



# EDITORIAL

## The power of the smile

Faces marked by fatigue, bodies consumed by hunger, frightened looks, asymmetric smiles, with gaps, with missing teeth, with tooth decay – these are the protagonists in the photographs on Sebastião Salgado’s “Exodus” exhibition in Ravenna, Italy, 2024 (<https://publicdelivery.org/sebastiao-salgado-exodus/>).

A far cry from our embellished photographs, taken with bouncers, which portray

luscious lips illuminated by sparkling lip glosses that frame white, smooth, straight, symmetric, perfect teeth.

I have always thought that the eyes are the entrance to our inner world and the smile is the exit.

Thoughts elaborate what the eyes see and the mouth, in turn, creates the comment.



Martina Stefanini  
DDS, PhD  
Bologna, Italy  
*Editor-in-Chief*



Photographer: Dr Massimo Migani, Dean of Luisa Guidotti Hospital in Mutoko, Zimbabwe.



Photographer: Dr Francesco Rullo during his volunteer period at the Luisa Guidotti Hospital in Mutoko, Zimbabwe.

What do Salgado's smiles give back to the world? What do our embellished smiles give back?

I would not like to belittle our work, which I would define as artistic in some ways, made up of millimetric precision, obsessive attention to detail, a frantic search for the perfection of color and the harmony of shapes.

But I would like to offer you another photograph.

Salgado shows us another perspective.

Not in the architectural sense of the term, although also in that sense – if you look at the photograph of the mosque or the buildings in Vietnam you will see incredible images from a technical point of view – but rather, another perspective of thought.

I would like the beauty that we are used to seeing in our living conditions to come out through our smile, in the form of gratitude.

We can't change the world but at least we can be grateful.

Give the world back a sense of gratitude. This is what Dr Migani does every day as a missionary dentist in a charity hospital in Zimbabwe.

Dear readers, dear friends –

I am grateful to you.

Martina Stefanini