

Born in Ravenna in 1947, Paolo Roversi's interest in photography was kindled as a teenager during a family vacation in Spain in 1964. Back home, he set up a darkroom in a convenient cellar with another keen amateur, the local postman Battista Minguzzi, and began developing and printing his own black & white work. The encounter with a local professional photographer Nevio Natali was very important: in Nevio's studio Paolo spent many many hours realising an important apprenticeship as well as a strong durable friendship.

In 1970 he started collaborating with the Associated Press: on his first assignment, AP sent Paolo to cover Ezra Pound's funeral in Venice. During the same year Paolo opened, with his friend Giancarlo Gramantieri his first portrait studio, located in Ravenna, via Cavour, 58, photographing local celebrities and their families. In 1971 he met by chance in Ravenna, Peter Knapp, the legendary Art Director of Elle magazine. At Knapp's invitation, Paolo visited Paris in November 1973 and has never left.

In Paris Paolo started working as a reporter for the Huppert Agency but little by little, through his friends, he began to approach fashion photography. The photographers who really interested him then were reporters. At that moment he didn't know much about fashion or fashion photography. Only later he discovered the work of Avedon, Penn, Newton, Bourdin and many others.

The British photographer Lawrence Sackmann took Paolo on as his assistant in 1974. « Sackmann was very difficult. Most assistants only lasted a week before running away. But he taught me everything I needed to know in order to become a professional photographer. Sackmann taught me creativity. He was always trying new things even if he did always use the same camera and flash set-up. He was almost military-like in his approach to preparation for a shoot. But he always used to say 'your tripod and your camera must be well-fixed but your eyes and mind should be free'". Paolo endured Sackmann for nine months before starting on his own with small jobs here and there for magazines like Elle and Depeche Mode until Marie Claire published his first major fashion story. A Christian Dior beauty campaign brought him wider recognition in 1980, the year he started using the 8 x 10" Polaroid format that would become his trademark. Not only because of the large camera, Paolo has always preferred working in studio. In his first years in Paris, the studio was very often a room from his own different apartments, all on the left bank, until he found in 1981 the studio located in 9 rue Paul Fort where he is still working.

In the middle of the '80s the fashion industry was very keen to produce catalogues which allowed photographers to express a very creative and personal work: Comme des Garcons, Yohji Yamamoto, Romeo Gigli... gave Paolo that opportunity.

During his travels to India, Yemen... Paolo took many portraits; we can see some of them in his books ANGELI and Al Moukalla; a book

about India is in preparation. Paolo has also realised some commercials. Since the middle 80' his work has been subject to many exhibitions and books and many awards have honoured his work. Today Paolo has a regular collaboration with the most interesting fashion magazines and fashion designers.

Exhibitions:

Solo:

- 2006 - Studio, Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse number 1 (Yokohama)
- 2005 - Studio, Transphotographique (Lille)
- 2002 - Studio, Pace MacGill Gallery (New York)
- Studio, Galerie Camera Obscura (Paris)
- 2001 - Images Cerruti, James Gallery (Moscow)
- 2000 - Paolo Roversi, Photographs, Gallery Carla Sozzani (Milan)
- 1998 - Portraits, Gallery 213 (Paris)
- 1997 - Paolo Roversi, Comme des Garçons (Tokyo)
- Paolo Roversi-Fashion, Scalo Bookshop (Zurich) (with Robert Frank)
- 1995 - Paris Défile, Villa des Noailles (Hyères)
- 1994 - Galerie Municipale du Château d'Eau (Toulouse)
- Paris Défilée Gallery Brownstone (Paris)
- Paolo Roversi Polaroids, Hamilton Gallery (London)
- Angeli, Photo Gallery International (Tokyo)
- 1993 - Angeli, Gallery Camera Obscura (Paris)
- 1992 - Paolo Roversi (Monaco)
- 1990 - Donne Nude (Tokyo)
- 1989 - Una Donna, Solomon Gallery (New York)
- Una Donna, Spazio Romeo Gigli (Milan)

Group (selection):

