ITALY/NAPLES

THE PRIEST OF RIONE SANITA'





The artist/sculptor Jacopo Cardillo – pseudonym Jago – with his most recent plaster artwork which was inspired by Michelangelo's Pietà.



The words of the song Napule è by Pino Daniele transformed into light displays along via Sanità in the district of the same name.

The rebirth of a neighbourhood plagued by crime

Rione Sanità is a historical and vibrant area of Naples which is particularly renowned for the strong influence exerted by the Camorra mafia organisation in the area. However, in recent years, the priest Antonio Loffredo, together with a group of young people, has created a cooperative that has enabled the reopening of the magnificent catacombs of San Gennaro and San Gaudioso, providing employment for around forty young people in an area beset by high levels of unemployment.

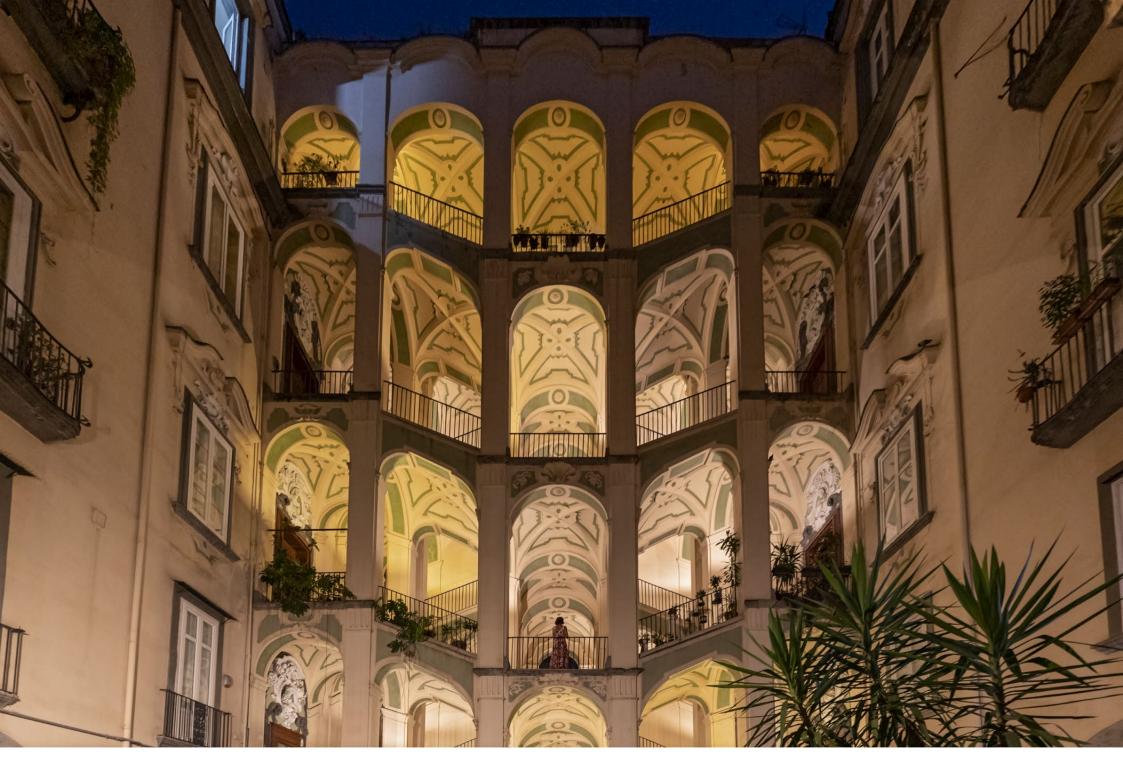
Spinning off from this central core, a number of social and artistic activities have been instigated to revitalise the neighbourhood, with beauty being the start point. And so, with many young people from the area, an orchestra was born – Sanità Ensemble – and so was a theatre company – Nuovo Teatro Sanità – plus a recording studio located inside the Basilica di San Severo and several street artists have painted on many of the district's houses.

Don Antonio also recently welcomed a very talented young sculptor back from New York, Jago, who installed one of his latest works – the *Veiled son* which is inspired by the famous *Veiled Christ* – in a beautiful chapel located in the district. The priest also made an abandoned church available to him for his next work, which is inspired by Michelangelo's Pietà.

The Sanità district also never forgets the "last of the last" and every day provides food for a hundred homeless people through the La Tenda project, and offers an alternative to prison for a number of inmates who are given the opportunity to stay at the Liberi di volare (Free to fly) refuge.



Young musicians from the Sanità Ensemble orchestra preparing for rehearsals in the Basilica di San Severo fuori le mura.



The palazzo dello Spagnolo (or dello Spagnuolo) was built in via Vergini in 1738 at the request of the marquis of Poppano, Nicola Moscati.



Wall painting of Totò and Peppino, a work by the Spanish street artist Tono Cruz, on a house in Via Sanità.



A young boy plays with his football in front of a wall painting of Totò and Pier Paolo Pasolini on the walls of the Nuovo Teatro Sanità theatre company building.



Antonio laccarino, a member of the 'La Paranza' cooperative, working as a guide in the catacombs of San Gennaro and San Gaudioso and along the so-called "Miglio Sacro" (Sacred Mile).



