



EXHIBITION

“My quest is to find a fair and fulfilling relationship with the world, the Earth, and the cosmos. It is a quest for a way of living that is fruitful.” Felwine Sarr

The theme of this exhibition, through these 20 photographs, is heat in cities in the northern Mediterranean basin.

Burning asphalt: It's hot in the city!

2024 was the hottest year on record¹. Increasing global warming is a cause for concern. Summers are becoming more difficult to live through, despite technological advances that are supposed to make heat waves more bearable. Since the 1950s, modern air conditioning has been a feature of the urban landscape. Paradoxically, they cool the interior while releasing hot air outside, thereby increasing the temperature. In cities, the materials used to build them trap heat and release it at night, impacting our ability to rest. With 70% of the world's population now living in cities—a figure that continues to rise due to rural exodus—our cities must adapt and protect their inhabitants from rising temperatures.

Mediterranean cities: between land and sea, fantasy and reality

Territories of the ideal summer imagination, hubs of global tourism, living in a Mediterranean city during a heatwave means constantly readjusting.

In response to the heat, vernacular Mediterranean urban planning has been built on principles of protection: interior gardens, patios, mashrabiya screens, fountains, large shade cloths, porticos, stone and adobe dwellings, etc. What remains of this today?

From the scale of the skin to the scale of territories, the symptoms are identical. A feeling of dryness, loss of balance, and unbearable heat radiation, the smell of burning runs through the photos. We call on the wind and water to protect ourselves from an overly arid land and an overly burning, sometimes even destructive fire. The sun is blinding, the city empties, wrinkles, and turns gray. We seek refuge in the night to hide and rest.

In reality, we suffer from the heat in different ways. The most disadvantaged must be inventive and resilient², as must the elderly³ and children, who are

¹ Copernicus

² Read the Ghett'up x OXFAM report: [Passoires et bouilloires thermiques — Ghett'up](#)

³ 85% increase in heat-related deaths among people over 65 in the last 20 years



more vulnerable to rising temperatures. Living together under the scorching sun means thinking about our connections today but also in the future, linking our solidarity to that of future generations. And this at a time when the worst projections predict 120 days of heat waves per year in Marseille by 2100 and up to 7 additional degrees in the Mediterranean basin.

So, today, in the heat, what are our mechanisms for survival and life? How do we continue to exist, coexist, work, and have fun?

Resident participation in the Cool Noons project

The Cool Noons project seeks to adapt our cities to heatwaves. This exhibition follows on from the photo competition that took place in the summer of 2025 in the five Euro-Mediterranean cities involved in the project: Lisbon, Marseille, Imola, Dubrovnik, and Budva.

Far from a purely technical or distant approach, we poeticize forms of resistance: documenting bodies that adapt, gestures that soothe, improvised shelters, and everyday creativity under the scorching sun—a way of reading the city through experience.

Moving away from the usual postcards romanticizing our Mediterranean seaside territories and their inhabitants, the exhibition presents a multiplicity of perspectives that focus on scenes from everyday life, striking details, and memories to cherish.

In a world where ecological disasters and movements to respond to them are multiplying and intensifying, there is a call to action and support: resistance and dialogue. Dialogue between species, dialogue between spaces. We wanted to preserve the photographers' words, and we thank them for that.

Welcome to this exhibition!