- 2006 - Clichy sans Clichés, Clichy-sous-Bois and Hôtel de Ville de Paris
- 2005 - Yohji Yamamoto correspondences, Pitti Immagine (Florence)
- Photography & Fashion, Athens Concert Hall (Athens)
- 2004 - Do, PaceMacGill Gallery New York (New York)
- Fashion Passion, Oca Pavilion (Brasil)
- Belles en Vogue, Le Bon Marché (Paris)
- 2003 - Bravehearts/Men in Skirts, Metropolitan Musuem (New York)
- Noonwright, Form/Design Center (Suède)
- Flower Power, Acte 2 (Paris)
- May I help you?, Yohji Yamamoto, Hara Museum (Tokyo)
- Fables de l'Identite, Collection NSM Vie, Centre national de la photographie (Paris)
- 2002 - May I help you?, Yohji Yamamoto, Maison Européenne de la Photographie (Paris)
- Autoportrait, Studios Pin-Up (Paris)
- Unified Message, Camera Work (Berlin)

- Archaeology of Elegance, Galerie 213 (Hamburg)
- Unseen Vogue, Hamilton Gallery (London)
- 2001 - i-D Learn and Pass it on, Colette (Paris)
- International Festival of Fashion Photography (Japan)
- 2000 - W Magazine (Milan, New York)
- Armani, Guggenheim Museum (New York)
- Sarajane Hoare Retrospective (New York)
- Photo District News 20th Anniversary, Centre of Photography (New York)
- 1999 - Isabella Rossellini, Schirmer/Mosel Showroom (Munich)
- i-d Beyond Price (Paris)
- Under/Exposed (Stockholm)
- 1998 - Yves Saint Laurent, Colette (Paris)
- Yves Saint Laurent, International Festival of Fashion Photograph (New York, Tokyo...)
- Addressing the Century -100 Years of Art and Fashion, Hayward Gallery (London)
- i-d Family, Colette (Paris)
- 1997 - Tati 50 years (Paris)
- Images Sensibles, Secours Populaire (Paris)
- 1995 - Kate Moss, James Danziger Gallery (New York)
- 1993 - Vanities, National Centre of Photography (Paris)
- Short Stories, James Danziger Gallery (New York)
- 1992 - Nu, Gallery Private View (Paris)
- 1991 - Appearances-Fashion Photography since 1945, Victoria & Albert Museum (London)
- 1990 - The Historical Mode, Fashion Institute of Technology (New York)
- 1989 - Fashion Photographs, Solomon Gallery (New York)
- 1986 - Comme de Garçons, Centre Pompidou (Paris)
- 1985 - Shots of Style, Victoria & Albert Museum (London)
- 1984 - 20 anni di Vogue, Sagrato de Duomo (Milan)

Publications:

Monographic books:

- 2006 - Studio, SteidlDangin (Germany)
- 2000 - Libretto, Stromboli (Paris)
- 1999 - Nudi, Stromboli (Paris)
- Images Cerruti, Steidl (Germany)
- 1995 - Al Moukalla, Camera Obscura (Paris)
- 1994 - Paolo Roversi, Galerie Municipale du Château d'Eau (Toulouse)
- 1993 - Angeli, Camera Obscura (Paris)
- 1989 - Una Donna, Edizione Carla Sozzani (Milan)
- Donne Nude, Portfolio

Other book including his work:

