



FONDAZIONE
SOZZANI

To preserve culture is to keep the soul of a society alive, ensuring that its stories, traditions, and creative expressions are passed on to future generations.



ABOUT FONDAZIONE SOZZANI	4
A LEGACY OF VISION	5
MISSION AND VALUES	6
PURPOSE AND GOALS	9
COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES	11
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM	17
PROJECTS	21
ACTIVITIES	27
VENUES	33
BOARD	34
CARLA SOZZANI	35
KRIS RUHS	36
SARA SOZZANI MAINO	37
CONTACTS	38

ABOUT FONDAZIONE SOZZANI

At Fondazione Sozzani, we believe in the transformative power of art, culture, and creativity. We are dedicated to preserving cultural heritage while embracing the innovative spirit of the present and future.

Fondazione Sozzani is a cultural institution founded by Carla Sozzani and Kris Ruhs in 2016. It is a natural extension of Sozzani's and Ruhs's lifelong passion for the arts, continuing their legacy of fostering creativity and innovation. Since 2021 Sara Sozzani Maino curates and coordinates projects dedicated to education, responsibility and the next generation of creatives.

The Foundation was established to continue the mission of Galleria Carla Sozzani, a vital part of Milan's cultural landscape, and all relevant public functions that the Galleria had supported since its opening in 1990.

By promoting creativity and innovation across art, fashion, design, photography, by empowering a culture of responsibility and awareness, and by fostering inclusivity and collaboration, the Foundation affirms that culture is a shared process, a way to imagine, create, and live responsibly in the world.

Through the support of the careers of countless creatives, Fondazione Sozzani is serving as a model for how private Foundations can contribute to public culture.



A LEGACY OF VISION

Our legacy is built on the enduring power of imagination and originality and the voices they amplify connecting generations across time.

Fondazione Sozzani is built upon the vision of Carla Sozzani, Kris Ruhs and Sara Sozzani Maino to create a space where art and culture are not just observed, but lived. Through their vision, the Foundation affirms that culture is a process, a way of living, learning, and transforming the world around us.

Fondazione Sozzani's mission is to support cultural and artistic endeavors by creating a platform for exhibitions, encounters, projects, and educational activities.

The core values of Fondazione Sozzani emphasize its role in preserving cultural heritage and being a space for inclusive exchange. The Foundation encourages dialogue, experimentation, and interaction between generations and disciplines. Its purpose is to preserve and share a heritage of ideas while inspiring new forms of expression; to empower emerging talents and connect them with a global creative community.



MISSION AND VALUES

Support creativity and innovation

Innovation is transforming ideas into impactful cultural expressions. Innovation is born from the courage to break boundaries, and creativity is the language that shapes the new.

Fondazione supports creativity that challenges conventions and sparks new dialogues; it encourages experimentation and new ideas across art, fashion, design, and photography. The Foundation is a haven for those who dare to think differently, and a platform for voices that resonate with originality and vision.

Fondazione is a meeting place for minds, open to everyone who shares the same values, from professionals to curious newcomers, believing that culture thrives in diversity and the best ideas emerge from the exchange of different perspectives.

Empower new generations, education as a fundamental pillar for the future

Knowledge is the seed from which creativity blooms. Education is at the core of our mission, it is about sparking curiosity and create spaces for dialogue that inspire new ways of thinking.

Knowledge is the foundation of creativity. Fondazione Sozzani nurtures education as a tool for empowerment, offering programs that engage, inspire, and inform. Fondazione is committed to supporting the next generation of creatives by providing resources and opportunities with educational programs, mentorship sessions, and workshops for emerging talents.



MISSION AND VALUES

Nurture awareness

For Fondazione Sozzani, awareness is not just a value; it is a responsibility. It shapes how we present culture, photography, and fashion, encouraging a deeper understanding of the world around us.

Social responsibility is one of the pillars of Fondazione. Creating awareness and consciousness happens through projects with ethical values that bring to reflect and think how change can happen.

Responsible education through workshops, talks, and documentaries give visibility to all those creative projects that are working for a better future.

Promote responsibility

Responsibility in creativity means thinking about the impact of our work not just for today, but for the future. We are committed to promoting responsibility within the creative industries, understanding the role of art and design in shaping a responsible, conscious future.

Advocate for a conscious approach to create, produce, and consume. Masterclasses and workshops that involve the new generation to how to build a better future and how to create a responsible project.



MISSION AND VALUES

Celebrate all voices and diversity of expression

*Culture grows stronger when many voices speak,
and it is richest when it welcomes every voice, every way of seeing.*

To celebrate diversity of expression means to support those without a voice and to embrace the richness that comes from difference, in vision, experience, origin, and thought. Diversity is the source of innovation, the energy that renews culture and keeps it alive.

Fondazione Sozzani believes that creativity has no single language and welcomes all voices to let them resonate together, creating new forms of understanding and beauty, because it is only through multiplicity can we build a future that is truly shared, and a culture that belongs to everyone.

