

PRESS RELEASE

Francesco Jodice's What We Want exhibition, curated by Museo Madre and the Amici del Madre Association, opens at Naples Airport.

Naples, 28 April 2026 - The exhibition What We Want by Francesco Jodice opened today in the boarding lounge of Naples Airport, in the presence of the artist, Angela Tecce, President of the Fondazione Donnaregina per le arti contemporanee, Eva Fabbris, Director of Museo Madre, and Roberto Barbieri, CEO of GESAC.

The exhibition represents the second cycle of works from the Museo Madre collection hosted at the airport, following the first installation, *Le massacre du printemps* (2020) by Mathilde Rosier. The project to bring contemporary art into airport spaces and enrich passengers' travel experience stems from the collaboration between GESAC, the region's leading contemporary art museum, and the Amici del Madre Association.

What We Want takes the form of an extensive photographic archive investigating the relationship between urban landscape and human landscape: a geopolitical atlas composed of images and texts that recount the transformation of territories as a projection of collective desires. The project, still evolving, brings together materials produced in over 170 metropolises on five continents over twenty-five years. The Fondazione Donnaregina has acquired a corpus of photographic works from the What We Want series, thanks to the support of the Strategia Fotografia 2024 call promoted by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture; on this occasion, the works are being exhibited for the first time since entering the Madre collection.

The works selected for the airport exhibition - *What We Want, Aral, T67, 2008; What We Want, São Paulo, T36, 2006; What We Want, Punta del Este, T16, 2001; What We Want, Hong Kong, T47, 2006* - present different geographical contexts, united by the same interpretative key: the city as a dynamic organism crossed by economic, social and cultural tensions.

The exhibition project is accompanied by a performative workshop involving 12 students from the Istituto Comprensivo Oriani-Guarino in San Pietro a Patierno, led by headteacher Tiziana Buono.

The programme was structured in two stages. The first, held in the classroom with the artist on the eve of the opening, provided an opportunity for discussion on the themes of geopolitics and territorial transformation, encouraging a critical reading of images and contemporary languages.

The second meeting took place in the airport's exhibition space and directly involved the students in setting up the display. Participants transcribed geopolitical texts onto the exhibition wall paper, placing them in dialogue with the works.

Launched in spring 2025, the successful collaboration between Fondazione Donnaregina per le arti contemporanee - Museo Madre, GESAC and Amici del Madre has included, in addition to the exhibitions in the boarding lounge, workshops with artists and museum education staff for young people from the neighbourhoods near the airport. In collaboration with the VII Municipality and with the involvement of internationally renowned artists, educational projects included a programme dedicated to discovering the sounds of nature and ancient civilisations, curated by Walter Maioli, and a second drawing workshop on Neapolitan symbolism, led by Marco Pio Mucci.

Angela Tecce, President of the Fondazione Donnaregina per le arti contemporanee, commented: "It is an important opportunity for Museo Madre to present at the Airport, a place of international exchanges and relations, a number of photographic images by Francesco Jodice that, beyond their special aesthetic quality, also bear witness to the artist's ethical commitment as a researcher, and that will become part of our museum's permanent collection thanks to the Italian Council of the Ministry of Culture."

Eva Fabbris, Director of Museo Madre, also stated: "Francesco Jodice's What We Want is a project that builds a visual archive of urban transformations as an expression of collective desires. Presenting it at the airport means activating a direct resonance between the images and the flows that pass through this place. At the same time, the entry of these works into the Madre collection, celebrated through this presentation, strengthens within the museum's identity a line of research attentive to artistic practices capable of critically interrogating the present."

"We are particularly proud to host this exhibition at the airport, offering passengers an unexpected encounter with contemporary art that enriches the travel experience and transforms waiting time into a moment of cultural value," said **Roberto Barbieri, CEO of GESAC**. "At the same time, we are pleased to highlight an internationally renowned Campanian artist such as Francesco Jodice and to strengthen our collaboration with outstanding institutions such as Museo Madre. The involvement of schools, which we strongly supported, represents for us a tangible investment in the human capital of local communities: initiatives such as this make students active participants, foster the development of critical thinking and civic awareness, and strengthen the bond between the airport and the local area, generating positive impacts in terms of inclusion, participation and social cohesion."

Useful information

Title: Francesco Jodice What We Want, (1996-ongoing)

Where: Boarding Area C20 | after security checks

The acquisition of the works is supported by STRATEGIA E FOTOGRAFIA 2024, promoted by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture.

The project has previously been exhibited and produced in major international venues including Documenta, the Venice Biennale, Tate Modern and Castelli di Rivoli.

Digital inkjet prints on Hahnemuhle Photo Rag Bright White cotton paper, wooden frame, plexiglass
 São Paulo, R34, 2006 - 105x140 cm (frame included) Hong Kong, T47, 2006 - 95x140 cm (frame included) Punta del Este, T16, 2001 - 105x132 cm (frame included)

Biography

Francesco Jodice (Naples, 1967) lives and works in Milan. He teaches in the MA in Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies and in the Master's in Photography and Visual Design at NABA - Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti in Milan. In 1995, after graduating in architecture, he began his first artistic research using photography and video. In 1999 he took part in founding the Multiplicity collective. Between 1996 and 2004, the relationship between large urban landscapes and communities was central to his research, as reflected in the projects What We Want, The Secret Traces and The Morocco Affair. Jodice later turned his attention to different anthropological cultures in relation to new phenomena of megapolitanism. Hikikomori, Ritratti di classe and the Citytellers film trilogy belong to this period. Since 2008 geopolitics has been at the centre of the artist's research. His analysis of the crisis of the Western system has led to films, installations and photographic projects such as Atlante, American Recordings, Rivoluzioni and the more recent West. Jodice understands artistic practice as a civil poetics; his artistic processes promote forms and models of public participation. Examples of this activity can be found in the projects La notte del drive in. Milano spara, Babel and Scenario. His main projects include the photographic atlas What We Want, an observatory on changes in the landscape as a projection of collective desires; the archive of urban tracking The Secret Traces; and the film trilogy on new forms of urbanism, Citytellers. His most recent works - Atlante, American Recordings, Rivoluzioni and West - explore possible future scenarios for the West. In 2022, with the support of the Italian Council, he completed West, a decade-long research project on the imaginary that American history has generated and disseminated throughout the world, and on the reasons for the collapse of this empire through an investigation of its symbolism.

For further information:

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