

HEART OF THE RACE: MASTER MECHANICS OF THE MILLE MIGLIA

Museo Mille Miglia, *Brescia, IT* — 29 May to 31 October 2025
MO.CA Centro per le Nuove culture, *Brescia, IT* — 29 May to 30 August 2025

E.A. KAHANE



INTRODUCTION

As we approach the centennial of the world famous Mille Miglia, E.A.KAHANE'S photo installation, HEART OF THE RACE, Master Mechanics of the Mille Miglia, pays tribute to the historic and invaluable contributions of its skilled mechanics.

From the very beginning in 1927 of what has been described as the “world's most beautiful race,” mechanics have always played a vital role in making the race possible. In the early years of the speed contest, the mechanic rode in the car with the driver, to be instantly available for repairs as well as handling the navigation.

Today the mechanics ride in chase cars, followed by vans loaded with equipment, and also staff and support network in strategic locations along the race route.

For months leading up to the race The mechanics are transfixed in preparing the vintage cars for their grueling adventure, rallying from Brescia to Rome and back again, consuming days which can last up to 13 hours on the road. Often the mechanics will work through the night, while the drivers sleep, getting only a couple of hours of rest a day.

The mechanics are frequently called upon to perform miracle roadside repairs, many times having to improvise — using “tricks of the trade” which have been passed down through generations. Their main goal, get their client and their classic car to the finish line in Brescia! Simply put, without the Master Mechanics there would be no race. No vintage car, the youngest of which is now 68 years old and the oldest approaching 100, can last that distance without the necessity of some form of mechanical triage, period.

Photographer E.A. KAHANE photographed the race in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, with a photo exhibition at Museo Mille Miglia in 2022. But what altered her view of the event completely was when she participated in the Mille Miglia as navigator in a 1934 Fiat 508C Balilla Coppa d'Oro, in 2023 as part of an all-women's team of “Cultural Ambassadors” representing Brescia and Bergamo. After witnessing numerous repairs performed by the mechanics, on the 5-day journey across Italy, it became clear to Kahane — the true stars of the “1000” were the mechanics.

Inspired by Irving Penn's “Small Trades” photo portrait series, just prior to the June 2024 race, Kahane began organizing formal portraits of the Brescia-based mechanics. She also visited each local automotive maintenance and repair garage to photograph the mechanics as they prepared the classic cars for the race.

Setting up a pop-up studio during car registration and scrutineering at the Paddock Brixia Forum gave Kahane the opportunity to invite visiting mechanics as well to participate in the formal portraits. For the five days of the Mille 2024, Kahane, with her team, including a lighting designer, photo assistant, driver and journalist, followed the often difficult route, pushing to keep up with the mechanics. She captured roadside repairs while her team set-up an impromptu outdoor studio to expand on the formal portrait series, working to convey the spirit of the mechanics in the moment of a crucial repair.

HEART OF THE RACE, Master Mechanics of the Mille Miglia, has been extended to the MoCa location in Brescia with the intention of engaging the community in celebrating the Brescia history of the “1000” and shining a long over-due spotlight on its Master Mechanics.

PRESS COVERAGE

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July 2025

Title:

“E.A. KAHANE: framing the unseen stories of Italy’s Mille Miglia” By: Thomas Pigeon



Arte, Cultura e Design

E.A. KAHANE: framing the unseen stories of Italy’s Mille Miglia

In Italy • 📅 July 25, 2025 • ⌚ 6 min read

By Thomas Pigeon

In the heart of Brescia, Italy, where the cobblestone streets echo with the roar of engines of cars of *the historic Mille Miglia* each spring, a different kind of story was quietly unfolding—one that had nothing to do with celebrity drivers, gleaming Ferraris, or checkered flags. Instead, this was a story of grease-stained hands, sleepless nights, and the unsung heroes of the Mille Miglia: *HEART OF THE RACE, Master Mechanics of the Mille Miglia*, told by E.A. KAHANE.

I first met the vivacious and visionary photographer Elizabeth Kahane—known as the artist E.A. KAHANE—over an Aperol Spritz in Brescia’s stunning Piazza Duomo. Introduced by our mutual friend, the irrepressible Maggie Carvalho. Our conversation

<https://veravitamagazine.com/2025/07/25/elizabeth-kahane/>

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“The Master Mechanics of the Mille Miglia”

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E.A. KAHANE: Heart of the Race—Master Mechanics of the Mille Miglia

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aperture

Sponsored by FIVA and 1000 Miglia SRL

The Master Mechanics of the Mille Miglia

On Saturday, the final car crossed the finish line of Italy’s Mille Miglia, a historic showcase for the world’s most elegant automobiles. Whereas many photographers focus on the race car drivers and the beautiful and sometimes perilous route, E.A. KAHANE decided to highlight the mechanics who keep the vintage cars roadworthy, portraying their faces and their work with a Caravaggesque intensity. Here, E.A. KAHANE talks with Aperture about her exhibition *Heart of the Race*, now on view at MO.CA—Centro per le Nuove Culture, through June 29, and the Museo Mille Miglia, through October 31, both in Brescia, Italy.

