

Visiting Pirelli HangarBicocca



La Sequenza

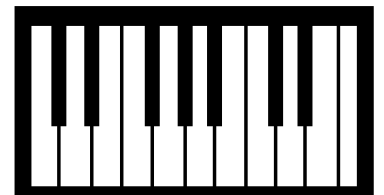




This installation is called **La Sequenza**.
La Sequenza means **The Sequence**.



Fausto Melotti made this installation some time ago.
A sequence is a set of things put in an orderly way one after the other.
Fausto Melotti's La Sequenza is made from many pieces of **corten steel**.
Corten steel is a very strong metal.
These pieces are all shaped like rectangles and are put next to each other.
These pieces of steel are all neat and look like
the keys of a big piano.



Some pieces are like frames.



Some pieces of steel are next to each other, while others are farther apart.
The steel pieces are put on 3 different lines.



In fact, if you look at the sculpture from the side you see:

- some pieces far ahead, like the ones in line 1
- others a little behind, such as those in line 2
- others far behind, such as those in line 3.



You can see La Sequenza immediately after the entrance to Pirelli HangarBicocca. La Sequenza is in the middle of a large garden made of different kinds of plants. The people who work at Pirelli HangarBicocca put this sculpture here to make you understand that in the Museum you will be able to see big and special works like this sculpture.

Fausto Melotti used rectangles of corten steel to make a sculpture unlike any other.

Almost always the sculptures are in the shape of people or things that you can recognize.

Almost always sculptures are to remember or celebrate important people or things.

On the contrary, Fausto Melotti with his sculpture did not want to celebrate or make you remember any person or thing.

Fausto Melotti wanted you to understand that a sculpture can be beautiful even if it does not show you people, objects, or animals.





Sometimes when the wind blows very hard
it makes the steel pieces of the sculpture move.
The steel pieces make very small movements that no one can see.
When the steel pieces move, they make a **vibration**.
When an object vibrates it makes very small movements that no one can see.
However, if you touch an object that vibrates,
you can feel the vibration with your hand.
For example, you can touch a phone that vibrates.
When steel pieces vibrate, they make a noise that reminds music.

If you want to know more about:

- who Fausto Melotti was, go to page 84
- what corten steel is, go to page 87.

The Seven Heavenly Palaces 2004-2015



This installation is called **The Seven Heavenly Palaces 2004-2015**.

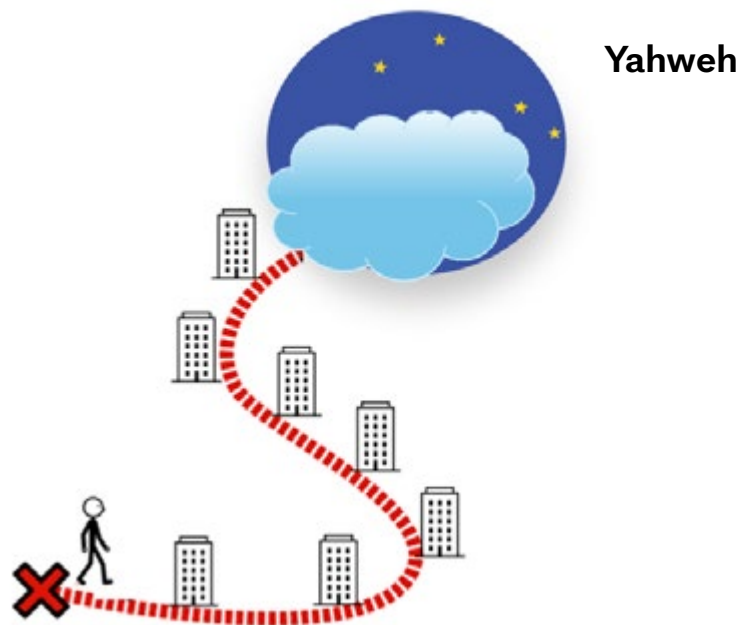
This installation is made of 7 very tall buildings.

Anselm Kiefer made the 7 palaces in 2004, some time ago.

The Seven Heavenly Palaces 2004-2015 is a very big installation.

