

The news of the attack on the Twin Towers, broadcast worldwide in real-time on September 11, 2001, took our breath away. The desperate call for help of those who waved their handkerchiefs from the windows; trapped in their offices, the extreme gesture of those who from those same windows leapt into the void; then the towers collapsed, monuments to a civilization of wealth and wellness, crumbling like sand castles in a matter of seconds. All those instants and still images in the most grueling live broadcast seemed surreal – and still do today after many years. So terrible that they cannot be true, but unfortunately, are dramatically and painfully real.

The exhibition “Cities of New York” tells their tale: the story of then and of today, in a vision that from destruction moves to reconstruction, focusing on what was inevitably lost but also the power of memory. And, above all, on its duty.

The City of New York is told in all its nuances, taking cue from the pain which is never far enough away, through the work of eleven photographers – each different in style and angle – winning true attention, between the right to make the headlines and the right to forget, letting history be known and respecting personal stories.

The stereotypical New York of commercials or the welcoming city of its many musicians, the city bewildered by its fast-paced life and the city chronicled in a documentary. Then, the New York “frozen” in the pain of many shots, even anonymous, taken during the attack and now voiced in the video “Rebirth” with testimonies from the relatives of some of the victims.

A city that moves on, but cherishes memories and does not forget. A city that reflects on its pain and that, in spite of itself, is now a warning and a reminder to reflect on at an international level.

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