

UNDER ONE SKY

imago
ipunw

Luciano Benetton
Collection

Le monde chinois, as the French Sinologist Jacques Gernet entitled one of his books, is a good portion of the globe that has existed for millennia in its proud completeness, a cultural driving force and an important part of the history of civilization.

China is that other pole of human experience that has never ceased to arouse the curiosity, the dreams, the desires of Western travellers, from thirteenth century merchants to the Jesuit missionaries of the fifteen hundreds, to the businessmen of today.

*This is a fascinating and creative journey for Imago Mundi in the name of Art that builds bridges and unites peoples and nations: a travelling exhibition that in two years will touch on as many as 13 regions of the immense Chinese territory. Conscious of the great honour and responsibility this brings with it, we are taking to China, for the first time, the imaginative and collective vision of so many other worlds, large or small, represented by four thousand works of artists from twenty-three countries around the world. With the additional benefit of an important preview of the *Contemporary China 1949 - 2019* project: the artistic identikit of 55 different Chinese ethnic groups that compose, together with the Han majority, a mosaic of extraordinary diversity.*

Overall, this is a significant extract of the global collection of Imago Mundi – we are rapidly approaching the finishing line of 150 countries, peoples and regions - that recounts the world as we would like it to be: colourful, in peace and without walls, be they symbolic or real. Because too often the walls are still there and – in the words of the Italian intellectual Franco Fortini – “we are on one side, the others are on the other: under the right conditions, of course, the doors may well be opened, but in the meantime the wall remains.”

With this exhibition, thousands of artists - of any nationality, ethnicity or creed – tell us with imagination and courage that, on the contrary, the great utopia of a borderless world is possible. And that - under our one sky - a new map of Humanity can be built.

Luciano Benetton

November 2016

