Antonio Schiavano

Artist Statement

After a long career in advertising photography, where I built images meant to embody flawless beauty, I learned to control light, form, and every detail until achieving a perfection designed to captivate the eye.

The pandemic marked a turning point in my journey. The sudden pause in daily life and work gave me the time to reflect on the meaning of the images I had been creating for years and on the need to seek a more personal, liberated form of expression, one that could move beyond appearances.

I began questioning the very perfection I had helped construct, along with the credibility of the photographic image itself. From this need, **Photomorphia** was born.

Photography has an extraordinary power to appear truthful, yet truthfulness does not necessarily equate to truth. An image can faithfully capture what it shows and still conceal what we are unable to see.

I physically intervene on my photographs. I alter their surfaces, remove material, and introduce marks and imperfections. My goal is not to destroy the image but to challenge its apparent certainty, opening the door to a different interpretation, one that is less comforting and perhaps more authentic.

The human body is the central territory of my research. Through it, I explore fragility, identity, desire, diversity, and the contradictions that shape human relationships. I do not see imperfection as a flaw to correct but as an authentic condition of existence.

We live in a society where personal image has become a constant form of communication, exposed to judgment and comparison. Social media promotes often unattainable ideals of beauty, artificial intelligence blurs the line between reality and representation, and the growing reliance on aesthetic procedures reflects how strongly the desire to conform to certain standards affects our relationship with our own bodies.

With my work, I do not claim to reveal any absolute truth. I aim to question what we are accustomed to seeing as true. I strive to create a space where viewers can engage with their own experience, recognizing in imperfection, vulnerability, and diversity essential aspects of the human condition.

Photomorphia was born from the paradox of altering a truthful image in order to seek a deeper truth that its very appearance might be hiding.