

With the support of:



Exhibition organized and promoted by:



WHAT IS EUROPE TO YOU?

The European photographic journey by Lisa Borgiani

Curated by Gigliola Foschi

Lombardy Regional Council

Pirelli Tower

3 – 17 May 2022

Free entrance

Opening hours:

From Monday to Thursday: 9.30-13.30 / 14.30-17.30

Fridays: 9.30-13.30

Opening to public:

Tuesday, 3rd May from 2.30pm to 5.30pm

High resolution images

[CLICK HERE](#)

A Journey through European Images and Voices.

"**What is Europe to You?**" is an ongoing photographic narrative created by artist Lisa Borgiani, who since 2019 has been visiting the principal European cities and capitals, asking the inhabitants she photographs a simple question: "What is Europe to you?"

A photographic journey that stems from the author's need to understand how European citizens feel about Europe and which, on the occasion of Europe Day 2022, has been transformed into an **exhibition curated by Gigliola Foschi** that will be held **from the 3rd to the 17th of May** in the **headquarters of the Lombardy Regional Council in the Pirelli Tower**.

An opportunity for reflection to raise awareness and to offer visitors the chance to express themselves on the topic.

*"We want to continue to believe that we can build Europe together by adopting the strategic vision of great men like Adenauer, Schuman and Monnet, who always believed in constructing a united Europe that began first and foremost from local territories and regions," says **Alessandro Fermi**, president of the Lombardy Regional Council. "Politics can provide important results provided that is able to directly involve the younger generations who are and must be the architects of the new Europe."*

Designed to be shared and experienced, the exhibition sees on display **60 photographs, 85 black and white self-portraits** of the project's participants, **12 collages** that aim to create a dialogue between the title of the exhibition and the front pages dedicated to Europe of several major Italian and European newspapers, as well as **installations** and a **video** showing the development of the work.

Each visitor is invited to participate in the project in two ways: at the exhibition they can use the **WEYWALL digital platform** to print and exhibit their own self-portrait accompanied by a comment expressing their

With the support of:



Exhibition organized and promoted by:



feelings about Europe, or they can write a phrase about Europe on a **brightly coloured Post-it**, which they can then stick on a dedicated wall.

*"The exhibition stems from a desire to ask visitors, especially younger ones, to take part in and be part of the work itself," stresses **Gigliola Foschi**, "freely expressing their feelings about Europe and leaving a trace of their participation."*

"What is Europe to You?" is a story in images that has taken Lisa Borgiani to various European cities: in 2019, accompanied by journalist Marta Ottaviani, to **Athens** and **Berlin**, in 2020 to **Milan** and **Rome**, in 2021 to **Paris** and **the island of Ventotene**, and in April of this year to **Budapest**.

After the exhibition in Milan, Lisa Borgiani will resume her journey around Europe, starting from **Brussels**, **Madrid** and **Vienna**. **Each piece consists of a black and white photograph of the interviewee, their name, profession, the place where the photo was taken, a keyword that summarizes their idea of Europe, and a phrase that explains its meaning.**

"What is Europe to You?" is an artistic journey in search of feelings which are expressed through a **dialogue between the images and the words** of the individuals encountered, without any distinction of nationality, sex, profession, religious belief or social and cultural background. The texts that accompany the portraits therefore function as "voices" that express the subjects' feelings.

In a Europe where the need for cohesive political, economic and social choices is increasingly imperative, Lisa Borgiani's project shows **what European citizens think** and what their desires and criticisms are: a set of often conflicting opinions emerges where words like *chaos, failure or nothing* are contrasted with concepts like *inclusion, opportunity, freedom, peace, hope, and beauty*.

*"In such a delicate historical moment, it's important to share what Europe means to us," says **Massimo Gaudina**, head of the European Commission delegation in Milan. "This is why the European Commission supports the 'What is Europe to you?' exhibition: to give a voice to citizens and to their ideas."*

"What is Europe to you?" is thus a journey of discovery through European citizens' feelings about Europe - a message of hope for the future which reveals an appeal to promote debate around understanding and awareness, because Europe means above all "democracy," and democracy means participation: a place where everyone feels free to express their opinions and confront them with those of others, even those beyond their own geographical borders.

During the exhibition at **the Pirelli Tower**, students from schools and universities will be invited and involved to participate in the project. They too will be asked the question: **What is Europe to you?** The replies collected will be published online and exhibited during the exhibition (in collage format) in a dedicated space.

On **Saturday the 7th of May**, on the occasion of the celebrations for **Europe Day 2022**, Lisa Borgiani has been invited to participate with the work **"What is Europe to you?"** at the **Festival of Europe**, organized by the Representation of the European Commission and the office of the European Parliament in Germany and Poland in the "twin" city" of **Guben / Gubin**, which, in accordance with the agreements made at 1945 Postdam conference, straddles the German-Polish border.

Info: www.whatseurope.eu

With the support of:



Exhibition organized and promoted by:



The exhibition at Pirelli Tower is accompanied by a catalogue edited by Gigliola Foschi and published by the Lombardy Regional Council Press Centre, graphics by 045 Publishing.

Press office

De Angelis Press, Milano

t. 345.7190941 | info@deangelispress.com

What is Europe to you?

Spazio Eventi **Pirelli Tower**

Via Fabio Filzi 22, Milano

3 - 17 May 2022

FREE ENTRANCE

Opening to the public, Thursday, 3rd May from 2.30 to 5.30pm

Monday – Thursday: 9.30 – 13.30 / 14.30 – 17.30

Last admission: 12.30 / 16.30

Fridays: 9.30 – 13.30

Last admission: 12.30

Reservations are required for groups of more than 20 people.

Info and booking: Tel 02/67482777 Email urp@consiglio.regione.lombardia.it

Access to the Pirelli Tower will be permitted in accordance with the rules currently in force regarding the prevention and containment of the COVID-19 virus.

Exhibition organized and promoted by:



Regione Lombardia
IL CONSIGLIO

With the support of:



In collaboration with:



With the support of:



Exhibition organized and promoted by:



Cariplo Foundation supports projects of social utility linked to art and culture, environment, personal services and scientific research in Lombardy and in the provinces of Novara and Verbano Cusio Ossola. Since 1991 it has promoted the life of communities, supporting non-profit entities which operate in the area and which are closest to people's needs.

The distances within our communities are increasing, making them more fragmented and fragile: today more than ever, however, there is a need to shorten these distances to ensure strong and inclusive communities, to support people's lives and to guarantee robust institutions, in which are able to reconcile the various needs and direct resources and choices towards a better future for all and in which everyone can recognize themselves/with which everyone can identify. In these 30 years of existence, the Cariplo Foundation has made it possible to carry out 35,600 projects by donating over 3.6 billion euros to the local area. Further information on the **website www.fondazionecariplo.it**