Mario Biagini
The Politics of Community. What is the political potential of art?
What is the political responsibility of artists?


If art is a footnote to the present, it is already outdated. As artists we not only have the obligation to create something meaningful, but to create something that is ahead of its time, based on intensive research and on what we can call creative or artistic intuition.

This is why direct contact with people is essential. You do not get a sense of the Zeitgeist by merely reading, or investigating social media. You actually have to be in the streets. By seeing how people interact, how they look, how they behave with each other in different spaces and circumstances. And if you really allow yourself to see what is happening right now, you may be frightened. Because basically we are conditioned to ignore each other. In the past it was considered an insult to turn the back at somebody. Today we do this all the time without noticing. The other is not important to us, or he or she are important to us only inasmuch as they are means to our own private happiness. Thus, we sink in a world of imagination and alienation. But a healthy political body needs recognition of the other, needs the support of active individuals who take initiative.

I see theatre as an art of creating contexts of human interaction. We can say that by creating the conditions for perceiving the other, we create the basis for effective political action.