Every exhibition, conversation, and collaboration becomes a space of inclusion where boundaries dissolve and creativity speaks in its many dialects. Collaborations and projects welcome different voices, perspectives, and disciplines as part of a collective narrative creating a space of inclusion with no boundaries.

Link the local and the global

Rooted in Milano, Fondazione is open to the world, connecting communities across borders through culture.

To link the local and the global means to celebrate the richness of a place while opening it to the flow of ideas, people, and cultures that transcend borders.

Milan, with its history of creativity and innovation, is the Foundation's home and heartbeat. From this city, projects and collaborations extend outward, building bridges with international artists, designers, institutions, and thinkers who share the same commitment to culture and responsibility.

By linking the local and the global, Fondazione Sozzani affirms its mission to create a network of exchange where Milan becomes both a meeting point and a starting point for a wider cultural conversation.



PURPOSE AND GOALS

Encourage collaboration and dialogue

Culture grows through dialogue, and creativity grows in collaboration; every dialogue is a seed of change.

At the heart of Fondazione Sozzani lies the belief that creativity thrives through exchange, by building bridges between artists, designers, thinkers, and communities.

To encourage collaboration and dialogue means creating spaces—physical and intellectual—where ideas can meet, challenge, and enrich one another. Dialogue is the Foundation’s language: a way to open perspectives, to foster curiosity, and to transform difference into understanding.

By nurturing collective projects, partnerships, and educational exchanges, the Foundation reaffirms that culture is a living organism, one that grows only when voices are heard and ideas are shared. Fondazione Sozzani becomes a laboratory of dialogue, a place where creativity becomes community.

Build community through culture

To share culture is to create belonging; culture is the common ground where communities grow.

A community is built where ideas are shared. Fondazione Sozzani believes that culture is a bridge between people, generations, and ideas. By bringing together artists, thinkers, makers, and audiences, Fondazione fosters a living network of relationships that celebrates difference as strength and make creativity an accessible, shared, and inclusive experience.

Community begins with exchange: through exhibitions, talks, educational programs, and public events, the Foundation nurtures spaces where dialogue replaces distance, and curiosity becomes common ground.



PURPOSE AND GOALS

Champion circularity

Circularity is a responsibility: the future of fashion lies in what we chose to preserve and renew. In the circle of fashion, every end is a beginning.

The future of fashion depends on the integrity of its values, and the responsibility of its cycle. Fondazione Sozzani is committed to advancing a vision of fashion rooted in awareness, responsibility, and renewal and to support practices that respect materials, time, and the environment.

To promote circularity means to rethink the value of creation—beyond trends and time—and to build a future where design, craftsmanship, and sustainability coexist in harmony. Circularity is respect: for what already exists, for the hands that create, and for the planet that sustains us.

Through exhibitions, workshops, and educational programs, the Foundation fosters a dialogue between designers, artisans, and innovators who are shaping a more responsible industry. By encouraging repair, reuse, and reinvention, it celebrates creativity as an act of care, where every choice can generate new possibilities instead of waste.

Galvanize craftsmanship

Craftsmanship is a way of seeing the world, every hand that creates keeps the culture alive. To support artisans means to protect heritage while encouraging innovation, giving visibility to those who transform materials into meaning.

Supporting artisans is about preserving culture, dignity, and the value of things. Fondazione Sozzani is committed to promote the art of making, the knowledge, and poetry that live in the hands of artisans, the dialogue between mind, hand, and heart.

Through workshops and collaborative projects, we connect craftsmanship with new generations of creatives, ensuring that techniques, traditions, and stories continue to evolve.



COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

Preserve and share cultural heritage

*Preserving the past is essential to shaping the future.
We honor heritage while inspiring new directions.*

Fondazione Sozzani believes that archives are not just for preservation but for inspiration, engagement, and active participation with culture. Our archives exist to be shared—to inspire, educate, and connect new generations with the vision and craftsmanship of artists, designers, and photographers who have shaped our visual world. Collected with love, shared with purpose: from the eye of a collector to the hands of the next generations.

To preserve and share heritage means to recognize the value of what came before us, the stories and the visions that shaped our collective identity and to ensure they remain alive, accessible and relevant for the generations to come.

Central to its mission is the safeguarding of the extensive archives detailing Carla Sozzani's lifelong commitment. This material constitutes a unique treasure trove, encompassing her personal collections of photography and fashion alongside books, videos, card invitations and comprehensive documentation—including catalogues and correspondence—from the numerous exhibitions and events held since the gallery's inception.

By ensuring this heritage is both preserved and made accessible, Fondazione strives to be an essential bridge between tradition and innovation, fostering broader societal engagement while simultaneously looking forward to new cultural endeavors.



COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

The photography collection

A collection only lives when it is shared. To collect is to preserve beauty, to share it is to give meaning.

