



**STILL
I RISE**



Press release
For Immediate release

THE ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO HOSTS “THROUGH OUR EYES”, AN EXHIBITION SHINING A LIGHT ON VULNERABLE CHILDREN

The project was launched in 2019 by the international non-profit organization Still I Rise. Starting from September 16th, the IIC will display the pictures shot by refugee and vulnerable children living in Greece , North-West Syria, and in one of Kenya’s largest slums in Nairobi.

The Italian Cultural Institute (IIC) of Chicago will host the exhibition “Through Our Eyes”, a photography project launched in 2019 by the international nonprofit organization Still I Rise. The exhibition will be inaugurated on September 14th, and it will run from September 16th to October 8th 2023.

“Through Our Eyes” tells stories of migration, war and poverty through the pictures shot by refugee and vulnerable children living in the island of Samos, Greece, in Al Dana in North-West Syria, and in the Mathare slum of Nairobi, Kenya.

All 156 children involved in the project are students at Still I Rise’s schools. [“Through Our Eyes”](#) will be hosted by the [Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago](#), the cultural office of the Consulate General of Italy in the city, as a part of the project “Chi Siamo: (Re)presenting Italian Culture”, a one-year series dedicated to representation, diversity and inclusion in Italian culture.

«The exhibition is an important part of our 2023 programming», says Luca Di Vito, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute, «because it relates to some of the work that we are bringing to the local public, related to migrations and how this issue is represented in Italian arts. “Through Our Eyes” opens a chapter in this year’s programming that will continue in October with a series of screenings of Italian movies on this very topic, but also allows us to continue discussing socially engaged issues that speak to a global audience».

«Bringing “Through Our Eyes” to Chicago, and to the United States, will allow us to raise awareness to a new audience not only on the living conditions of refugee and vulnerable children around the world, but also on their dreams and their hopes about the future», says Giulia Cicoli, Communications and Fundraising Director of Still I Rise. «They are active subjects in building their lives and making decisions, and too often they are just talked about by the



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media or some international organizations: we believe that their stories must be told through their own eyes.»

THE EXHIBITION - “Through Our Eyes” is a long-term photography project which was launched in 2019. So far, it has involved 156 children aged 9 to 17 in Samos (Greece), Al Dana (North-West Syria), and Nairobi (Kenya). Children were given the opportunity to attend a photography course led by the project creator, Nicoletta Novara, and by Syrian photographer Mahmoud Faisal. At the end of the course, the students were given disposable cameras they could use to describe their lives outside Still I Rise’s schools.

“Through Our Eyes” recounts migration, war, and poverty. Each picture comes with a note written by the children describing their memories and recounting their hopes and dreams for the future. The main objective of the project is to give children the chance to express themselves through the universal language of photography. The exhibition has reached over 100 cities in Europe and the United States to date.

STILL I RISE is a non-profit organization bringing world-class education to refugee and vulnerable children around the globe. It was founded in 2018. It is headquartered in Rome, Italy, and operates in North West Syria, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia. Still I Rise was active from 2018 to 2022 in Greece, and is present in Italian-speaking Switzerland as well as in the United States of America.

THE ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE is the cultural office of the Consulate General of Italy in Chicago. Founded in 1985, the Institute is one of five cultural agencies of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in the United States. It is located in the heart of Chicago along the Magnificent Mile. The Institute serves as a convenient source for information about Italian life and culture that showcases Italy’s classic and contemporary heritage with particular reference to art, music, cinema, design, architecture, literature, fashion, theater, cuisine, science, and technology.

EXHIBITION INFO

Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago
1850 N California Ave, Suite 1450
Chicago, IL 60611

Opening hours:

Saturday & Sunday, 10:30am-5:30pm

For weekday visits and groups, email toe.chicago@stillirisengo.org



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