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 Sergio Mario Illuminato, curator of 'iosonovulnerabile': Reflections on Vulnerability and Authenticity**

**MOVIMENTO VULNERARTE APS (MV APS):** First, thank you for taking the time to speak with us. Your work explores profound themes such as vulnerability and authenticity. Can you tell us what led you to focus on these topics?

**Sergio Mario Illuminato (S M I):** I believe that vulnerability and authenticity are two sides of the same coin. We are used to wearing masks in our daily lives, responding automatically to questions like "How are you?" without really reflecting on what we feel. This pushed me to explore the dissonance between what we show and what we truly experience.

**MV APS:** In your work, you talk about how vulnerability has become a new cultural standard, but you also question at what cost. Can you elaborate on this reflection?

**S M I:** Yes, today it almost feels mandatory to show vulnerability. But there's a risk: vulnerability could become a new form of conformity, a trap that makes us passive instead of authentic. We must not lose sight of the fact that recognizing our fragilities is only the first step; what matters is how we transform this awareness into action and growth.

**MV APS:** You also talk about the commodification of emotions. Do you think vulnerability can be commercially exploited?

**S M I:** Absolutely. We live in a society where everything can be sold, including our emotions. The risk is that vulnerability becomes a sort of social currency, something to display for approval or recognition. This distorts the true value of vulnerability, turning it into a product to consume rather than an opportunity for growth.

**MV APS:** You mentioned Covid-19 as a moment that revealed our collective vulnerability. How do you think this event has influenced the way people see themselves and others?

**S M I:** Covid-19 was a great equalizer, in a sense. It confronted everyone with the same reality: we are vulnerable, regardless of our social or economic status. This led many people to reflect on their lives and priorities, but it also exposed the fragility of our social structures. I believe it accelerated a process of awareness that was already underway but also raised new questions about how we want to live and what we truly consider important.

**MV APS:** In conclusion, how do you see the future of vulnerability and authenticity in our society?

**S M I:** I think the future depends on how we choose to navigate this new paradigm. If we can find a balance between acknowledging our fragilities and acting with authenticity, then we might build a more humane and just society. But if we fall into the trap of using vulnerability as an excuse for inaction, we risk losing sight of the true potential for growth it offers. The key is not to let external pressures define who we are, but to stay true to ourselves while constantly evolving.

**MV APS:** Thank you so much for this reflection. It has been a pleasure speaking with you and learning more about your work and your vision of the world.  
**S M I:** Thank you. It’s always a pleasure to share these ideas, and I hope they can inspire a broader reflection.