

AN HOUR WITH ENZO

Photographs by

Fabio Sirna

A 60-MINUTE DOCUMENTARY ESSAY CAPTURED IN TURIN. DOCUMENTING THE VANISHING WORLD OF A TRADITIONAL ITALIAN COBBLER THROUGH INTIMACY AND RAW TEXTURES.

“You can find a whole universe in the small space between a hammer and a piece of leather.”

This project was born during a masterclass led by acclaimed photojournalist Alessandro Gandolfi, centered around a simple but brutal challenge: you have exactly one hour to find a story, build trust with a stranger, and shoot a complete reportage.

I found myself in a tiny, dimly lit workshop in Turin, Italy. Inside was Enzo, a traditional cobbler surrounded by the heavy smell of glue, polished leather, and decades of dust. An hour is nothing, yet it is enough to capture the rhythm of a life spent keeping an old craft alive.

As an architect, I am used to looking at massive structures, but in Enzo’s workshop, the architecture was made of small details: the organized chaos of his tools, the worn wooden counter, and the sharp contrast of light coming through the single street-facing window.

The images are a fast, instinctive exploration of craftsmanship. They focus on the hands—stained, precise, and moving with a confidence that only comes from decades of repetition.

What started as a strict technical exercise quickly shifted into a deeper observation. Standing in that workshop, it becomes clear that spaces like Enzo’s are already living on borrowed time, increasingly pushed aside by a faster, more disposable world.

An Hour with Enzo is a quiet tribute to the beauty of slow, manual labor. It stands as an immediate reminder of how photography can freeze a fragile reality, capturing the weight of a disappearing craft in just sixty minutes.



Enzo at the stitching machine, 2009

The cobbler operating a vintage heavy-duty press inside his workshop, surrounded by traditional machinery.



The artisan's hands, 2009

detailed close-up focusing on Enzo's hands as he carefully inspects and shapes a leather shoe.



Tray of tacks, 2009

A sorting box filled with various cobbler nails and replacement heels sitting on the worn workbench.



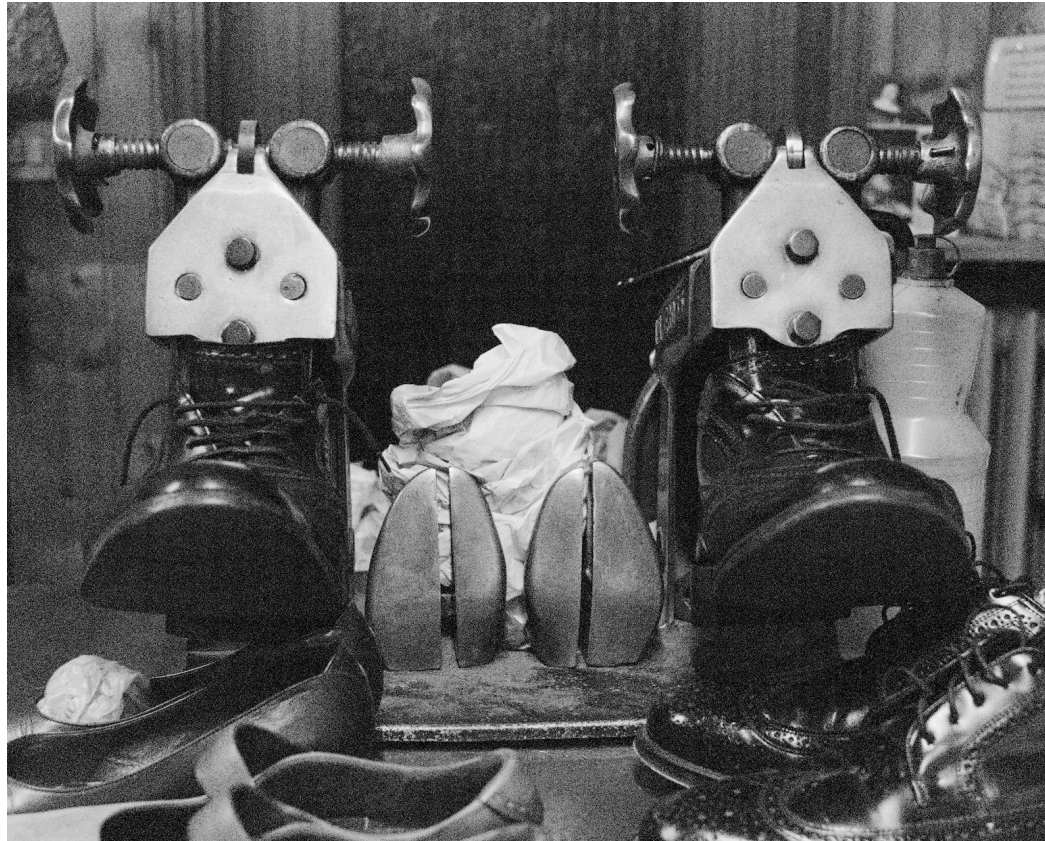
Polishing the craft, 2009

Enzo dynamically brushing a repaired shoe, captured with a spontaneous smile amidst his daily routine.



The waiting shelves, 2009

Rows of diverse footwear arranged on wooden shelves, waiting to be repaired or collected.



Mechanical shoe lasts, 2009

An heavy vintage stretchers clamping a pair of leather boots on the counter.



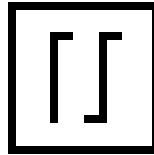
The workbench hammer, 2009

A specialized cobbler's hammer and tins of materials resting in the foreground while the craftsman works in the background.



Portrait of Enzo, 2009

An environmental portrait of the craftsman standing behind his primary counter, framed by decades of tools and machinery.



hello@fabiosirna.com

www.fabiosirna.com