

**FINAL PRESS RELEASE**

**I A M V U L N E R A B L E**  
***failure is an achievement, art is loving error***  
an artistic project by Sergio Mario Illuminato

ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN PARIS  
Hôtel de Galliffet - 50, rue de Varenne -75007 Paris



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## **Beyond Perfection: A Celebration of Human Vulnerability Through Art**

The *IAMVULNERABLE* art project by Sergio Mario Illuminato, held at the Italian Cultural Institute in Paris, is approaching its conclusion, leaving a profound echo. For the first time in the Institute's history, the historic garden spaces of the Hôtel de Galliffet hosted a mosaic of expressive languages that, through art, explored the essence of human fragility.

One of the most innovative and experimental elements of the exhibition was the installation of '*Communicating Artistic Organisms*', works that break with the classic canons of museum exhibitions. These artistic devices were embedded directly into the garden's soil, as if fallen from the sky and becoming an integral part of the landscape itself. Rooted in nature, they interacted with it, revealing the slow transformation that time and weather imprinted on the surfaces of the works. The paint-sculptures, already marked by the vulnerability of the organic and metallic pigments that compose them, were further shaped by the elements, allowing plants and mosses to infiltrate their textures. It almost suggests that in fragility lies the potential to generate new life.

This continuous process of transformation reflects one of the project's central reflections: vulnerability is not a static state but a condition in constant evolution, capable of regenerating and transforming. The small plants emerging among the pictorial-sculptural materials strengthen this symbolism, making visible an aesthetic and natural regeneration that embraces imperfection as fertile ground for change.

A crucial chapter of the exhibition was represented by the photographic series '*Terres rares*', created inside the former Pontifical Prison of Velletri. These images, printed on handmade paper, are steeped in history and substance: rusted bars placed outside to support the photographs left their imprints, almost like scars on the surface of the prints, giving them a physicality that engages with the themes of imprisonment, time, and abandonment. Bringing these shots to Paris, far from their place of origin, emphasized their universal potential to tell the story of human fragility, wherever it manifests.

This performative and transdisciplinary practice has transformed the concept of failure into an achievement, recognizing error as an essential element of the growth process. As Illuminato declared: "Art is not a luxury, but a vital necessity. In fragility, there is the strength to change the world, starting with oneself."

The reception from the Parisian public has been intense and engaged. Visitors reacted with astonishment and deep reflection to the exhibition's ability to reveal an intimate and universal truth: vulnerability is not a weakness, but a condition that unites us all. Some described it as an "inner journey," an opportunity where art managed to mirror one's fears, hopes, and defeats. A surprising aspect of the exhibition was the permission to touch the works, symbolically destined for oblivion.

This gesture provoked a spontaneous reaction: some visitors detached small fragments from the works, taking them away as symbolic souvenirs of shared vulnerability. This act further enriched the meaning of the work, underlining the active and personal participation of the audience in the reflection on the ephemeral and failure.

The project, structured in several chapters, demonstrated the power of dialogue between different disciplines, intertwining painting, sculpture, photography, cinema, and performance. Young artists from the Academy of Fine Arts of Rome participated with the work *Jonchets*, highlighting the need for social change through simple yet meaningful gestures.

The exhibition also hosted the international premiere of the short film '*Vulnerare*', which left the audience with a profound awareness: vulnerability is a universal condition, an invisible thread that connects the most intimate and authentic human experiences.

The *IAMVULNERABLE* art project by Sergio Mario Illuminato, recognized among the '*Good Cultural Practices of the Lazio Region*'—as part of the official initiatives of the '*Twentieth Edition of the Day of Contemporary Art*'—was realized with the endorsement of the Presidency of the VII Commission Culture, Science, and Education of the Chamber of Deputies and with the High Patronage of the European Parliament, and the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Lazio Region, the Metropolitan City of Rome Capital, and the Department of Culture of Rome Capital.

In collaboration with: Italian Cultural Institute of Paris, Academy of Fine Arts of Rome, Piaget Diaz State High School Institute, Blowart Cultural Association, Teatro Valmisa Cooperative Society, 'La Sapienza' University of Rome Botanical Garden, Tipografia Rossini Lab, Exibart, VulnerarTe Magazine, Pietradolce.

After Velletri and Paris, the final stage of *IAMVULNERABLE* will take place in Rome at Villa Altieri Palace of Culture and Memory from December 6, 2024, to February 11, 2025.

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**Reference Websites and Social Media:**

[www.iosonovulnerabile.it/practive-performative/2024-2/](http://www.iosonovulnerabile.it/practive-performative/2024-2/)

[www.instagram.com/iosonovulnerabile/](https://www.instagram.com/iosonovulnerabile/)

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Installation '*Hôtel de Galliffet*' by Sergio Mario Illuminato (2024)