**FEDERICA CRIVELLARO**

**Curator of the exhibition**

*Jimmy Nelson: Humanity* ***\****

Jimmy Nelson’s personal and artistic journey serves as the central theme of his retrospective exhibition *Humanity*, offering visitors a profound opportunity for introspection and contemplation of their own identity within the broader context of the human family.

The subjects of his pictures are Indigenous peoples from all over the world—a boundless stage for a remarkable collection of artworks. He possesses a unique ability to find beauty even in the most unconventional circumstances. Through his artistic vision, he transforms both individuals and places, transcending their ordinary existence and revealing their hidden splendor. He invites viewers to see the world through a different lens, encouraging them to appreciate the inherent beauty of all human beings and the world in which we live.

His photography is characterized by a few key ingredients that have contributed to the unique and captivating nature of his work from the very beginning. Travel is an integral part of Jimmy Nelson’s artistic process. He embarks on long journeys to remote and culturally rich locations around the world, where he aspires to capture the essence of humanity’s expressions of beauty. He often incorporates natural elements into his compositions, creating a harmonious blend of humans and their surroundings. Whether it is capturing individuals amidst breathtaking landscapes, including elements of nature as symbolic references, or showcasing the interconnection between people and their environments, the presence of natural elements enhances the visual storytelling and adds depth to the overall narrative. The central focus of Jimmy Nelson’s work is the portrayal of human subjects. He strives to capture the individuality, emotions, and stories of the people he photographs. Through his images, he celebrates cultural diversity, challenges stereotypes, and heightens the shared humanity that connects us all.

By combining these ingredients of travel, natural elements, and human subjects, Jimmy Nelson creates visually striking and emotionally powerful artworks. The orchestration of such variable elements is a complex and time-consuming endeavor that embraces the unpredictable nature of his work. Each project entails meticulous planning, coordination, and adaptability, as he navigates through diverse cultures, environments, and conditions. It is a delicate dance between preparation and spontaneity, precision and flexibility. Through his dedication, patience, and artistic sensitivity, he creates visual masterpieces that capture the essence of humanity and celebrate the beauty of our diverse world.

Milan, 19 September 2023

**\* Extract from the text in the Skira editore catalogue**