Carla Sozzani's photography collection is a large, historically layered private collection focused on twentieth-century and twenty-first-century photography, with a strong emphasis on fashion, the female figure, and classic black-and-white imagery. Yet it extends to nature, experimental practices, and contemporary color work as well.

The collection has been built over decades in parallel with her work as journalist, editor, and gallerist. It is now considered one of the most important private photography collections internationally, shown in institutions and museums.

It spans the entire arc of modern photography, from early twentieth-century masters such as Alfred Stieglitz, Man Ray, and Karl Blossfeldt to late-twentieth-century and contemporary names like Helmut Newton, Paolo Roversi, Sarah Moon, Daido Moriyama, William Klein, and David LaChapelle. It includes around 900 works.



COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

The fashion collection

Fashion is memory made visible: it captures a moment in history and opens to the future.

Born from a life dedicated to looking, collecting, and creating, the fashion collection brings together decades of research and passion for fashion. Each piece tells a story of freedom and intuition.

Preserved with care, the collection features more than 10.000 pieces, including Carla Sozzani's three favorites that she calls her triptych:

- Azzedine Alaïa, from 1979 with more than 1.000 items;
- Comme des Garçons, from 1981 with more than 900 items;
- Martin Margiela, from 1989 with more than 500 items.



COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

The jewellery collection

Jewellery is the smallest form of sculpture and is a story of patience, touch and time.

The collection features over 700 pieces sculptured and handmade by Kris Ruhs. Kris Ruhs' artistic curiosity is reflected in mediums as diverse as rope, wood, silver, brass, and gold. Necklaces, brooches, pendants, and body ornaments that parallel Kris Ruhs' larger projects. In 2010, Carla Sozzani Editore has released a commemorative book for his exhibition entitled, Jewellery.



COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

The library

A library is not just a collection of books; it is a sanctuary for ideas, a place where knowledge inspires thought. It preserves the past while igniting the creativity and the imagination for the future.

Fondazione Sozzani's library is a carefully curated space dedicated to celebrating the worlds of art, fashion, photography, and design. Located within the heart of the Fondazione in Milan, the library reflects Carla Sozzani's passion for preserving and sharing creative knowledge and cultural history. It is an extension of the Foundation's mission, it embodies a deep respect for knowledge and a dedication to cultivating a deeper understanding of culture through printed works.

The library is a treasure trove for inspiration, as housing everything from monographs on legendary photographers and designers to comprehensive volumes on contemporary movements. It offers a vast collection of books, rare publications, and catalogues that span decades of artistic innovation and critical thought, and it serves as a resource for researchers, creatives, and enthusiasts alike.



COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

The records and the collectibles

Future is to share culture in all its forms and to create a space for dialogue and exchange, where ideas and creativity can flourish.

This archive is a treasure trove of materials related to the numerous exhibitions and events that have taken place since the gallery's inception, in 1990, including invitations, photographs, catalogues, videos, and other documentation. This archival work helps to maintain the historical record of contemporary art, design, and fashion of the gallery since its opening to 2023 with over 300 exhibitions held during 33 years.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Creativity Unbound

Knowledge is the seed from which creativity blooms, education is at the core of our mission.

The educational program of Fondazione Sozzani is designed to engage diverse audiences and foster a deeper understanding of art, fashion, photography, and design. The *Creativity Unbound* educational program aims to nurture curiosity, inspire innovation, and provide hands-on learning experiences across a range of creative disciplines.

This program is designed for students, emerging professionals, and the broader public, offering participants the opportunity to engage deeply with the arts and further develop their creative skills. *Creativity Unbound* at Fondazione Sozzani is more than an educational program; it is a gateway to discovering and nurturing the creative spirit within each participant.

By providing access to world-class resources, expert guidance, and a vibrant community, the Foundation aims to empower individuals to explore their creativity and contribute meaningfully to the cultural landscape. This program is designed to be comprehensive, inclusive, and adaptable, ensuring that it meets the needs of a wide range of participants while staying true to the Foundation's mission of fostering creativity and cultural exchange.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Educational initiatives

Education is more than imparting knowledge; it is about sparking curiosity and creating spaces for dialogue that inspire new ways of thinking.

Fondazione Sozzani places a strong emphasis on education. It offers programs that aim to engage the public and foster a deeper understanding of the arts, with a focus on photography and fashion. In the last few years, the Foundation has created educational programs for students and designers through mentoring, workshops, and cultural experiences with the support of professional figures from the industry, fostering education and exchange.

True creativity flourishes in diversity. Embracing different perspectives is what enriches culture and makes art universal.

Knowledge is the foundation of creativity. Fondazione Sozzani nurtures education as a tool for empowerment, offering programs that engage, inspire, and inform. The Foundation is committed to supporting the next generation of artists, designers, and thinkers by providing them with the resources and opportunities they need to grow and thrive.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Program structure: workshops and masterclasses

Through education, we empower the next generation of creatives to imagine, innovate, and inspire. Our mission is to empower a space where the boundaries of photography, fashion, design, and contemporary art can be explored and expanded.

