

Second Floor

The territory and the mine



At the exit of the mine, on the left a large photographic panel with series of quotes on certain aspects of the territory. The quotes are interspersed with an electronic panel and two interactive touch screens on "territory and mine" and "the struggles of the miners".

On the next wall an installation: "the martyrs of 4th and 11th July 1944", dedicated to a tragic event happened in those days, when a troop of German soldiers killed – in Castelnuovo dei Sabbioni, Meleto and other villages of the area – 189 male unarmed civilians. A sequence of images artistically evokes those tragic events and from there it depicts the many other massacres of civilians that have been perpetrated in the following decades until today. The large windows of the next wall are covered by long curtains on which the strong social and political clashes in Caviglia, in the 40s and 50s are described. The end of the war did not bring the so longed-for peace. The opening of the Italian market to goods from other countries, led to the wood coal crisis. From 1947 to 1955 a period of hard struggles for the miners of Caviglia led, among other things, by the trade unionists Attilio





Sassi and Priamo Bigiandi who tried, even through self-management, to save jobs in the mines. It was all to no avail, Mineraria, the mining company, took the matter in its hands and proposed a solution based on a new technique of excavation: open-pit mining. This form of mining required less labour, but at the same time it destroyed everything that had been built over time overground: churches, castles, villages. Next to the open-pit mine a new power plant was built, the previous one had been destroyed by the retreating German troops in 1944.



To learn more

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 Comune di Cavriglia (a cura di), Storia di una terra di minatori. Gli archivi raccontano, Grafica 10, Città di Castello, 2009.
 G. Sacchetti, Lignite per la patria. Collaborazione, conflittualità, compromesso. Le relazioni sindacali nelle miniere del Valdarno superiore (1915-1958), Ediesse, Roma 2002.