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FIVA

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“HEART OF THE RACE – A New Photographic Tribute to the Unsung Heroes of the Mille Miglia”



NEWS & VIDEOS

HEART OF THE RACE – A New Photographic Tribute to the Unsung Heroes of the Mille Miglia



Brescia, May 28, 2025 – The evening of May 28 marked the unveiling of “HEART OF THE RACE. Master Mechanics of the Mille Miglia”, a powerful new exhibition by



<https://www.fiva.org/en/post/heart-of-the-race-a-new-photographic-tribute-to-the-unsung-heroes-of-the-mille-miglia>

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“Una mostra, due sedi: Mille Miglia tra arte e fratture ancora aperte” by *Marco Tedoldi*

Excerpt:

"La fotografia Kahane celebra il lavoro nascosto dei meccanici, ma sullo sfondo restano i contrasti tra il museo e l'Acì."

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ARTE ALTRI SPORT 29.05.2025

Una mostra, due sedi: Mille Miglia tra arte e fratture ancora aperte

Marco Tedoldi

La fotografia Kahane celebra il lavoro nascosto dei meccanici, ma sullo sfondo restano i contrasti tra il museo e l'Acì

🕒 3' di lettura



L'inaugurazione della mostra di Elizabeth Kahane al Museo Mille Miglia - Foto Gabriele Strada/Neg © www.giornaledibrescia.it

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Source link:

<https://www.giornaledibrescia.it/cultura/arte/una-mostra-due-sedi-mille-miglia-tra-arte-e-fratture-ancora-aperte-rxhnajet>

Publication:

BRESCIA TODAY

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June 2025

Title:

“HEART OF THE RACE” al Museo Mille Miglia

EVENTI

"Heart of the Race" al Museo Mille Miglia

★★★★☆



DOVE

Museo Mille Miglia

Viale della Bornata, 123

QUANDO

Dal 29/05/2025 al 31/10/2025

dal lunedì al venerdì alle 9 alle 12 e dalle 15 alle 18.30, il mercoledì anche dalle 20.30 alle 22

Source link:

<https://www.bresciatoday.it/eventi/mostre/heart-of-the-race-mille-miglia.html>

Publication:

Giornale di Brescia

Date:

May 2025

Title:

"Mille Miglia, i meccanici protagonisti negli scatti di Elizabeth Kahane" By: Elena Pala

Excerpt:

"Domani al Mo.Ca sarà inaugurata «Heart of the race»: un viaggio alla scoperta dell'anima nascosta della corsa."

«Sì, è vero. Automobile Club Brescia e 1000 Miglia srl mi hanno offerto molteplici supporti. Dall'allestire nella passata edizione della corsa uno studio fotografico temporaneo all'interno del Paddock (luogo deputato alla verifica delle vetture in gara) così da poter ritrarre non solo i meccanici italiani ma anche quelli stranieri, al seguire, obiettivo alla mano, l'attività indomita di queste maestranze lungo lo svolgimento della Mille Miglia attraverso il Bel Paese».



Nelle sale del Moca - Copyright E. A. Kahane

Le tue fotografie narrano una storia, quella della passione per i motori e per la Freccia Rossa, sin dall'esterno del Mo.Ca.

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"Heart of the Race – Master Mechanics of the Mille Miglia" le immagini di E.A. Kahane al Museo Mille Miglia"




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E.A. KAHANE 29.05 — 30
HEART OF THE RACE
Master Mechanics of the Mille Miglia
Mostra fotografica
Museo Mille Miglia
Viale della Bornata 123
— Brescia
MOCA
Via Moretto 78
— Brescia

"HEART OF THE RACE – MASTER MECHANICS OF THE MILLE MIGLIA" LE IMMAGINI DI E.A. KAHANE AL MUSEO MILLE MIGLIA

29/05 » 30/10/25

BRESCIA:

MOSTRE

MOSTRE

Brescia. "Heart of the Race – Master Mechanics of the Mille Miglia" è la mostra fotografica dell'artista americana **E.A. Kahane**, in programma dal **29 maggio al 30 ottobre 2025** all'interno del **Museo Mille Miglia** in viale della Bornata 123 a Brescia e, in parallelo, fino al **29 giugno** presso il **MOCA. – Centro per le nuove culture di Brescia**, in via Moretto 78 a Brescia.

La mostra è un **omaggio visivo a chi rende possibile la corsa più affascinante del mondo: i meccanici**. I protagonisti dietro le quinte, questi "maestri del motore" sono immortalati dall'artista in **ritratti in bianco e nero** e scene d'azione che raccontano la **passione**, la **dedizione** e la **competenza** necessarie per far correre ancora oggi vetture d'epoca su strade moderne.

Source link:

<https://www.quibrescia.it/evento/heart-of-the-race-master-mechanics-of-the-mille-miglia-le-immagini-di-e-a-kahane-al-museo-mille-miglia/>

PRESS SUMMARY

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