- Fashion design workshop series: led by industry experts and prominent designers, this series of workshops covers topics such as history of fashion, communication, responsible fashion, pattern making, textile innovation, and digital design. Participants can create their own designs and receive feedback from professionals.
- Photography masterclasses: these sessions are conducted by mentors specialized in the field of photography and culture. Focusing on various genres like portrait, fashion, documentary, and experimental photography, the masterclasses include both technical instruction and creative exploration, with practical shooting sessions and critiques.
- Art, illustration, and design studio workshops: these workshops cover different aspects of visual art and design, including contemporary art practices, product design, and graphic design. Participants work on projects that encourage experimentation and personal expression.

Artists talks offer a unique window into the creative process, turning art and design from a solitary experience into a shared journey of discovery, dialogue and deeper understanding.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Future creatives program

We support and nurture creative minds by offering a platform for innovation and artistic expression. We believe in pushing boundaries and exploring new possibilities.

- Creative camps for teens: these week-long camps introduce teenagers to the basics of fashion design, photography, and visual arts. Participants engage in hands-on projects, collaborative challenges, and presentations, fostering their creative talents from an early age.
- Mentorship program: this program pairs young aspiring creatives with experienced professionals in the fields of art, fashion, and design. Mentors provide guidance, feedback, and support as participants develop their portfolios and prepare careers in the creative industries.

Digital learning platform

Creativity has no limits—only endless possibilities.

- Online courses and webinars are one of the future goals of Fondazione: to reach a global audience, Fondazione Sozzani will offer online courses and webinars covering a range of topics from fashion history to contemporary photography. These digital offerings will allow participants from around the world to engage with the Foundation's educational resources.
- Talks with designers and artists will be available for those who cannot visit the Foundation in person. This ensures that the educational benefits of Fondazione Sozzani are accessible to a broader audience.



PROJECTS

Growing together, cultivating the future, one gesture at a time

Projects where ideas take root, where knowledge is shared, where creativity expands. Together, they form a living field where experimentation is welcomed, diversity is celebrated, and every voice can grow.

We believe in Milan as a crossroads, local in its craft, global in its vision. A city of art, design, fashion, where cultures meet and new stories begin. At Fondazione Sozzani we share a space where where creation is a shared act, and culture becomes a common home. A promise of openness, curiosity, and generosity. This is our commitment: to cultivate long-term relationships, to sustain dialogues over time, to offer rhythm, continuity, and space to those who shape the future of culture.

A living cycle of encounters where culture becomes community and creativity finds its home, where craftsmanship is celebrated, where independent designers find a stage, where young talents find support, where heritage is preserved and shared, and where responsibility guides every gesture.

Our projects— WAVES, THREAD, SEEDS, CIRCLE, and BEAT—are our way of cultivating this vision: through them ideas take root, knowledge is shared, creativity expands. Together, they form a living field where experimentation is welcomed, diversity is celebrated, and every voice can grow.

Our platforms repeat twice or more time over the year; they are gatherings to share values and grow a community of belonging and believing. They are recurring moments meant to meet, learn, create, and imagine. They return like seasons: renewed, different, yet always connected by a common intention.



PROJECTS



WAVES

We believe that WAVES represents movement, change and the unstoppable flow of creative energy.

WAVES are in constant motion, just like ideas and culture. WAVES is a temporary retail space dedicated to independent fashion, a place that evolves and constantly pushes into innovative territories. WAVES is a collective project thought to give tangible visibility and a physical space to designers and visionary minds.

Born with the mission to support talent and artistic freedom, WAVES started in September 2025 as a temporary exhibition and commercial venue where designers can shape their vision, present their collections, meet press, stylists, buyers, and the public, and establish a direct dialogue with those who value authenticity. WAVES VOICES is a communication strategy designed to showcase the designers' unique perspectives across our social media channels.



PROJECTS



THREAD

We believe that knowledge is a thread. A thread that connects people, generations, disciplines. A thread woven by dialogue—patient, generous, continuous. A thread that holds together what otherwise would remain apart.

THREAD is a living atelier started in November 2025 at the core of the Fondazione Sozzani's permanent circular fashion project, a place where tailoring takes centre stage. THREAD is a shared atelier, a collective tailor's shop, where the new generation of creatives and new brands are invited to express their vision through the art of tailoring and the craft of sewing: cutting, shaping, expressing their vision. Here, new voices are welcomed to sit at the table, to cut, to shape, to sew. The tools are shared, the space is open, and the thread—as always—unites.



PROJECTS



SEEDS

We believe that creativity begins with a gesture of trust. A seed planted in the mind, in the hand, in the heart. A seed that needs time, care, and freedom to grow.

SEEDS is a journey of care, culture, awareness and taste started in May 2025. It is an invitation to slow down time, to observe, listen and cultivate change. It is a two-day program dedicated to nature growing, ideas germinating, and communities coming together. Fondazione Sozzani's vegetable and herb garden was created as a space for the relationship between design, culture and nature. It is a garden to listen to, alive with meetings, exhibitions, workshops, publications and flavors.



