

Artist's Monograph

Premier Issue - Sept 2025

The Unlit Stage

featuring Paolo Serrau

Curated by Rare Storyteller, this Artist's Monograph traces the raw intensity of Paolo Serrau's vision - a dialogue between artist and viewer, an intimate journey into light, shadow, and memory.

Rare Storyteller

www.rarestoryteller.com



From the Editor

There are artists who create images, and then there are artists who carve out entire worlds through light, shadow, and silence. Paolo belongs to the latter. His work does not merely document - it unsettles, questions, and holds us still long enough to listen.

When we began curating The Unlit Stage, it felt less like assembling photographs and more like opening a dialogue between Paolo and the unseen.

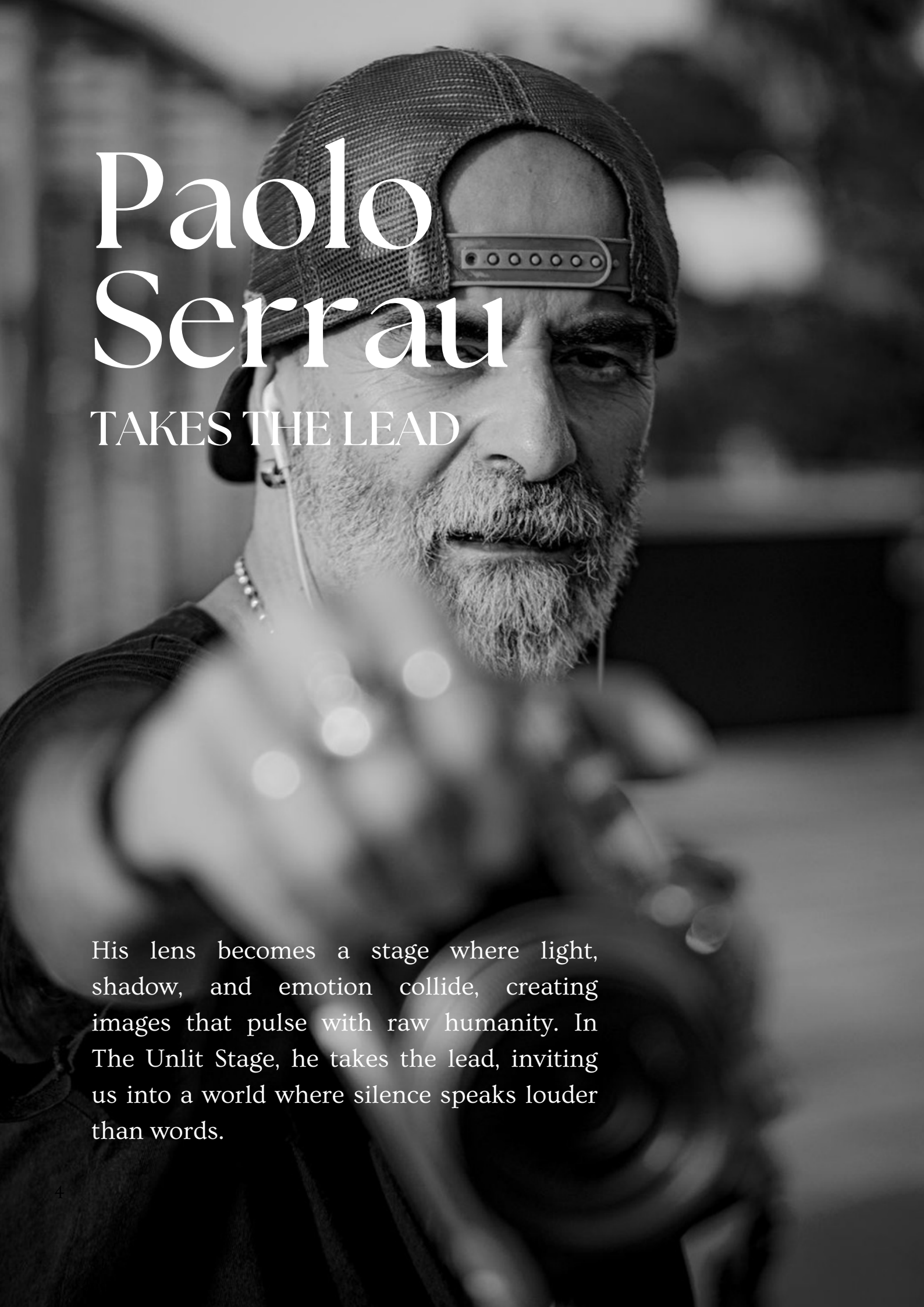
Each frame is alive with dualities: presence and absence, vulnerability and defiance, movement and stillness. What makes his work magnetic is the rawness of what lies underneath - the honesty of being human.

