

Youssef Bebawi, suspect in the murder trial of playboy businessman Faruk Chourbagi

Date

1969-1979

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

January 20, 1964 the body of Faruk Chourbagi is discovered lying on the ground in his office in Via Lazio in Rome. He was killed two days earlier by four shots and then slashed. He was a Lebanese citizen, Egyptian by birth, and a brilliant young businessman (27), with an established reputation as a playboy. The main suspects in the murder were his mistress Gabrielle Bebawi and her husband Youssef, also a successful Egyptian industrialist. Defended by two of the best lawyers of the time, John Leo and Giuliano Vassalli, the couple blamed each other. Thanks to this defensive strategy, after 142 hearings, with a parade of 120 witnesses, they are acquitted in 1966 because of a lack of evidence. The judgement is reversed on appeal, in 1968, despite the absence of new evidence: They both received 22 years in prison. However the accused, now divorced, fled.

Dimensions

Overall: 30.4 x 21.1 cm (12 x 8 3/8 in.)