PROJECTS



CIRCLE

We believe that the future is a circle. A circle that winds through heritage, innovation, and change. A circle tightened by dialogue—generous, continuous, and bold. A circle that returns us to the essence of what it means to create.

Fashion is a language. A discipline. A way of seeing the world. A series of conversations with designers, photographers, editors, stylists and cultural figures about the radicals of fashion: designers, image-makers, editors, artisans and thinkers who shaped the language of fashion and continue to inspire the generations to come.

In a round table format, voices meet, memories are shared, ideas circulate and the future of fashion finds its origin, because fashion moves forward when it remembers where it comes from. Around a table, generations meet. Masters and new voices share the invisible knowledge that cannot be taught, the eye, the hand, the instinct, the courage to be different. The Circle is a place for transmission. A space where to gather to speak about creation, rigor, freedom, memory, and vision.



PROJECTS



BEAT

We believe that music is a bridge. A bridge that connects rhythms, voices, and next-generation visions. A bridge built through experimentation—raw, fearless, and shared—that brings together what otherwise would remain unheard.

BEAT is the project dedicated to music and the next generation of DJs and sound creators. It's a space for listening, research, and experimentation, where sound becomes a tool for expression, connection, and community. BEAT welcomes fresh energy; it is an open space where emerging voices can experiment, meet, be heard, and shape their own artistic paths. Through live sets, listening sessions, talks, interdisciplinary collaborations, and residencies, BEAT nurtures the artistic and professional growth of emerging talents by offering time, attention, and visibility.



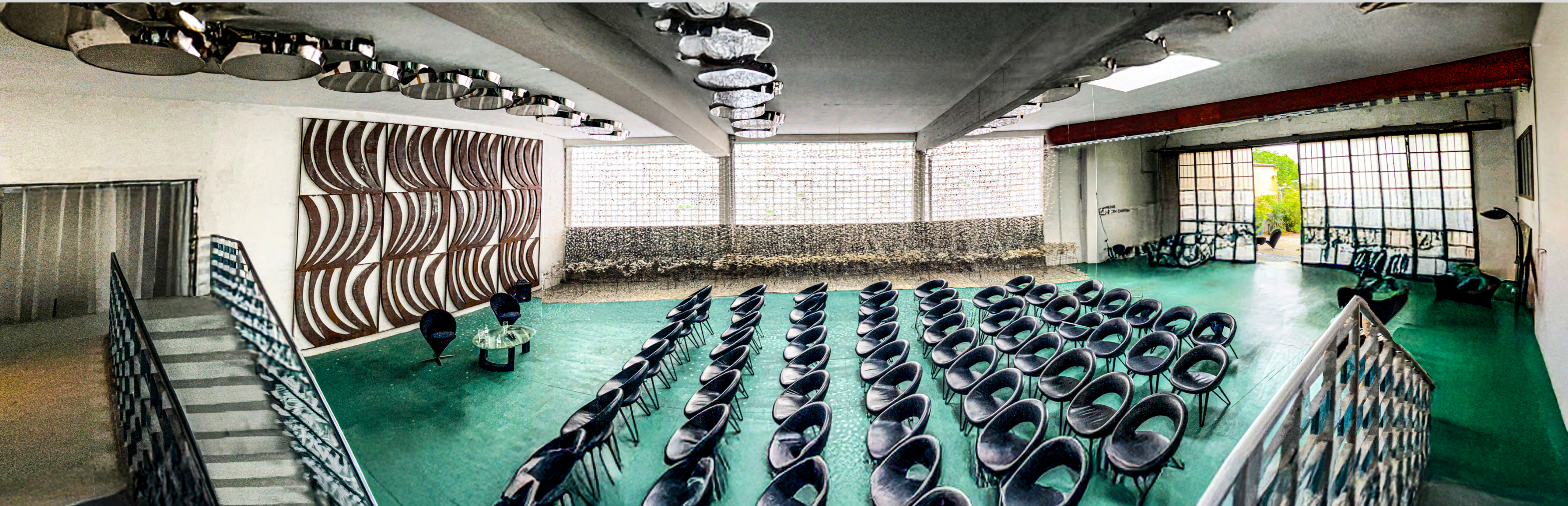
ACTIVITIES

The cultural program: projects, meetings and events

Empowerment through creativity is our guiding principle, where every artist, designer, and thinker finds a space to thrive.

The activities and programs of the Foundation aim to inspire participants by exposing them to new ideas, techniques, and perspectives in art, fashion, photography, and design with the goal of:

- foster creative skills through hands-on workshops and masterclasses, participants develop practical skills that they can apply in their own creative endeavors;
- promote cultural understanding by exploring diverse cultural expressions and artistic practices, the programs encourage a deeper understanding and appreciation of innovation and the power of invention;
- build a creative community as the programs seek to build a supportive and collaborative group of creatives, fostering connections.