This monograph is a rare invitation. It asks you, the reader, to connect with Paolo's images, to step into the darkened stage where stories reveal themselves in gestures, shadows, and glances.

We are honored to share this with you. May these pages remind us all that art, at its truest, is not about perfection, but about courage - the courage to show ourselves, unlit yet unafraid.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Arpit Sharma". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Arpit" and "Sharma" being capitalized and prominent.

FOUNDER - RARE STORYTELLER

A black and white portrait of a man with a beard and a backward cap, looking directly at the camera. The background is blurred, showing some foliage and a fence. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Paolo Serra

TAKES THE LEAD

His lens becomes a stage where light, shadow, and emotion collide, creating images that pulse with raw humanity. In *The Unlit Stage*, he takes the lead, inviting us into a world where silence speaks louder than words.

Paolo Serraui grew up in Southern Italy in the 1970s, in a world shaped by light and silence. The loss of his father left an imprint that still moves through his photographs - in the rawness he never hides. He doesn't seek spectacle or perfection. What draws him is tension, fragility, and the emotions that hover just beyond words.



His images are stark, stripped down to essentials, yet they carry weight - not just of the subject, but of memory and presence. For Paolo, photography is less about documenting and more about asking. Each frame holds a question: of identity, of beauty, of what endures in the silence between light and shadow.



Rare, and Always.

A story of what happens when the light dares to
reveal more than we intend to show.



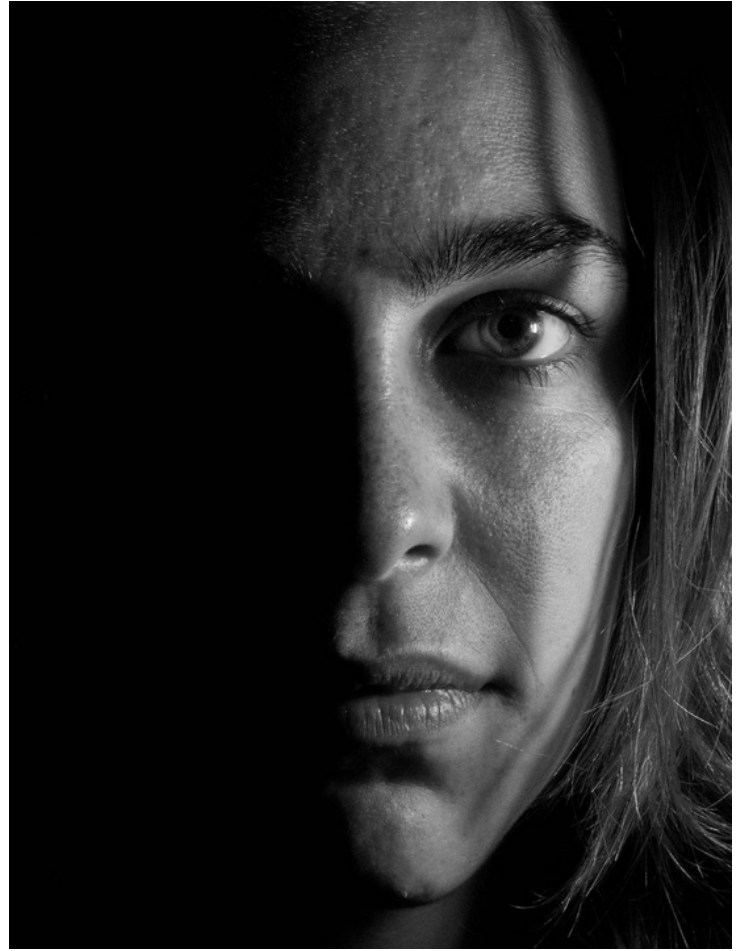
The man sits in flesh,
yet his shadow refuses
to follow.

