

Basic Detail Report

In Piazza Montecitorio, Rome, proponents of the Italian divorce law demonstrate for the adoption of the Law by holding up candles

Date

1970-1974

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

Divorce was introduced in Italy by law of 1 December 1970. An abrogative referendum supported by Catholic organisations and by the Vatican was defeated on May 12, 1974. A constitutional issue had been also raised with regard to Italy's obligations under the Lateran Treaty, entered into in 1929, on whether it prohibited Italy from authorising divorce. Before 1970, there was no provision for divorce in Italian law, and the difficulty of ridding oneself of an unwanted spouse in the absence of any legal way to do so was a frequent topic of drama and humour, reaching its apotheosis in the 1961 film *Divorce, Italian Style*.

Dimensions

Overall: 29.7 x 21.1 cm (11 6/8 x 8 2/8 in.)