

PORTA MAGGIORE (TRILOGY)

a cinematographic project by Marco G. Ferrari

A story of a lake in Rome that spontaneously formed.
How the community around it defends it
and the principles it holds.
Scattered, throughout, are my dreams.

2017-2025, hd video
Production: Rome, Italy
Post-production: Chicago, Illinois (usa)
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with the support and participation of:

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"Porta Maggiore (trilogy)" is a three-part film project that traverses Rome's Pigneto–Prenestino district through a participatory documentary lens.

The project presents an urban geography transformed into cinema and a neighborhood turned into a living archive, centering on a lake born from an industrial accident that has asserted itself as a political and environmental space. Director Marco G. Ferrari navigates these territories and weaves them into a single, complex cinematic structure.

"Porta Maggiore," the director explains, *"originated from an encounter with the community dedicated to reopening of the Nuovo Cinema Aquila (movie theater), and it evolved through years of relationships, cultural practices, and shared processes within the Pigneto area."*

In the film, cinema serves as a relational tool: it is not merely a depiction of the area, but a space where the territory organizes itself into a shared narrative. The trilogy's three parts create a sensory map of the urban present.

Produced between 2017 and 2025 in Rome (production) and Chicago (post-production), the film is the work of Marco G. Ferrari—who handled directing, cinematography, sound, and editing—and involves a network of local cultural organizations active in the eastern part of Rome.



I. Porta Maggiore—Il Lago (the lake) 138 min.

Follows the civic mobilization to protect the ecosystem that emerged in the Ex-Snia area and the campaign to have it recognized as a natural monument.



II. Porta Maggiore—Il Quartiere (the neighborhood) 109 min.

Examines Pigneto amidst urban transformations, cultural practices, and social dynamics, including the reopening of the Nuovo Cinema Aquila as a symbolic local landmark.



III. Porta Maggiore—Le Proiezioni (the projections) 60 min.

Brings together a series of open-air film events held during the production process, where the act of viewing becomes part of the landscape itself.