ACTIVITIES

Exhibitions

Exhibitions hold immense social value, they create spaces where art and ideas can spark conversation, challenge perspectives, and bring people together in shared cultural experiences.

Fondazione Sozzani organizes a wide range of exhibitions, showcasing works by both established and emerging artists. The exhibitions cover various disciplines, including photography, contemporary art, fashion, and design.

- Guided exhibition tours: visitors are offered guided tours of the current exhibitions, led by curators or artists themselves. These tours provide deeper insights into the works on display, exploring themes, techniques, and the creative processes behind them.
- Virtual tour: complementing the physical exhibitions, virtual tours and talks are available for those who cannot visit the Foundation in person. This ensures that the educational benefits of the Foundation are accessible to a broader audience.

Publications

Publications are a lasting record of ideas, creativity, and culture, capturing moments that inspire and inform generations.

The Fondazione is also involved in publishing, producing books and catalogues that accompany its exhibitions. These publications are often richly illustrated and serve as important resources for anyone interested in the intersection of art, fashion, and photography.



ACTIVITIES

Social initiatives

True creativity flourishes in diversity. Collaboration is the lifeblood of creativity. Together, we build a vibrant cultural landscape that thrives on diversity and innovation. Embracing different perspectives is what enriches culture and makes art universal.

The Fondazione is also involved in publishing, producing books and catalogues that accompany its exhibitions. These publications are often richly illustrated and serve as important resources for anyone interested in the intersection of art, fashion, and photography.



ACTIVITIES

Guest projects

*Art, fashion and design are languages that speak to the heart of humanity.
At Fondazione Sozzani, we give these voices a platform to be heard.*

Guest events are temporary initiatives conceived in dialogue with creatives, institutions and independent voices to support new creative dialogues, new perspectives, new gazes, and ideas in motion. Each project is an encounter, a shared moment of creation, research and experimentation across disciplines.



ACTIVITIES

Circular fashion commitment

Heritage commitment: a permanent exhibition of archival fashion icons, with select pieces available for purchase, promoting circular economy principles.

The circular fashion commitment is rooted in the foundation's archives and cultural heritage. It preserves memory, encourages care, and fosters a thoughtful relationship with clothing. The archives are a living resource, open to students and creatives for study and research. On occasion, selected pieces are made available for acquisition, allowing garments and objects rich in history, craftsmanship, and creative value to be given new life.



ACTIVITIES

Talks and lectures

We nurture learning, critical thinking, and open exchange through talks, and programs, creating a space for intellectual and artistic growth.

Fondazione Sozzani library regularly hosts book launches, discussions, and events that connect readers with authors, artists, and thinkers. These gatherings enhance the Fondazione's role as a living, dynamic space where ideas are exchanged and creativity is nurtured and its commitment to fostering intellectual dialogue and exploration.

The ongoing lecture series feature talks by leading figures in fashion, design, and photography. Topics range from the history of fashion to the role of design in social change, providing attendees with a broad understanding of the cultural and societal impact of the arts. Regular talks by artists featured in the Fondazione's exhibitions give participants the opportunity to hear firsthand about their journeys, inspirations, and challenges. These sessions are often followed by Q&A sessions, allowing for an interactive exchange of ideas.



VENUES

Fondazione Sozzani is a community where ideas are shared, explored, and brought to life, welcoming voices from all corners of the world. Our mission is to reflect the richness of different perspectives and foster an inclusive creative community.

The spaces reflect the Fondazione vision, blending the boundaries between a gallery and a cultural hub, a prominent destination for art, design and fashion lovers and cultural enthusiasts.

VIA TAZZOLI 3



VIA BOVISASCA 87



BOARD

Founders

Carla Sozzani
Kris Ruhs
Giovanni Frau

President and Director

Carla Sozzani

Art Director

Kris Ruhs

Creative Director

Sara Sozzani Maino

Steering Committee

Fabrice Hergott
Kris Ruhs
Sara Sozzani Maino
Francesca Maria Romana Verna



CARLA SOZZANI

An influential figure in the world of fashion, art, and design, Carla Sozzani is known globally for her visionary approach to curating and promoting culture.

Born in Mantua, Italy, in 1947, Carla Sozzani began her career as an editor for Vogue Italia and Elle, where she developed a keen eye for emerging trends and a passion for artistic innovation. Her tenure at the magazines was marked by a distinctive blend of creativity, editorial innovation, and her deep understanding of fashion and design. She played a pivotal role in shaping fashion journalism and editorial design during her time with these magazines. Her role in photography began during her time as an editor where she used photography not just as a means of fashion documentation but as a tool for storytelling, emotion, and art.

In 1990, Carla Sozzani founded in Milan Galleria Carla Sozzani which quickly became a renowned destination for photography and contemporary art exhibitions. Her gallery became a major platform for both celebrated and emerging photographers and supporting lesser-known talents, giving them space to thrive. She has played a crucial role in elevating and promoting photography in Italy as a significant art form.

