

Basic Detail Report

Portrait of Vittorio Sgarbi

Date

1969-1979

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

Vittorio Sgarbi is an Italian art critic, art historian, politician, cultural commentator and television personality. He was appointed curator of the Italian Pavilion at the 2011 Venice Biennale. Several times a member of the Italian Parliament and having served in Milan's municipal government, from June 30, 2008 to February 15, 2012 he was the mayor of the Sicilian town of Salemi. His Sgarbi Quotidiani TV show during the 1990s was a 15-minute daily discussion of current events. During some of those shows he furiously attacked Italian judges during the Tangentopoli corruption scandal. This led to great turmoil in Italian politics, with the fall of many traditional parties and the rise of Silvio Berlusconi, subsequently himself convicted of tax fraud. He attacked the use of preventive detention in prison; he declared that many people had been arrested without proper warrant and that some innocent people had been unjustly accused. Although he has strongly defended the role of Catholicism as a foundation of Italian culture, he defines himself as an atheist. On ethical issues — for example, that of euthanasia or in the case of Eluana Englaro, whose life was artificially prolonged by 17 years in a vegetative coma, he sided with the Catholic Church. He has also declared his opposition not just to gay marriage but to marriage in general.

Dimensions

Overall: 30.8 x 24.3 cm (12 1/8 x 9 4/8 in.)