

**Azimut Yachts presents:**  
**The Voyage**  
**A project by Francesco Jodice**

*A journey that springs from the legend of seafaring and explores the central role of naval engineering and navigation techniques. Photographs, research papers, maps and geographical locations are the focus of a work in progress that will take the form of a series of fine art photographs and a book. And for the occasion, Azimut Yachts shipyards agreed to be laid bare by the artist's gaze.*

**Turin, November 4, 2016**

**Azimut|Benetti** Group brand **Azimut Yachts**, a synonym for fine Italian design and manufacturing excellence, presented yesterday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at **Artissima 2016**, the new project by artist and photographer **Francesco Jodice**: **"The Voyage"**.

At the heart of it all, **the legend of seafaring**, which represents one of the most profound symbols that western civilisation has used to describe the meaning of life through the ages, from epic literature like the voyage of Ulysses and the legendary adventures of the Argonauts, to the reports written by the great explorers of the Modern Age. Navigation and travel bring together not only the quest for the truth, the desire to challenge limits, and the yearning for knowledge and experience, but also the sheer pleasure of surrendering to the wonder of new vistas.

"The Voyage" is a project involving Azimut Yachts and its shipyards that will unfold over the space of a three-year period, rebuilding and interpreting the states of mind experienced during a sea voyage, and analysing navigation techniques through a series of books by famous navigators of the past. **The project will take the physical form of a series of fine art photographs and an art book.**

The basic idea is to represent three different aspects of seafaring: **(i) the invention**, the technical skills and the human creativity that have always been a part of boatbuilding, **(ii) landfall**, as a place of exchange and diverse cultures, **(iii) the sense of being lost in the view**, of the wonder and discovery intrinsic to the voyage to new lands.

At the center of this itinerary are, naturally, **the sea, ports and boats**. Naval engineers and their role in the history of exploration become central features of the project. And this is the point of intersection between Jodice and Azimut Yachts shipyards, which opened their arms to welcome the photographer's lens and allowed themselves to be "captured" by the artist's gaze.

Azimut|Benetti Vice President Giovanna Vitelli commented: *"It is a project that fills us with enthusiasm and a profound sense of engagement. Research, innovative technology and materials*

*have always been part of our genetic code. In our yachts we try to achieve a perfect synthesis of experience, innovation and design, of technology and tradition, and of aesthetics and functionality, representing tools to experience the emotions of freedom, discovery and the voyage that have always fascinated mankind. That is why we felt an immediate sense of identification with Francesco Jodice's art and this project is particularly close to our heart".*

The project as a whole draws on the suggestions evoked by some famous "discoveries" made by the great explorers - from **Charles Darwin** to **Sir Francis Drake**, and from **Joseph Conrad** to **Cristoforo Colombo** – accompanied by the study of maps from antiquity and readings of reports of their travels. The aim of the artist is to portray a journey and a voyage of exploration as seen through the eyes of the navigator and explorer, with a spirit of renewed 'surprise'. All perfectly aligned with their own artistic philosophy: indeed, the creative endeavour of Jodice has always been addressed to building a space shared by art and geopolitics, proposing artistic practice as a form of civil poetry.

*"In his book/diary The Voyage of the Beagle," explains **Francesco Jodice**, "Charles Darwin shares his deep melancholy with us: it was 1835 and Darwin's five-year voyage around the world was coming to an end. Thinking about the century of circumnavigation, discovery and new maps, Darwin understands that soon there will no longer be "anything to see for the first time". The principal aim of my project is to rediscover the sense of epiphany that comes with landfall, through an awareness that I am approaching a "borderline" between land and sea that has been irreversibly changed by the signs and semiotics of almost two hundred years of anthropisation".*

## **Azimut Yachts**

*Azimut Yachts is an Azimut|Benetti Group brand. With its Atlantis, Magellano Flybridge, S and Grande collections, it offers the widest range of 34 to 120 foot yachts. It has a presence in 68 countries through a network of 138 sales and assistance centres, as well as direct representation and assistance branches in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Fort Lauderdale (USA) and Itajai (Brazil).*

## **Francesco Jodice**

*Francesco Jodice was born in Naples in 1967 and lives in Milan. His art investigates the changes in the contemporary social landscape, with a special focus on the phenomena of urban anthropology and the production of new participatory processes. His projects aim to build a space shared by art and geopolitics, with the proposition that artistic practice is a form of civil poetry.*

*He teaches on the two year course in Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies and on the Master in Photography and Visual Design at NABA – Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti di Milano and at the Holden School in Turin. He is a founding member of the Multiplicity and Zapruder collectives.*

*He has contributed to major collective exhibitions including Documenta, the Venice Biennial, the Sao Paulo Biennial and the ICP Triennial in New York, and has exhibited at Castello di Rivoli, Tate Modern in London, and the Prado in Madrid.*

*His main works include the photographic atlas What We Want, The Secret Traces archive of urban shadowing and the Citytellers film trilogy on the new forms of urbanism. His most recent works - Atlante, American Recordings and Sunset Boulevard – explore the future of the West.*

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