

LIBERE! 1946-2026. Le conquiste delle donne

Gallerie d'Italia – Milan, Intesa Sanpaolo's Museum

From 26th September 2026 to 7th February 2027

Exhibition curated by Renata Ferri

On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of iO Donna

IMAGES AND MATERIALS AT THIS LINK: ["LIBERE! 1946-2026. Le conquiste delle donne"](#)

Milan, 25 September 2026 – Intesa Sanpaolo and iO Donna, the women's weekly magazine of Corriere della Sera edited by Danda Santini, present from 26 September 2026 to 7 February 2027 at Gallerie d'Italia - Milan the exhibition **LIBERE! 1946–2026. Le conquiste delle donne** (*FREE! 1946-2026. Women's Achievements*), conceived and curated by Renata Ferri. The exhibition project, promoted by iO Donna in collaboration with Gallerie d'Italia – Milan on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the publication of iO Donna by RCS MediaGroup, traces, through photography, eighty years of Italian Republican history from women's perspective, recounting the long journey towards full citizenship, emancipation and the affirmation of their rights.

The journey begins on 2 June 1946, when almost thirteen million Italian women took part in a national election for the first time. That achievement was followed by the work of the twenty-one Constituent Mothers, who helped enshrine the principle of equality between women and men in the Constitution. It seemed like the beginning of a new era of rights. In reality, most of the freedoms we now take for granted still had to be won. This awareness gave rise to **LIBERE!**, an exhibition that tells the story of how, over the next eighty years, women profoundly transformed Italian society through civil battles, legislative reforms and cultural changes.

Thanks to a selection of about **50 photographs** from the Intesa Sanpaolo Publifoto Archive, the Contrasto agency archive and the Paola Agosti and Marcella Campagnano archives, the exhibition brings together images, documents and testimonies that help preserve the country's collective memory. Photography thus becomes a tool for interpreting Italian history through the faces, gestures and experiences of women who have often remained far from the spotlight but were protagonists of the major changes that have transformed the civic, social and economic life of republican Italy.

The exhibition follows a chronological itinerary that retraces the main stages in the struggle for women's rights. From the reform of family law and the introduction of divorce to the fight for equality in the workplace, women's access to the professions and the judiciary, the right to self-determination, the campaigns of the feminist movement and the recognition of sexual violence as a crime against the person. Alongside these major legislative changes, the transformations of Italian society emerge: access to higher education, the growing presence of women in the workplace, in culture, in sport and in institutions, together with changes in customs and daily life.

Work is one of the recurring themes of the exhibition. The images tell the story of women's gradual entry into professional fields that were long closed to them, their contribution to Italy's economic development and the battles still being fought for full equality of opportunity, from the gender pay gap to women's representation

in decision-making roles. The achievement of economic autonomy emerges as one of the fundamental conditions of women's freedom.

Alongside the great protagonists of politics, culture, science, business and the professions, the exhibition pays tribute above all to ordinary women: workers, students, mothers, activists, electricians, athletes, and citizens who, through their daily commitment, have contributed to changing the face of Italy. They are the invisible thread that runs through the entire exhibition, testifying to how every collective achievement was also born from millions of individual experiences.

The final section of the exhibition explores contemporary artistic practice, presenting photographic works that testify to the evolution of the visual language of photography. After tracing the historical narrative through archival material, the exhibition concludes with the works of artists who explore new forms of expression through personal and intimate research. In these works, photography expands and engages with other visual languages, becoming a space for experimentation and self-representation. The artists are thus the protagonists of their own narrative, offering an original perspective on the present and showing how photography continues to renew itself as a medium for exploration, expression and creative freedom.

Michele Coppola, Executive Director for Art, Culture and Historical Heritage of Intesa Sanpaolo and General Director of Gallerie d'Italia: *"Sharing the historical and photographic heritage held in our collections takes on even greater significance when viewed in the context of our country's recent history, its transformations and its achievements in civil rights. An image archive reveals its true value whenever it provides an opportunity for study, reflection and even debate on issues that matter today. Gallerie d'Italia are vibrant, open spaces where different generations and audiences come together and connect through a shared heritage."*

"Since its launch, iO Donna has chronicled the evolution of our society, with a keen eye on women's empowerment," explains Danda Santini, Editor-in-Chief of iO Donna, who continues: "This year, as the 80th anniversary of women's suffrage coincides with the magazine's 30th anniversary, we have decided to retrace the history of the Italian Republic through the story of women's emancipation in Italy. The exhibition LIBERE!, curated by Renata Ferri with the participation of Intesa Sanpaolo, offers a fresh perspective, prompting reflection on rights and freedoms, both those already secured and those still to be won."

The exhibition will be accompanied by a programme of initiatives dedicated to different audiences, with guided tours for schools and events open to the public.

The photographs on display from the Intesa Sanpaolo Publifoto Archive have been restored, digitised, catalogued and made available online (<https://asisp.intesasanpaolo.com/publifoto/>) for public use by the Intesa Sanpaolo Historical Archive.

The Publifoto Archive, acquired in 2015 by Intesa Sanpaolo with the aim of enhancing it as a national cultural asset, is a valuable source for retracing the history of the Italian 20th century.

The museum in Milan, together with those in Turin, Naples and Vicenza, is part of Intesa Sanpaolo's **Gallerie d'Italia** museum project, led by Michele Coppola, the Bank's Executive Director of Art, Culture and Historical Heritage and General Director of the Gallerie d'Italia.

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USEFUL INFORMATION

OPENING HOURS: Tuesday to Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; last entry at 6:00 p.m.; closed on Monday.

TICKETS:

From 26th September to 18th October 2026

Full €12, reduced €10, special reduced €6 for Intesa San Paolo Group customers; free admission for partners, schools, under 26 year-olds, and on the first Sunday of each month

From 20th October to 25th November 2026

Full €6; reduced €3; free entry for clients of the Intesa Sanpaolo Group, partners, schools, under 26 year-olds, and on the first Sunday of every month

From 27 November 2026 to 07 February 2027

Full €12, reduced €10, special reduced €6 for Intesa San Paolo Group customers; free admission for partners, schools, under 26 year-olds, and on the first Sunday of each month

INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS: <http://www.gallerieditalia.com>, milano@gallerieditalia.com, Toll free number 800.167619

Intesa Sanpaolo

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