On the wall, the body
fractures into another being -
upright, proud, almost
mythic. What is muscle in
the light becomes posture in
the dark, as if the two belong
to separate species bound by
the same skin.

Here, Paolo does not simply
document a body in space; he
stages a quiet rebellion
between matter and illusion.

The table holds a man, but
the wall carries his other self
- the self unburdened by
weight, by gravity, by bone.

It is in this fracture, this
doubling, that the
photograph finds its power.
One body, two truths. The
physical, fragile and human.
The shadow, eternal and
untouchable. Together, they
form a portrait not of what
we are, but of what we might
become when light chooses
to tell a different story.



BETWEEN MOTION & STILLNESS

There is no single way to hold a story - sometimes it moves in fragments, sometimes in silence. What Paolo Serra shows us is that fit is not about perfection, but about resonance.

A gesture caught mid-air, a face half-claimed by shadow - these are not accidents but choices, reminders that truth often exists in what is left incomplete.

In his work, bodies do not just perform; they reveal. They bend, blur, resist the frame, yet they also find their place inside it. It is in this tension between chaos and stillness that Paolo's images come alive, nailing not a perfect fit, but an honest one.



Every image here is a
fragment of a larger
performance

WHEN THE MASK SLIPS



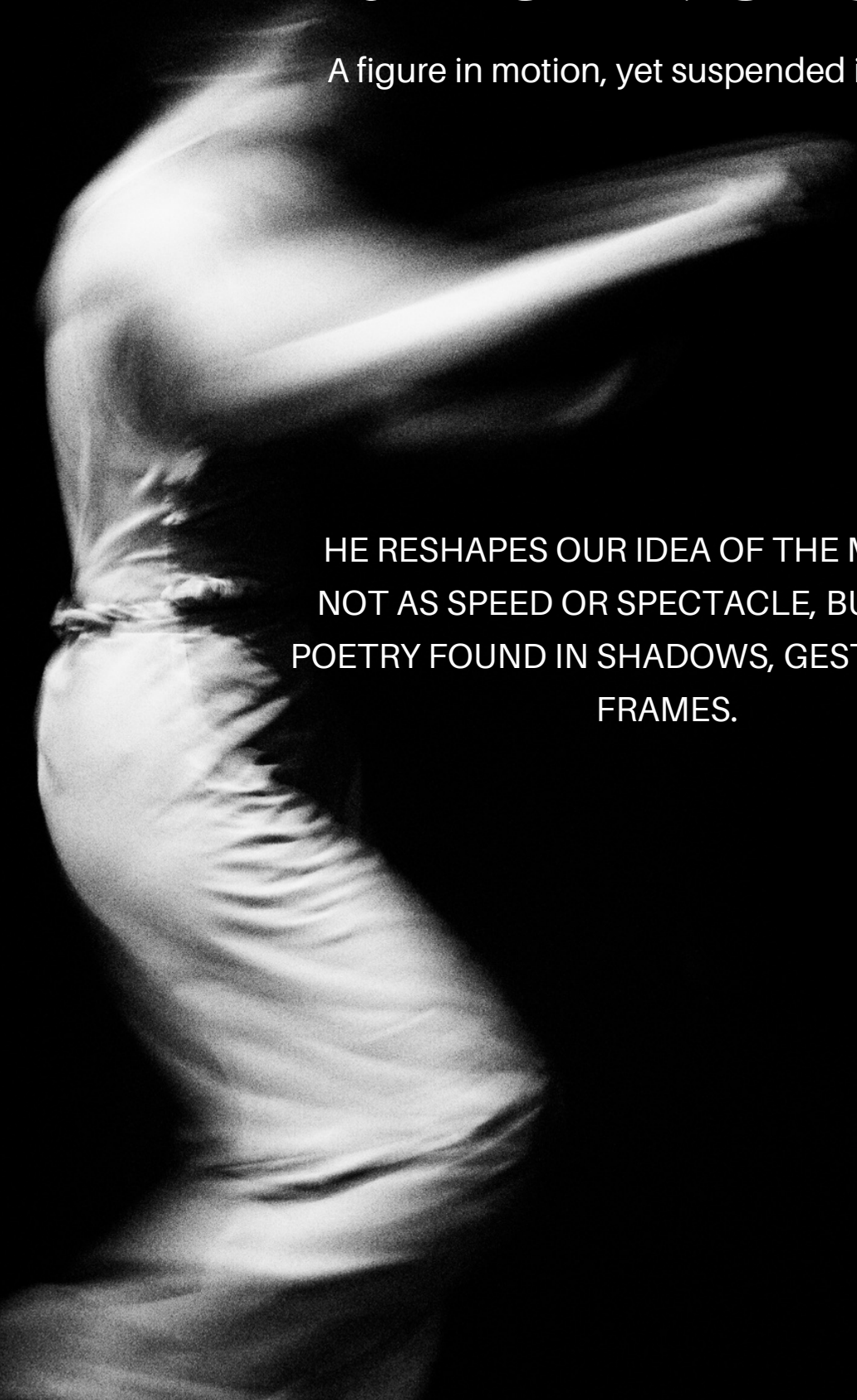
There are moments when performance bleeds into truth, when the stage no longer protects but exposes. In this frame, the body resists and surrenders at once - a hand holding, a gaze searching, figures moving around her like shadows of doubt.

