On the occasion of the event IOSONOVULNERABILE - *failure is an achievement, art is loving mistakes*, curated by Sergio Mario Illuminato and recognized as one of the *Good Cultural Practices by the Lazio Region*, Movimento VulnerarTe APS presents, under the guidance of ROBERTA MELASECCA, a series of interviews with all the protagonists of this extraordinary initiative. Don't miss the opportunity to discover the behind-the-scenes and the inspiration that drives this unique event!

**Interview with Marco Maria Cerbo, Head of the Unit for the coordination of Italian Cultural Institutes - Directorate General for Public and Cultural Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation: Art, Vulnerability, and Cultural Diplomacy**

**Movimento VulnerarTe APS (MV APS):** Marco Maria Cerbo, as the person responsible for all the Italian Cultural Institutes worldwide, you have a global perspective on cultural diplomacy. How does the 'iosonovulnerabile' project reflect the mission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in promoting intercultural dialogue?

**Marco Maria Cerbo (M M C):** 'iosonovulnerabile' is a project that embodies fundamental values of our cultural diplomacy, such as inclusion. It is an example of how art can not only tell stories of vulnerability but also build bridges between different people and cultures. The integration of artists from fields such as visual arts, cinema, dance, and music has created a synergy that has turned vulnerability into a unifying force. This is precisely the type of dialogue we aim to promote through our Italian Cultural Institutes around the world.

**MV APS:** The artist residency 'Officina Alchemica delle Idee' has demonstrated the power of collective creativity. How do you think this type of initiative can influence the work of the Italian Cultural Institutes abroad?

**M M C:** The residency has shown how creativity can be a driving force for change. Initiatives like these inspire not only artists but also the communities that host them. In our Institutes, we always strive to create spaces where art can challenge norms and stimulate new ideas, just as happened with 'Officina Alchemica delle Idee.' These projects have the potential to transform the perception of Italian culture abroad, showcasing an innovative and inclusive Italy.

**MV APS:** The Ministry's International Program, planned for 2024 and 2025, will involve Italian Cultural Institutes worldwide. How do you see the integration of projects like 'iosonovulnerabile' in this context?

**M M C:** Projects like 'iosonovulnerabile' contribute to our mission of promoting Italian culture on a global scale. This international program will be an opportunity to bring these stories of vulnerability and resilience to the world, showing how Italian art can address universal themes. We want our cultural heritage to be a catalyst for inclusive and constructive dialogue, and 'iosonovulnerabile' is a good example of how this can be achieved.

**MV APS:** Looking to the future, what are the main activities and initiatives that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has planned to promote Italian culture and intercultural dialogue?

**M M C:** Our action plan is ambitious and varied. In the coming years, we will focus on initiatives that not only promote Italian culture but also actively involve local communities abroad. Through exhibitions, artist residencies, festivals, and collaborations with international cultural institutions, we aim to strengthen the role of culture as a bridge between nations. Additionally, we will continue to support educational and training projects that integrate art and culture, with the goal of promoting a more equitable, inclusive society that is aware of its cultural roots.

**MV APS:** Contemporary art is often a complex and experimental territory. How do you think cultural institutions, especially Italian ones, should approach and value contemporary art to make it accessible and relevant in the international context?

**M M C:** Contemporary art represents a window into the present and a dialogue with the future. Cultural institutions must approach it with curiosity and openness, promoting not only the works but also the creative processes behind them. It is important for contemporary art to be placed in a context that fosters engagement between the public and the artist, making the works accessible not only physically but also conceptually. In our Institutes, we aim to create pathways that actively involve the public so that contemporary art becomes a shared experience and an opportunity for reflection on global themes.