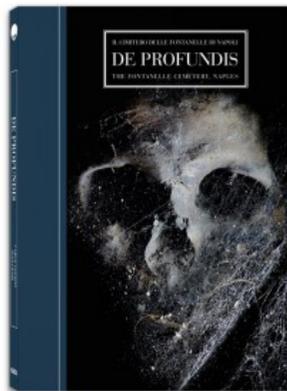
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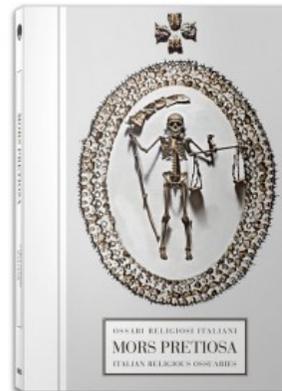
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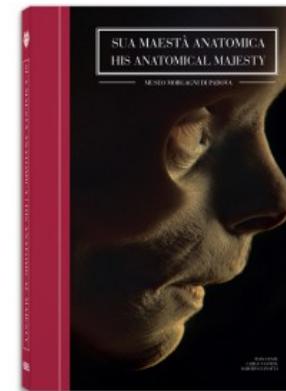
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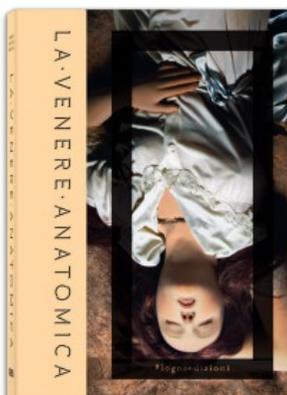
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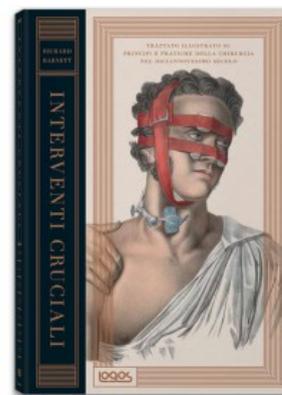
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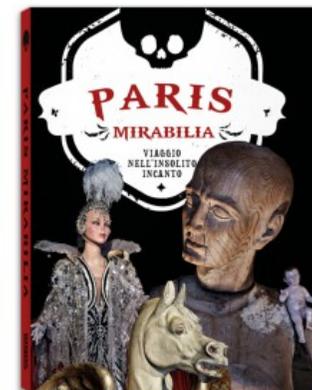
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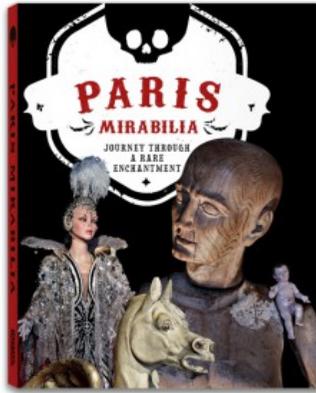


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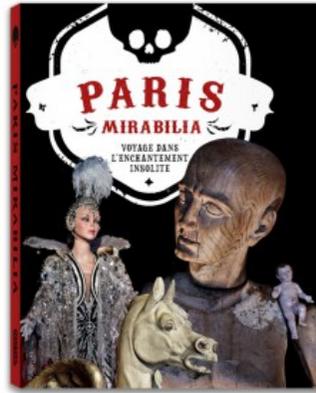
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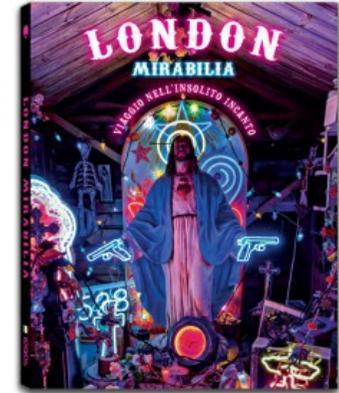


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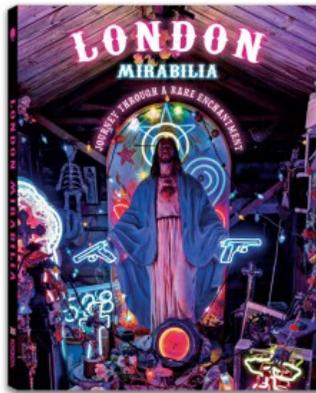


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