In 1991, she launched 10 Corso Como in Milan. Merging fashion with art, photography, design, and lifestyle. The name Concept store was first coined for her new space which included a gallery, bookstore, café, and retail store, creating a new model of how culture and commerce can coexist in a single environment. Through 10 Corso Como and her gallery, Carla Sozzani created a cohesive cultural experience and helped elevate fashion from mere clothing to an artistic statement, fostering creativity and experimentation. She provided a platform for designers to express their innovative visions. Her ability to mix fashion with photography, art, and design has deeply influenced how the fashion industry interacts with broader creative fields.

Her sharp eye for innovation helped spotlight emerging designers and talents, setting trends within the fashion industry long before they became mainstream. She was one of Azzedine Alaïa's earliest champions. She recognized his extraordinary skill and she helped showcase his work to an international audience. She played a significant role in the life of Azzedine Alaïa with whom she shared a deep and enduring personal and professional relationship, marked by mutual respect and admiration.

After Azzedine Alaïa's passing in 2017, Carla Sozzani continued to honor his legacy, founding Fondation Azzedine Alaïa which under her presidency is preserving his memory, his archives and his influence within the fashion world. Carla Sozzani's unique vision and commitment to creative expression have cemented her legacy as a pioneering force in contemporary art and fashion. Today she continues to inspire through her dedication to preserving and promoting culture in all its forms.



KRIS RUHS

Kris Ruhs, american artist Kris Ruhs is known for his work across various media, including sculpture, painting, jewelry, and furniture design. His creative approach is defined by an unconventional use of materials and a deeply personal, almost tactile exploration of form, texture, and space.

Born in New York, Kris Ruhs studied at the School of Visual Arts, where he began developing his artistic sensibilities. In the course of his many exhibitions and installations, he explores the processes of creation and their expression. Whether it is abstract or figurative makes no difference. The directness of this dialogue between the artist and his materials leads Ruhs to adapt any technique to his imaginative process.

His long-standing collaboration with Carla Sozzani has helped establish 10 Corso Como as a pioneering space that transcends all traditions, making it a landmark destination for those seeking innovation and creativity in all forms. His sculptural aesthetic helped shape the unique atmosphere of 10 Corso Como, a space that seamlessly blends art, design, and fashion, designing everything from the signature black-and-white logo to the iconic graphics, from furniture, installations, and custom artworks that define the 10 Corso Como world.

Kris Ruhs' artistic creations have been exhibited internationally in galleries and museums. Ruhs' distinctive style is defined by a rejection of mass-produced aesthetics in favor of a more intimate, handcrafted approach. His work draws viewers into a world where shapes and materials tell a story, encouraging an emotional, tactile interaction. Whether through his sculptures, jewelry, or his contributions to design, Kris Ruhs continues to blur the lines between art and function, always maintaining a deep connection to the physicality of the creative process.

Today, his work continues to be exhibited in major cities, and his contributions to design and art are regarded as influential in blending the boundaries between different creative disciplines. His ability to take account of all media, to be a draughtsman as well as a painter or designer, made him an artist of the total work of art. In the end, all Kris Ruhs' works, whatever their size, have the intensity of an installation. Whether they are his daily sketches that punctuate time and years, or his large-scale environments, they produce their own spatiality.



SARA SOZZANI MAINO

Sara Sozzani Maino, a prominent figure in the global fashion industry, is known for her work in nurturing and promoting emerging talent. She began her career in 1994 at Vogue Italia under the mentorship of her aunt, Franca Sozzani, the magazine's legendary editor-in-chief.