Paolo asks us to sit with the ambiguity of human presence - strength colliding with fragility, control with release. The image is less about style, more about what lies beneath it: the raw pulse of being seen, and the fear of it.

Beyond the Noise

A figure in motion, yet suspended in silence.

HE RESHAPES OUR IDEA OF THE MODERN -
NOT AS SPEED OR SPECTACLE, BUT AS THE
POETRY FOUND IN SHADOWS, GESTURES, AND
FRAMES.



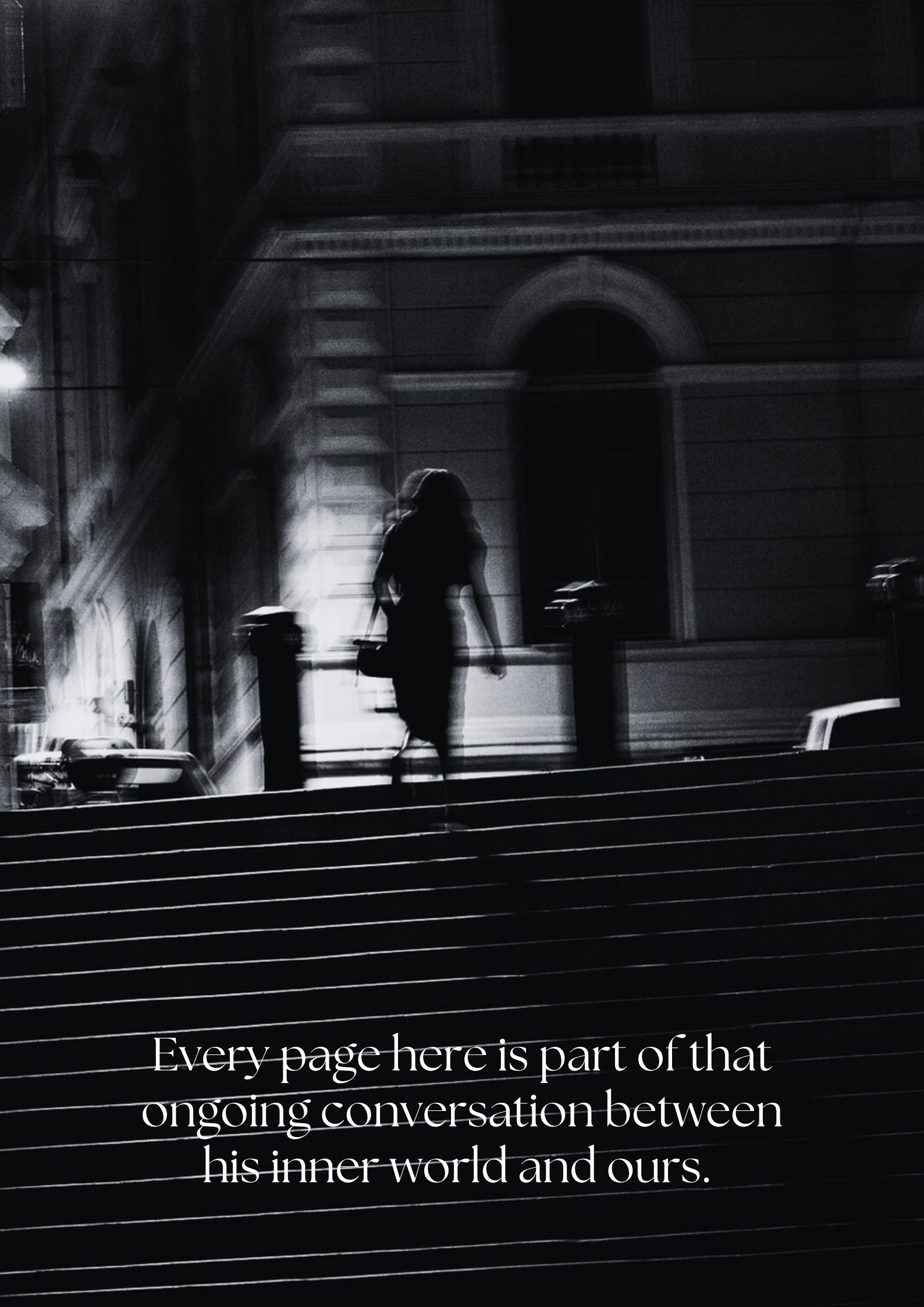


To stand before Paolo's work is to feel suspended - as if caught in the fragile space where something is both arriving and disappearing. His images resist certainty; they do not give us a subject to hold but an atmosphere to inhabit.

Presence flickers in gestures, in fragments of skin, in shadows that lean like unspoken words. Absence hums alongside - what is withheld, obscured, or slipping quietly out of frame.

Each photograph becomes a mirror for the viewer - a place where solitude feels familiar, where silence is not emptiness. Paolo reminds us that stories do not always need words. Sometimes they are carried in the shape of light, in the fall of a shadow, in the space between two souls.





Every page here is part of that
ongoing conversation between
his inner world and ours.



Every shadow
holds a confession.

In Paolo's work, shadows are never passive. They lean forward, intrude, whisper what the body cannot say aloud.

They are the double that follows us, sometimes more honest than the skin itself. In the blur of grain and the fracture of light, the shadow confesses what the subject might conceal - vulnerability, desire, fear, or power.

To look at these images is to understand that identity is never whole; it is layered and refracted.



The body as question, not answer.



An Unlit Stage, Still Alive

Monographs by Rare Storyteller | In collaboration with Paolo Serrau

Closing this magazine is about pausing in a space that was built entirely for Paolo, a space where his work could breathe differently.

At Rare Storyteller, we have featured Paolo before, spoken with him in interviews, and come to know him not only as an artist but as a man whose vision is inseparable from his lived experience. But this monograph is something else - it is not simply a collection of photographs; it is a dialogue, an echo of the countless silences, tensions, and truths that inhabit his images.

We created this personalized space because some artists deserve more than a spotlight - they deserve a stage, however unlit, where the fragments of their vision can come together in a story larger than any single frame. In curating and writing alongside

For us, Paolo is a rare presence: someone whose art continues to teach us that photography is not about seeing alone, but about returning - to ourselves, to each other, to the truths we often try to escape. This magazine is our way of saying that we see him, fully, and we invite you to see him too.

Connect with the artist
beyond these pages.



