

## JR – DÉPLACÉ·E·S

Gallerie d'Italia – Turin

From the 9<sup>th</sup> of February to the 16<sup>th</sup> of July, 2023

Curator: Arturo Galansino

In collaboration with the Compagnia di San Paolo Foundation

Turin, January 16<sup>th</sup> 2023 – Gallerie d'Italia opens to the public in the Intesa Sanpaolo museum in Turin the first solo exhibition in Italy of JR, a French artist famous throughout the world for his projects that combine photography, public art and social commitment, scheduled from 9 February to 16 July 2023.

Combining diverse expressive languages, JR (1983) will bring his personal touch in recounting reality and stimulating reflections on social fragility to the exhibition, which will occupy around 4,000 square metres of the museum in Piazza San Carlo, staged in collaboration with the Compagnia di San Paolo and curated by Arturo Galansino.

Combining different expressive languages, JR (1983) will show his personal touch in recounting reality and stimulating reflections on social fragility. The exhibition, curated by Arturo Galansino, will occupy approximately 4,000 square meters of the museum in Piazza San Carlo. The Compagnia di San Paolo Foundation collaborates with the Gallerie d'Italia by involving various local entities in the realization of the events related to the exhibition, together with which it is committed to building more inclusive societies.

Michele Coppola, Intesa Sanpaolo Executive Director of Art, Culture and Historic Heritage and Director of the Gallerie d'Italia, comments: "We are presenting in Turin, for the first time in an Italian museum, the work of one of the most original international artists and attentive to the great social changes. The project, which combines street art, photography and video installations, confirms the vocation of the Turinese Gallerie d'Italia to stimulate reflection on today's complexities, in line with Intesa Sanpaolo's commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth".

JR explains: “In 2022, the number of individuals forced to flee their place of residence because of persecutions, wars, violence and human rights violations has exceeded the ominous threshold of 100 million. This emergency is now compounded by food and energy shortages, inflation and climate-related crises. In many countries of Africa, the Middle East, South America, at the gates of Europe, populations are being forced to abandon their homes to ensure their survival elsewhere. The war in Ukraine has prompted the most abrupt and one of the largest forced exiles since World War II. A symbol of this endless tragedy, the Greek island of Lesbos is the scene of the ebb and flow of migrants arriving by sea as the conflicts develop. This geography of forced relocation constitutes “off-limit locations” that are given excess media attention and are invisible at the same time”.

Valeriia, Thierry, Andiara, Angel, Jamal, Ajara, Moise and Mozhdha are the names and faces of the children who embody these forced migrations. By enlarging their portrait on huge banners, JR gives back an identity to those who are deprived of it. Their effigy unfolds in a fleeting and spontaneous manner during collective processions as well as picnics organised in the heart of their transitory environment: on the Opera Square in Lviv (Ukraine), in the camps of Mugombwa (Rwanda), Mbera (Mauritania), Lesbos (Greece), in the host community of Cúcuta (Colombia). They are from Ukraine, Congo, Venezuela, Mali, Afghanistan but the same posture unites them. The body moving forward in a conquering race, the rebellious smile and a youthful aura: their life force braves the worst pangs of exile. To the rationales of dehumanisation, JR contrasts a sensitive experience from a child’s perspective. Far from stereotypes, the human condition is fully revealed through the hope personified by youth. These children look at us by establishing a relationship of reciprocity between them, us and the future.

JR continues: “The camps are not just places of daily life for millions of people, they have become one of the major components of globalization, one of the forms of organization in the world: a way to treat those who are unwanted, what we don't want to look in the eye . In the service of something greater, my art creates tension between the visible and the invisible to resist the trivialization of perspectives. Ten years ago, the anthropologist Michel Agier deplored the lack of importance of refugees and displaced persons which forever seals their exclusion from society by stating: "Hannah Arendt called this exclusion of refugees a social death. I think it is urgent to make the fields known, all types of fields”. Such is the objective of this exhibition”, concludes the artist.

Since leaving Parisian banlieue more than twenty years ago, JR has taken his art all over the world with monumental works of public art that are able to engage vast numbers of people and inspire whole communities, from the Brazilian favelas to a maximum security prison in California, from the Louvre Pyramid to the Egyptian pyramids, from the border between Israel and Palestine to the Mexico border with the United States.

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### **About Intesa Sanpaolo**

Intesa Sanpaolo is Italy's leading banking group – serving families, businesses and the real economy – with a significant international presence. Intesa Sanpaolo's distinctive business model makes it a European leader in Wealth Management, Protection & Advisory, highly focused on digital and fintech. An efficient and resilient Bank, it benefits from its wholly-owned product factories in asset management and insurance. The Group's strong ESG commitment includes providing €115 billion in impact lending by 2025 to communities and for the green transition, and €500 million in contributions to support people most in need, positioning Intesa Sanpaolo as a world leader in terms of social impact. Intesa Sanpaolo is committed to Net Zero by 2030 for its own emissions and by 2050 for its loan and investment portfolios. An engaged patron of Italian culture, Intesa Sanpaolo has created its own network of museums, the Gallerie d'Italia, to host the bank's artistic heritage and as a venue for prestigious cultural projects.

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