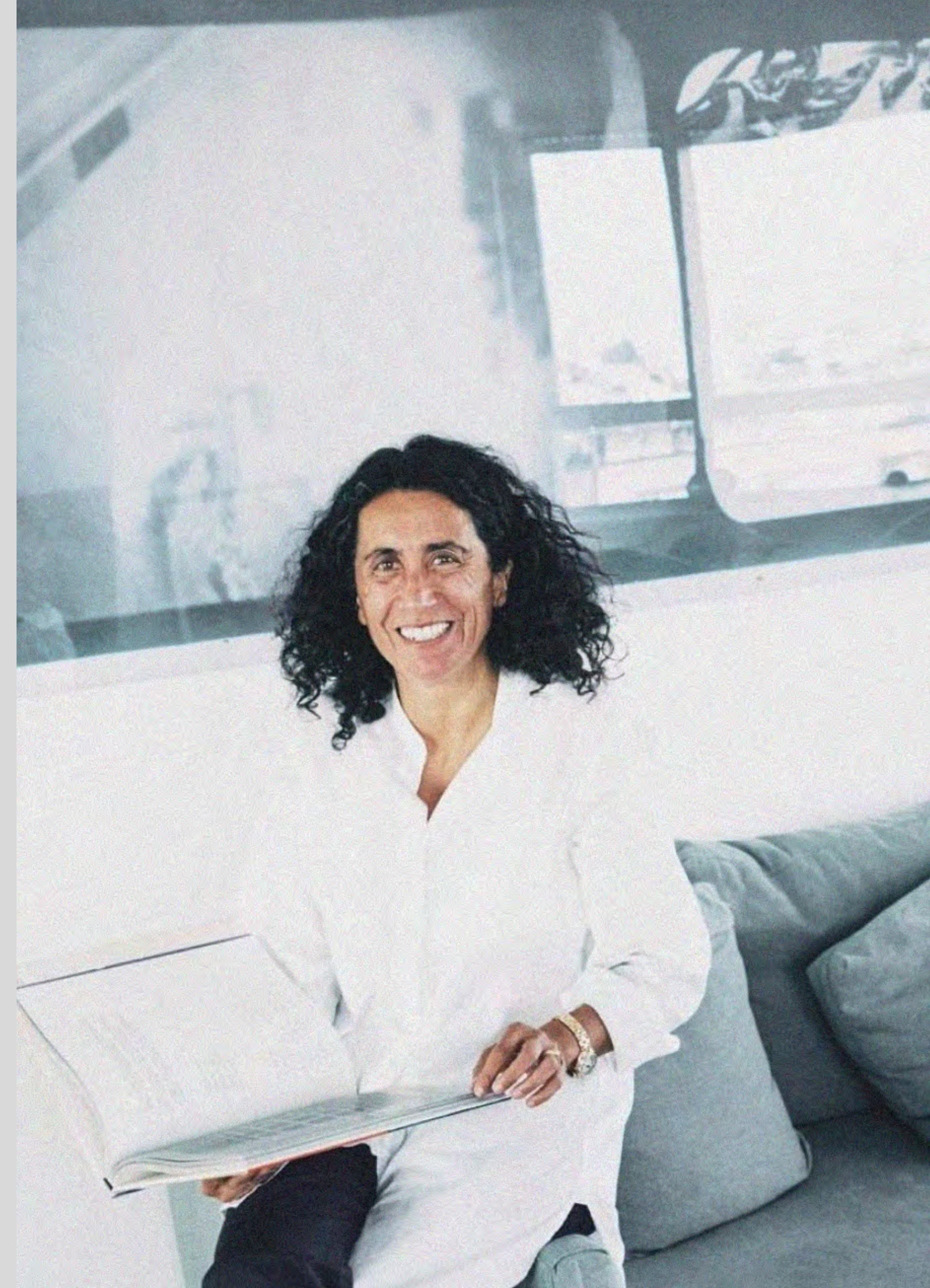
Sara became a pivotal force in scouting and championing young designers through her role as Deputy Editor of Vogue Italia and Head of Vogue Talents, a platform created to spotlight and support rising fashion designers. She is deeply involved in initiatives that foster innovation and creativity within the industry, including mentoring programs, collaborations with global fashion contests, and sustainability projects. In 2018, Sara was appointed International Brand Ambassador for the National Chamber of Italian Fashion (CNMI), further cementing her influence in shaping the future of fashion on a global scale. Her work reflects a commitment to creativity, diversity, responsibility, and the future of fashion.

Since 2021 Sara Sozzani Maino plays an active role in the Fondazione Sozzani as its creative director. While the Foundation primarily focuses on photography, art, design, and fashion, Sara's involvement aligns with her broader mission of supporting emerging talent and fostering creativity. She contributes to the Foundation's cultural initiatives, exhibitions, and projects, often bringing her expertise from the fashion world to help curate and promote innovative programs.

She is deeply committed to responsibility, education, and addressing social issues, particularly within the fashion industry. As a champion of emerging talent, she focuses on promoting sustainable practices and ethical responsibility among young designers. She has actively supported initiatives around sustainability, diversity, and inclusion, aiming to push the fashion industry toward more ethical standards.

Sara Sozzani Maino also emphasizes education, regularly participating in mentorship programs, workshops, and panel discussions to guide and educate the next generation of fashion professionals., she not only scouts for creative talent but also provides a platform for designers who prioritize sustainability, craftsmanship, and social responsibility in their work. Her collaborations with global fashion institutions and schools further reflect her dedication to educating young designers on the importance of these values.

Additionally, Sara Sozzani Maino has been involved in initiatives that address social issues such as gender equality, inclusivity, and cultural representation in fashion. By fostering a dialogue around these topics and encouraging designers to integrate these concerns into their creative processes, she plays a key role in shaping a more conscious and responsible fashion industry. Through her work, she helps bridge the worlds of fashion and art, continuing the family legacy of promoting creativity and cultural dialogue.



CONTACTS

Fondazione Sozzani

via Enrico Tazzoli 3, 20154, Milan, Italy
via Bovisasca 87, 20157, Milan, Italy

galleria@fondazionesozzani.org

fondazionesozzani.org

[@fondazionesozzani](#)