- 2006
 - Dolce & Gabbana, Fashion Album, Skira (Italy)
 - An Exhibition Triptych, Musée de la Mode, Pitti, MoMu
 - Balenciaga Paris, Thames & Hudson
 - Clichy sans Clichés, Delpire (France)
- 2005
 - 20 Years Dolce & Gabbana (Milan)
 - Photography & Fashion", Athens Concert Hall (Athens)
 - Unlimited: Comme des Garçons, Sanae Shimizu & NHK (Japan)
 - Italian Eye, Edizioni Charta (Italie)
 - Hors Circuit, Transphotographique (Lille)
- 2004
 - Marie Claire, 50 ans de la vie des femmes, Marie Claire (Paris)
 - Face to Face, Flammarion (Paris)
 - Evening Dress, Rizzoli (New York)
- 2003
 - Bravehearts / Men in Skirts, Abrams (New York)
 - Belles en Vogue, Ramsay (Paris)
 - Chanel Parfum, Editions Assouline (Paris)
 - Her Style, L7 (Paris)
 - Portraits, Editions du Régard (Paris)
 - Fashion at the Edge, Yale University (London)
 - Facce da Bambini, Vogue Bambini, Conde Nast (Mlian)
 - l'ABCdiare de la photographie, Flammarion (Paris)
 - Fashion Now, Taschen (London)
- 2002
 - Das Lexikon der Fotografen, Knauer (Germany)
 - Looking at me, Isabella Rossellini on pictures and photographers, Schirmer/Mosel (München)
 - Radical Fashion, Victoria & Albert Museum (London)
 - Kartell - 150 items, 150 artworks, Skira (Milan)
 - Archaeology of Elegance 1980-2000, Schirmer/Mosel (München)
 - Grace - Thirty Years of Fashion in Vogue, Editions 7L (New York)
 - Unseen Vogue, Little Brown (London)
 - Talking to myself, Yohji Yamamoto/Edizione Carla Sozzani (Milan)
 - Mois de la Photo à Paris, Paris Audiovisuel (Paris)
 - Bijoux de tête, Editions Assouline (Paris)
 - Unified Message, Camera Work/Steidl Verlag, (Berlin)
- 2001
 - Vera Wang, Nicolas Callaway
 - Dizionario di Fotografia, Rizzoli, Italie
 - Color Photography, Editions Assouline (Paris)
 - Parures Ethniques, Editions Assouline, (Paris)
 - Histoire de la photographie en images, Marval (Paris)
 - L'Agenda Les Petits Frères, Robert Delpire (Paris)
 - La frivolité essentielle, Presses Universitaires de France (Paris)
 - Smile, i-D (London)
 - Rewind/Forward, Yohji Yamamoto (Paris)
 - Zoo (London)
- 2000
 - Manolo Blahnik, Casselle & Co (London)
 - Fashion faces up, Steidl (Germany)
 - Millennium of Mode, Hiro Ikeda (Japan)
 - Valentino's Red Book, Condé Nast (Italy)

- Nadja Auerman, Schirmer/Mosel (Munich)
- Le Nu, Editions du Chêne (Paris)
- L'Allure des Hommes, Editions Assouline (Paris)
- Giorgio Armani, Guggenheim Museum (New York)
- Fashion Today, Phaidon (London)
- Fashion, Editions de la Martinère (Paris)
- Beauté du siècle, Editions Assouline (Paris)
- 1999 - Créateurs du Mode, Editions du Chêne (Paris)
- Mode du Siècle, Editions Assouline (Paris)
- A Dedicated Follower of Fashion, Phaidon (London)
- Laetitia Casta, Callaway (New York)
- Alaïa, Steidl (Germany)
- Yves Saint Laurent, International Festival of Fashion Photography
- 1998 - Tati 50 years, Steidl (Germany)
- The Fashion Book, Phaidon (London)
- À Noir, Editions Assouline (Paris)
- L'Uomo Vogue 1968-1998, Condé Nast (Italy)
- Photojeanic, Forum (Brasil)
- Alberta Ferretti, Leonardo Arte (Italy)
- 1997 - Isabella Rossellini, Schirmer/Mosel (Munich)
- Graphis Photo'97 (New York)
- Moda & Gioielli, Leonardo Arte (Italy)
- Naked, Harper Collins (New York)
- The Man of Fashion, Thames and Hudson (London)
- The photographers Book, Phaidon (London)
- Encyclopédie de la photographie, Camera Obscura (Switzerland)
- Leg, Donna Karen (Los Angeles)
- Galliano, Editions Assouline (Paris)
- Yohji Yamamoto, Editions Assouline (Paris)
- Visitors, Biennale di Firenze, Skira (Italy)
- L'Art de la Coiffure, Callaway (New York)
- Jean-Paul Gaultier, Editions Assouline (Paris)
- Fashion, Photographs of the Nineties, Scalo (Switzerland)
- 1995 - Kate, James Danziger Gallery (New York)
- 1994 - A Positive View, The Saatchi Gallery (London)
- 1993 - Vanities, National Centre of Photography (Paris)
- Appearances, Martin Harrison (London)
- Idealising Vision, Aperture (New York)
- Pictures of peace, Knopf (New York)
- 1988 - History of 20th Century Fashion, J. Mulvagh, Viking (London)
- Beauty Photography in Vogue, Octopus Books (London)
- Fashion & Surrealism, R. Martin, Rizzoli International (New York)
- 1986 - The Arts of Vogue Covers, V. Lloyd, Octopus Books (London)
- 1985 - Shots of Style, Victoria and Albert Museum (London)
- 20 Anni di Vogue, Conde Nast (Milan)

Awards (selection):

2001 - China Fashion Awards
1996 - Trophée de la Mode
1993 - Quatrième Festival International de la Photo de Mode
1991 - Prix Jasmin

Commercials (selection):

Dim, Evian, Gervais, Kenzo and Woolmark