When you walk by the palaces, it is like walking through the streets of a city.

Anselm Kiefer made this installation after reading the **Book of Palaces**.
The Book of Palaces is an important book for the **Jewish religion**.
People of this religion pray to the god Yahweh.
Yahweh is read Yahweh.



This book tells the story of a man who wanted to get closer to Yahweh.
Many people think that Yahweh lives in the sky
and that people who want to get close to him must get close to the sky.
The Book of Palaces tells that **the man had to pass 7 tests**
inside 7 palaces to approach Yahweh.





After reading this story Anselm Kiefer built the 7 palaces to remember how man approached Yahweh by ascending to heaven.

Anselm Kiefer called his installation The Seven Heavenly Palaces because the palaces are high toward the sky.

The palaces are called **Heavenly** because long ago the sky was also called **vault of heaven**.

Vault is another way to call the ceiling.

People long ago thought that the sky was the ceiling of the earth.

Anselm Kiefer made the palaces so high to make you realize that Yahweh is far away.

Yahweh is in the sky and approaching him is a long journey upward.

These 7 palaces have many floors:

- 1 palace has 5 floors
- 5 palaces have 6 floors
- 1 palace has 7 floors.



Not all floors are finished, some have only 2 walls and are open on one side. Each floor is called a **module**.

Anselm Kiefer has put the modules on top of each other and if you look carefully, it looks like they are going to fall and break. However, the modules are tied to the floor and cannot fall.

To hold the palaces up, Kiefer also put between the modules:

- **160 lead wedges.**

A wedge is a tool that is shaped like a triangle.

It is usually used to push, split or lift things.

Lead is a metal.

It is a heavy, grey material that when heated becomes very soft and you can change its shape.



