

"YOU ARE WELCOME"

STORIES OF MEETINGS - GESCHICHTEN DER BEGEGNUNG



INTERCULTURE

Photography project by Ivo Corrà in conjunction with Voltaire European Education Centre, sponsored by Provincia autonoma di Bolzano, Italian Culture Section.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the project was making a collection of photographs of a powerfully narrative/visual character with a linguistic element, too. The process fostered participants'

language development following the 'learning by doing' logic in which photography work helps participants find the words to narrate their lives.

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The driving force of the whole process was hospitality. The hospitality offered to those we welcome into our homes, our lives, our habits, but also reciprocal differences. This was behind the decision to call the project *You Are Welcome*, not just as a sign of welcome but also as the response to 'thank you', meaning 'my pleasure' and so on.

TRAJECTORY

Ivo Corrà's first step was the Voltaire language agency's Italian for Foreigners classes. Here he shared participants' stories, images, thought. Looking at oneself, learning a new language, dialogue: these are all tools required in understanding a new culture, as are reading and a targeted use of expressive media such as photography.

The second stage in the project was the homes of 'foreign' people and families where Ivo Corrà captured spontaneous everyday friendly scenes involving those living in them and their Italian culture friends. In these photos, Ivo turns the common perception in which it is 'foreigners' who are welcomed to our end destinations on its head. In actual fact the images speak of straightforward moments of friendship, sharing and everyday life between people living in the same places.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Lastly, the photos taken were made into an exhibition, inaugurated at Centro Trevi on Monday 8th April 2019.

There were two types of photo focusing on each meeting: "group photos", a traditional acknowledgement of the importance of an event, and 'spontaneous' photos capturing a moment passing, a fragment from a wider story.

The exhibition disseminated its 'welcome' message thanks to the hospitality offered by other places, as happened in autumn 2019 at Teatro Cristallo in Bolzano, Mediateca Multilingue in Merano and at other places on request.

INFO

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