

FOTOGRAFIA EUROPEA 2025

Reggio Emilia, April 24th - June 8th

BEING TWENTY

*I was twenty.
I will not allow anyone to say
that this is the best age of life.*

Paul Nizan, Aden Arabia, 1961

In a person's biography, 20 marks the shadow line, the end of innocence, and at the same time, the taste of freedom and independence. At 20, you can still become anything, but you discover you are alone, detached from the world and from your family heritage.

Being 20 is like **sailing an ocean of possibilities** without a precise map. It is an age of **contradictions**: you are an adult, but often still living at home with your parents; you are connected to the whole world, but the loneliness can be overwhelming. You face **immense expectations**, both personal and social: finding a satisfying job, building meaningful relationships, giving purpose to your existence, imagining a better world, for ourselves and others.

However, **uncertainty is a constant feature**: economic instability, climate and social crises, as well as rapid technological transformations create a shifting and often slippery terrain. The widespread increases in **anxiety and depression** are signs of a

progressive deterioration in a society's ability to care for the new generations, to understand the questions we face from the future.

Gen Z grew up in an era where **technological progress** opened up endless possibilities, but which has also posed unprecedented crises to be faced, both individually and collectively. Being perpetually connected and visible offers great opportunities, but appearance can become a trap, and constant comparison a threat to self-esteem.

We live in an age of immense **wealth disparity** and at the same time of considerable **job insecurity**, where even the most qualified find it difficult to secure stable employment.

Being 20 today also means being part of a generation **fighting** for its rights and for a better future, taking to the streets for the climate, fighting against inequalities and injustice.

It is an age of **big dreams and immense ideal challenges**, where every day can provide an opportunity to discover who you are and who you want to become.

In this complex and fascinating journey, you learn to live with fragility and strength, with fear and hope, with anger and joy, trying to find one's place in the world, day after day.