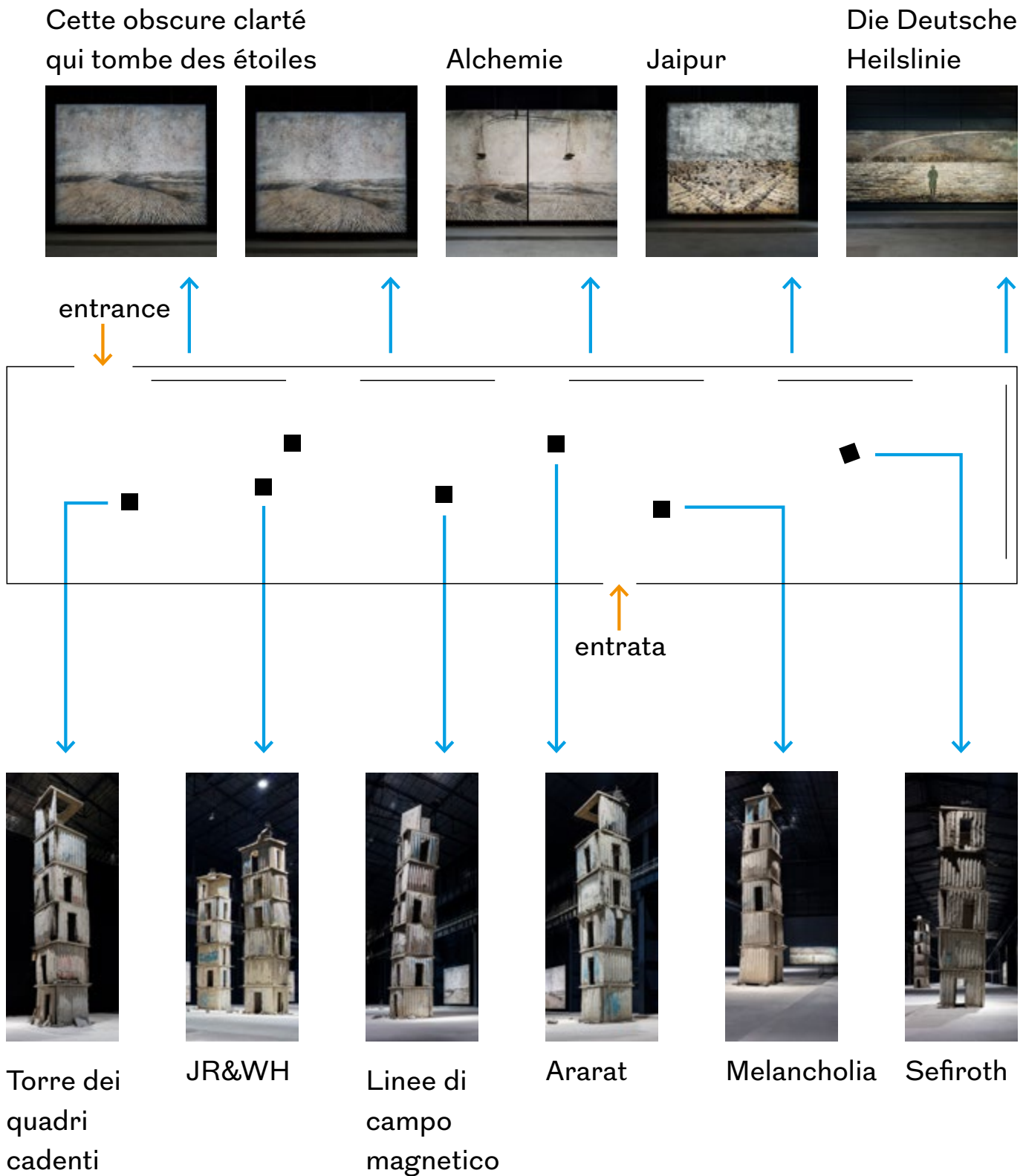
- **90 lead books.**



If you want to know more about:

- who Anselm Kiefer is, go to page 88
- the construction of the Seven Heavenly Palaces modules, go to page 90.

Map of Anselm Kiefer's installation



There is little light in this hall.

What the Seven Heavenly Palaces look like



Sefiroth



This palace has 5 floors.

At the top, on the roof of the palace there are **7 books**.

These books are not real, but are made of a metal called lead.

You can see other books placed between each floor of the palace.



Neon **signs** are also hung on this palace.

Neon signs are bright and can be coloured.

Neon signs are put on store doors
to let everyone know the name of the store.

Anselm Kiefer, however, wanted to put neon signs off on palaces.

Each inscription makes people think of the important things God has made
such as beauty and intelligence.

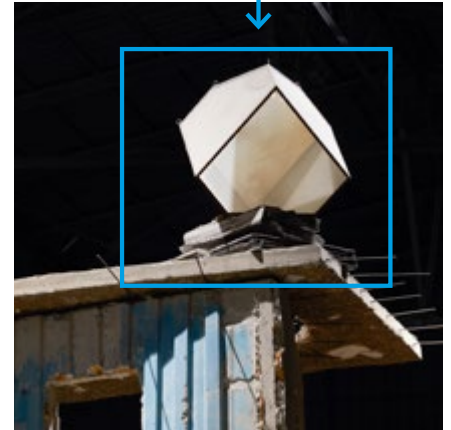


Melancholia



This palace has 6 floors, but the top floor has only 2 walls.
On the roof of this palace are:

- lead books
- a sculpture made of glass that has the shape of a **polyhedron**.
A polyhedron is a geometric shape.



Anselm Kiefer made this sculpture
to remember a work of art by an **artist** who was very important to him.

This artist's name was **Albrecht Dürer**.

Albrecht Dürer was a very famous artist born in Germany
a very long time ago.

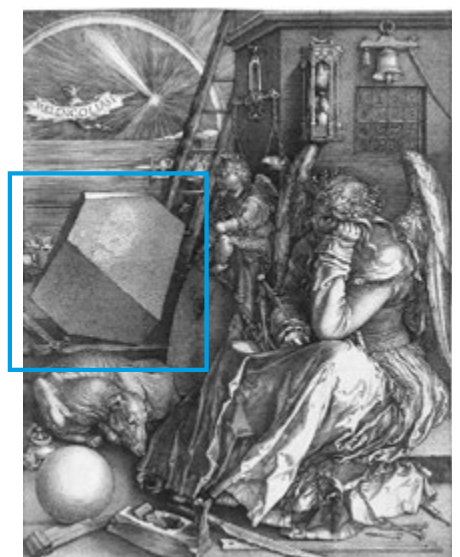
Anselm Kiefer was also born in Germany.

