

Lifeline

Luca Saba is a Professor of Radiology and head of the Department of Radiology at Cagliari University Hospital (Cagliari, Italy). His main research interests are neurovascular imaging, plaque imaging, and development of innovative diagnostic strategies for the risk stratification of stroke imaging for imaging biomarkers. Additionally, he coordinates and participates in projects regarding the application of artificial intelligence in vascular analysis and interpretation.

What has been the greatest achievement of your career?

To have become the youngest full professor in medicine in Italy. It was a great honour. Most importantly, it represents an additional source of motivation to continue working—with the help of my colleagues around the world—on improving research and knowledge about carotid artery imaging and its relationship with stroke.

If you had not entered your current profession, what would you have liked to do?

I would have liked to work in economics, I think that is quite a different area compared with medicine! When I was younger, I was very curious about the stock market, but I am very happy now to have chosen to be a medical doctor.

What is your favourite book and why?

My favorite book is "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", I started reading the stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle when I was a boy and occasionally I reread this book. The ability to understand the whole problem by understanding the smaller parts has always fascinated me.

What is your idea of a perfect day?

A perfect day is one in which I get up very early but perfectly rested and I can see the sunrise over the sea. Then I can play with my son and laugh with my wife. Some good ideas to carry on before lunch. A good lunch and then reading a science fiction book. A game of tennis and then a light dinner.

What was your first experiment as a child?

I don't remember exactly but my parents always told me that, when I was 2 years old, I would disassemble all the toys and puppets because I said I wanted to understand how they were made and what their soul was. I guess that this can be considered as my first experiment!

What is the best piece of advice you have received?

When I was a young doctor one day I talked to an elderly professor, and he gave me advice that I still consider extremely enlightening: "Important things, including an academic career, are not suitable for a sprint race of 100 meters but for marathon runners". Patience is an extremely important quality.



See [Review](#) page 559

Exhibition

The art of memory

"I think it is all a matter of love; the more you love a memory the stronger and stranger it becomes"

Vladimir Nabokov

In 1950, while writing his autobiographical memoir *Speak, Memory*, the Russian novelist Vladimir Nabokov encountered a problem. A master of fictions, the great writer turned his pen to the events of his life and began to consider the validity of his, self-confessed, slippery memory. Nabokov's doubts, however, did not concern his capacity for recollection. Instead, he considered the plasticity of memory—the phenomenon of our own brains glazing our real-time impressions with their own unique watermark, altering our perception of the truth of our own experiences. Committed to paper, Nabokov's memories (unlike in his own lifetime) remain fixed in place—unaffected by the processes of memory consolidation and recollection—where they will stay for the rest of time.

In *Memory Palace*, a major group exhibition to mark the 25th anniversary of the White Cube gallery (London, UK),

curators Susan May and Susanna Greeves sought to achieve a similar effect by showcasing artworks on memory by key artists that have been featured in the gallery's past exhibitions. Spanning both London White Cube sites (Bermondsey and Mason's Yard), the exhibition explores this vast subject through the perspectives of over 40 artists, and has been divided into six themes: historical, autobiographical, traces, transcription, collective, and sensory.

The first of these themes, historical, explores the political and sociological events that influence collective memory. Co-curator Greeves describes how "the memories set down in the official record of history [are] in fact the narrative of the prevailing power". She states that "one of art's important abilities is in recovering the voices—the narratives that may have been erased or forgotten by history". Immediately as the visitor enters the first room, they are confronted by *Strata Poem in Red* from Theaster Gates' 2011 *In Event of a Race Riot* series. Renowned for using discarded everyday materials to highlight themes of historical injustice and social responsibility, the



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