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 Antonio Calbi, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute in Paris: Culture, Vulnerability, and Inclusion in Paris**

**Movimento VulnerarTe APS (MV APS):** Director, the Summer 2024 in Paris has been the Summer of sport. How did the Italian Cultural Institute celebrate this event through the “*Passions Olympiques*” programme, and how does it align with your mission to promote an inclusive and accessible culture?

**Antonio Calbi (A C):** The Summer in Paris was truly exciting thanks to the Olympics and Paralympics, which revitalised the capital on the world stage. The idea of the Olympic Games spread across the city-though it did create some challenges in the months leading up to the event due to the construction of arenas-was undoubtedly a success, and the "banlieues" were genuinely reconnected to the historical city. A choice of real and beneficial inclusion. We also played our part in the Cultural Olympiad with the “*Passions Olympiques*” programme: a rich lineup of events from May to September, which was followed closely by both the French and Italian public. This program was an opportunity to celebrate sports and its values but also a way to highlight the "beauty" of Italian culture, which is why we added the subtitle to our festival: "*L'Italia si fa bella!"* The different sports disciplines, various arts, and cultural forms share the same principles: the body as a complete subject, harmony and beauty, the meeting of peoples and cultures, the dialogue between disciplines, and the challenge to oneself and others with respect for oneself and others. What is activated in sports is peaceful competition, opposed to the forms of conflict and violence that unfortunately devastate the world every day and distance us further from what should be "human." Even if the Olympic Games have ended, our commitment to a culture that breaks down barriers and welcomes everyone continues.

**MV APS:** *'iamvulnerable'* is a project that explores vulnerability through different forms of art. How do you think this initiative can influence the perception of art and culture in the current context?

**A C:** *'iamvulnerable'* is an important project that invites us to reflect on human vulnerability, both of those who create and those who observe. Art is not just representation; it is also a form of dialogue and introspection. Through the fusion of visual arts, music, cinema, and dance, the project challenges our way of perceiving and interacting with the world. In a current context marked by conflicts and uncertainties, this project reminds us that culture is a means for addressing and understanding the human condition, building bridges between individual and collective experiences.

**MV APS:** The artistic practice of *iamvulnerable* is also inspired by the work of artists such as Claudio Parmiggiani. How does this encounter between informal and conceptual art enrich the cultural landscape of the Institute?

**A C:** Claudio Parmiggiani, with his work that explores absence and silence, offers a profound reflection on the human condition. The encounter between ‘iamvulnerable’ and Parmiggiani represents a connection between conceptual art and our exploration of vulnerability. This interaction enriches our cultural landscape, not only by presenting works of unquestionable artistic value but also by inviting the public to deeper contemplation of their own experiences and perceptions. It is a continuous dialogue that pushes us to look beyond the visible and reflect on what is essential.

**MV APS:** The Institute's programme of activities from September to December also includes a series of initiatives reflecting on the themes of justice and fragility. What is the importance of these activities in your mission, and how do you think they can influence the Parisian public?

**A C:** Our initiatives, which include all disciplines, are designed to stimulate critical reflection on the human condition and injustices. Each event-from the rediscovery of Matera through Pasolini and Domenico Notarangelo to the cries of indignation of Anna Galiena's Hecuba, from Goliarda Sapienza to Eduardo, from roundtables on the themes of the city and humanity to education on legality with Fiammetta Borsellino-represents an opportunity to analyse and confront the challenges of our time. For us, culture is a vehicle for personal and collective growth and education. We want the Parisian public not only to experience art but also to understand its transformative power and its crucial role in the fight against crises and injustices.

**MV APS:** In a context where contemporary art is gaining more and more attention, what role should cultural institutions play in promoting and enhancing this type of art? How do you think the Institute can contribute to this process?

**A C:** Contemporary art is one of the most vital and stimulating expressions of our time, beyond any form of provocation. Cultural institutions have the duty to support and promote these forms of art, not only by exhibiting works but also by facilitating the dialogue between the artists and the public. This means creating spaces for discussion, encouraging experimentation, and offering opportunities for critical reflection. The Italian Cultural Institute aims at becoming an hub for all forms and languages of contemporary creativity by engaging in dialogue with artists, curators, and institutions. Our goal is to make contemporary creativity accessible and meaningful to everyone, reflecting the challenges and hopes of our time.

**MV APS:** How do you see the future of cultural institutions in an increasingly complex global context? And what are the main projects that the Italian Cultural Institute has in store to continue promoting culture and intercultural dialogue?

**A C:** In an increasingly interconnected and complex world, cultural institutions must act as meeting points and spaces for reflection, promoting inclusive and meaningful dialogues. Every day, we work on projects that enhance the cultural heritage of tradition-which is never just a museum or mere preservation-and others that promote new artistic expressions and new generations. This sensitivity to the new has always characterised my work, representing 40 years of activity in the field, always militant. The Italian Cultural Institute in Paris, which I have directed for a year, aims at becoming a significative hub for creativity and thought, offering the public opportunities that stimulate understanding and empathy. Every action we take is a small contribution to better understanding our increasingly complex and uncertain times, preserving the value and function of culture as a catalyst for change and reflection, helping us address the global challenges of the present.