

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE by Francesco Malavolta

Dec. 6 to 20 at MOON in Potenza in the exhibition “10 Years of Schools for Peace ”

On Dec. 6, at the Museo Officina Oggetti Narranti - MOON at 68/i Macchia San Luca Street in Potenza, Francesco Malavolta's photo exhibition “Popoli in Movimento” will be inaugurated in the presence of the author.

This concludes the review “10 Years of Schools for Peace” which began in March 2024 and collected some of the educational projects carried out from 2013 to date by the City of Peace Foundation for Children Basilicata.

The choice was made to set up this review at MOON together with LA Luna al Guinzaglio Association because they did not want to propose a simple “celebration” of the intense work carried out, which has involved more than 14,000 students in more than 50 institutions in 10 Italian regions from primary up to universities, but rather to give new life to the original teaching tools created by artists, photojournalists, and journalists such as Luisa Menazzi Moretti, Massimo Lovisco, Salvatore Cavalli and Mustafa Kia. These works, although produced over the course of a decade, in fact are still dramatically relevant and have enabled participatory workshops involving more than 400 visitors, students, teachers, refugees and citizens of Lucania.

Francesco Malavolta's work, produced between 2015 and 2016, contains a rich testimony of the migratory flows affecting our continent from the Strait of Gibraltar to Lampedusa, from Greece and Turkey to the so-called Balkan route. This exhibition stems from the need for storytelling that is articulated in a series of photographs with a strong emotional impact with which Malavolta restores an identity and humanity to the people forced to flee and who arrive at the borders of Europe. “POPULAR PEOPLES IN MOVEMENT” aims to put the stories of individual people first as the only narrative, which contrasts with the continuous juxtaposition of refugees as numbers. Indeed, the bodies of these people are powerfully described and become the symbols of a new and suffering people, the migrant population, which now numbers more than 120 million people worldwide according to United Nations data, consisting of millions of stories of human beings worthy of being known and who do not resign themselves to the humiliation, injustice, and violation of basic human rights to which they are subjected.

Especially at this time when the word “war” has dramatically returned to common usage, it is important to reiterate the need not to tire of “studying peace” in order to offer the younger generations a concrete and more effective alternative perspective to violence, oppression and violation of human rights. This is why the “10 Years of School for Peace” review is open free of charge to both students and teachers who can discover new approaches to human rights education with the original methodology developed by the City of Peace Foundation.

Francesco Malavolta is a registered photojournalist from Calabria, who has been engaged for more than 20 years in documenting the migratory flows affecting our continent. The latest marked by an unprecedented intensification of migration itself. Work carried out in a constantly changing space-time context that has led him to travel along the borders of an increasingly armored Europe that is difficult to reach by land or sea. He has collaborated for several with the European Community, various international news agencies such as Associated Press, as well as international organizations such as UNHCR and IOM. In 2023 he participated with his photographs in the publication of the book “Troppo neri” by Saverio Tommasi published by Feltrinelli.

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