@DAMAGEDPAUL



Monographs by Rare Storyteller

Special thanks to:

T Off Theatre | Nina Bergal | Roby Walsh

Federico Branca | Mascha Arletaz | Filippo Littarru

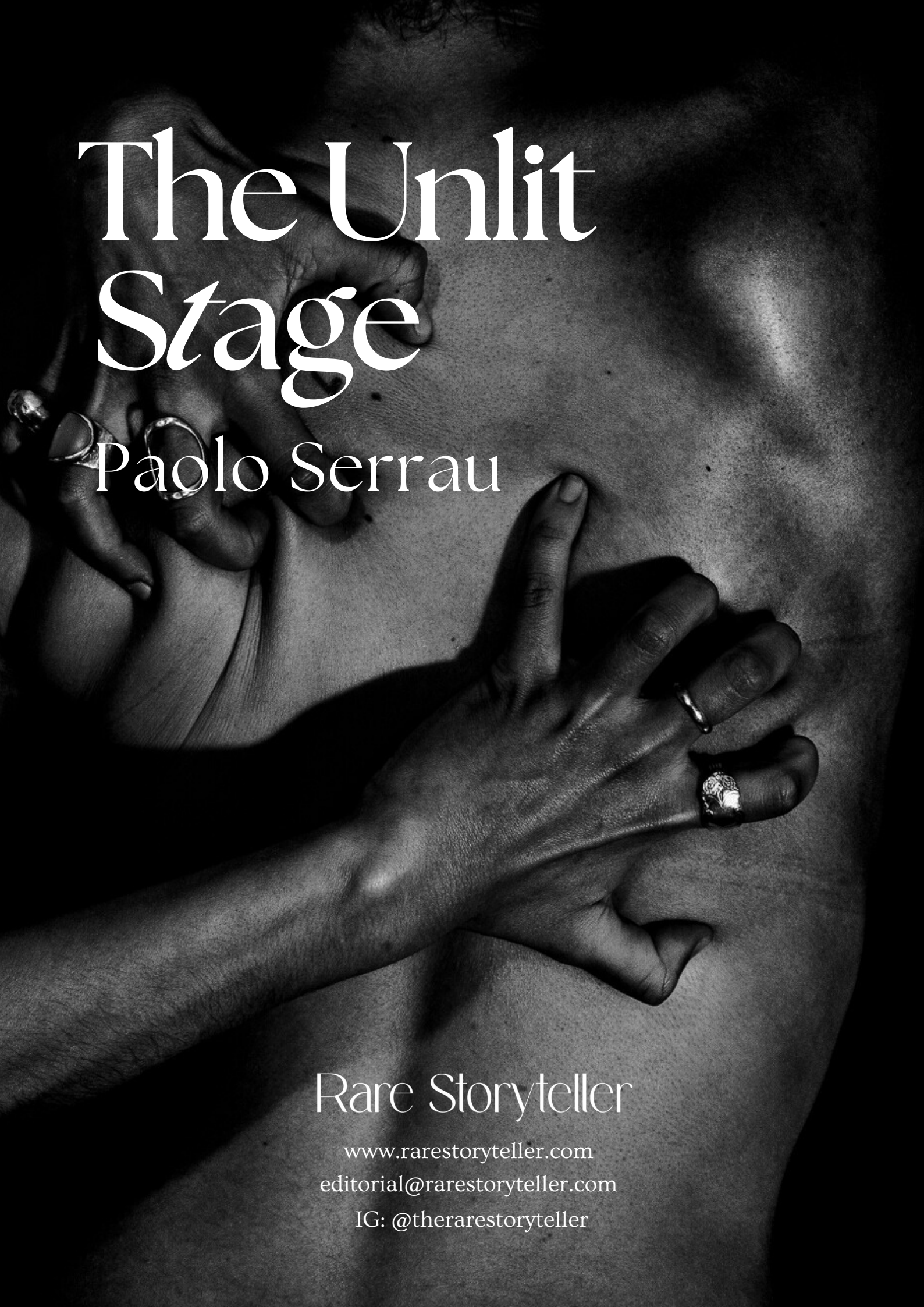


Scan the QR code for instant
access to our digital spaces!



Visit our
online edition

www.rarestoryteller.com



The Unlit *Stage*

Paolo Serrau

Rare Storyteller

www.rarestoryteller.com

editorial@rarestoryteller.com

IG: @therarestoryteller