The Veiled Son inside the Baroque chapel of the Basilica di San Severo fuori le mura, a work of art by the artist/sculptor Jacopo Cardillo – pseudonym Jago – originally from Frosinone and currently working in the Sanità district.



Francesco Porzio, a pupil of the artist Riccardo Dalisi, is one of the founders of the Iron Angels cooperative, a creative studio that creates metal works of art.



Don Antonio Loffredo, the dynamic priest of the Basilica di Santa Maria della Sanità (also known as the San Vincenzo 'o Monacone Church), has set up many cultural and social initiatives to help improve the neighbourhood.



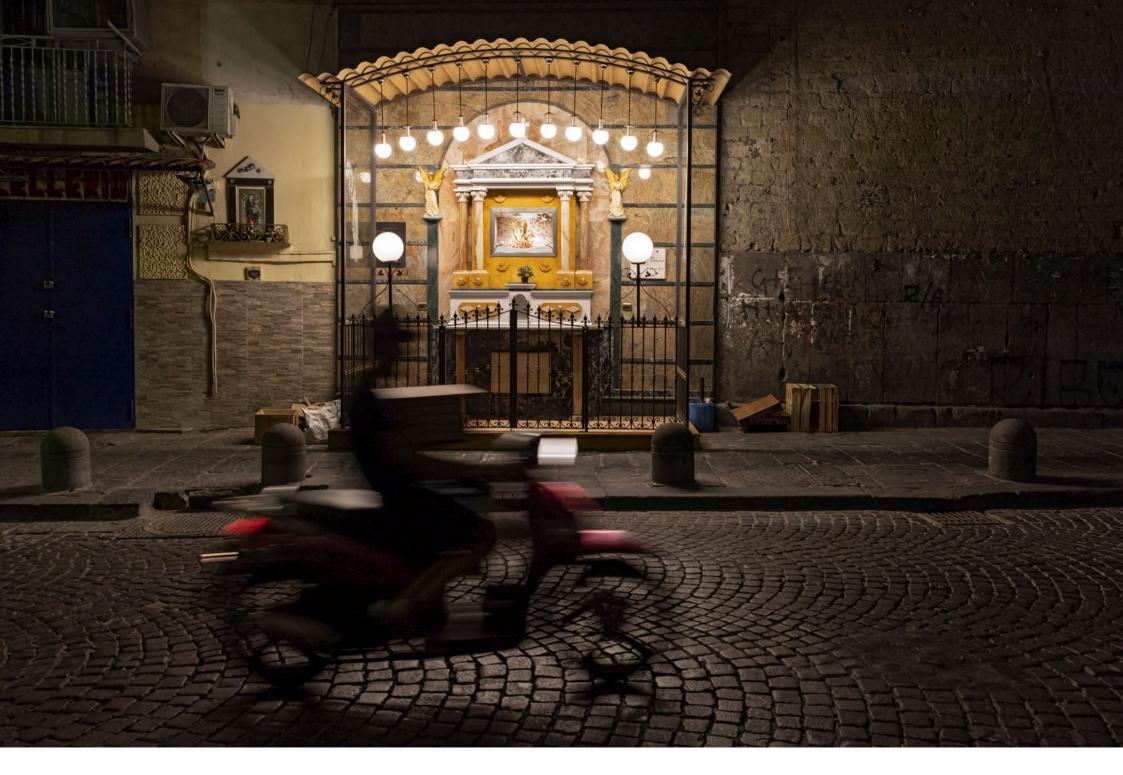
The Nuovo Teatro Sanità theatre group rehearsing for a play that's based on *The Plague* by Camus and has been modernised for the Covid-19 pandemic.



A shot of Rione Sanità.



Luigi Petrazzuolo, sound engineer from Apogeo Records, a recording studio and music production company located inside the Basilica di San Severo fuori le mura.



A votive shrine in Via Sanità.



A volunteer at the soup kitchen in the former hospital which houses the La Tenda Centre, founded and run by Don Antonio Vitiello.



The catacombs of San Gennaro, ancient underground burial grounds dating back to the 2nd and 3rd centuries. They are the oldest and most extraordinary testimony to the presence of Christianity in Naples, and are managed by the young members of the La Paranza cooperative.



A wall painting by the young artists from the La Tenda Centre on the walls of the lift that connects the centre of the district to the bridge that joins Corso Amedeo di Savoia with Via Santa Teresa degli Scalzi.



Young musicians from the Sanità Ensemble orchestra during rehearsals for a concert at the Basilica di San Severo fuori le mura.



Via Vergini, one of the roads that most typifies Rione Sanità.



Gavin Aslett, a cartoonist from London who moved to Naples, has been living in Rione Sanità for a year.



Evening shot of the parvis in front of the Basilica di Santa Maria della Sanità (also known as the San Vincenzo 'o Monacone Church), with the work of the street artist Francisco Bosoletti.



A wall painting by the Chilean street artist Mono Gonzalez.



Enzo Porzio, one of the founders of the La Paranza cooperative that manages the catacombs of San Gennaro and San Gaudioso.

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