Albrecht Dürer drew the polyhedron in this work.

This work is called Melancholia

as the palace that Anselm Kiefer built

and Anselm Kiefer's polyhedron is like the one drawn by Albrecht Dürer.



On the ground near the palace are many **pieces of paper and glass** with numbers and letters written on them.



People who study the stars are called **astronomers** and they use these numbers to mark each star they find and give it a name.

Anselm Kiefer wrote the names of the stars on the glass and on the pieces of paper.

If you bend down and look carefully you can see that the glass shines with light.

The stars at night also shine in the sky.

Ararat



This palace has 6 floors, but the top floor has only 2 walls.
In the middle of the different floors are lead books.

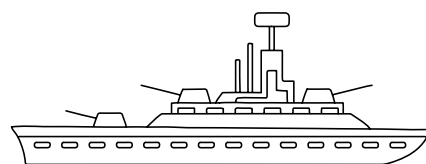
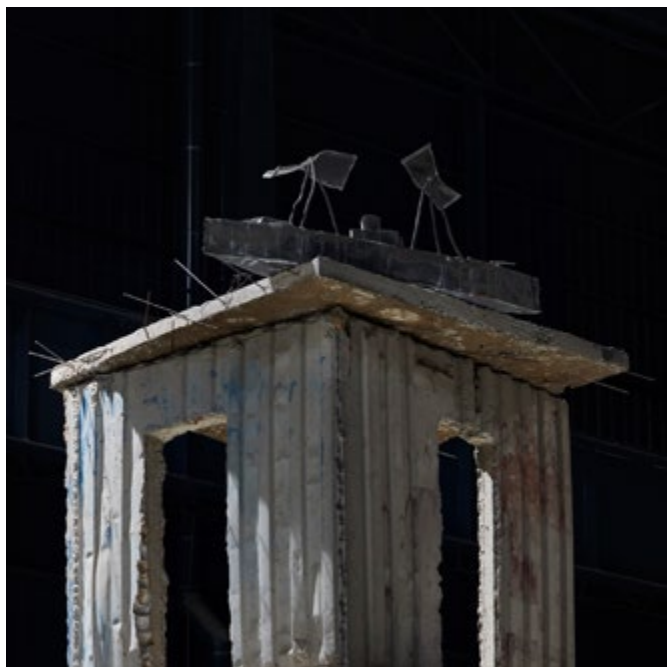


This palace is named after Mount **Ararat** which is in **Armenia**.
Armenia is a country far away from Italy.

In an ancient book of Christian religion
Ararat was the mountain where **Noah's ark** had stopped.
In Christian religion people pray to Jesus Christ.
Noah's ark was a big boat with which Noah
saved the animals during the universal flood.



Anselm Kiefer named this palace Ararat
because he wanted to make you think of **salvation**.
A person is safe when he is well and no longer in danger.



On the roof of the palace, you can see a **model of a warship**.
A model is a copy of a real object.
A model is the same as the real object, but it is always smaller.

Anselm Kiefer made this sculpture out of lead.

This model ship makes people think of the dangers of war.
In contrast, Noah's ark makes one think of salvation
because Noah had saved animals from the universal flood.
A person or animal is safe when they are well and not in danger.
When a person or animal is safe, they are peaceful.

If you want to know more about:

- the story of Noah's ark, go to page 92.

Linee di campo magnetico



This palace is called **Linee di campo magnetico**.

Linee di campo magnetico means **Lines of magnetic field**.

This palace is the tallest of all.

It is 7 stories high, but the top floor is not finished.

In this palace there are many books put between floors.

This palace is special because there are so many **films** made from lead hanging inside that look like **movie films**.

Movie films are like rolls of special paper

that were used to make the movies that were seen in the movie theatre.

These films are very long
and descend from the top to the first floor of the palace.

Anselm Kiefer glued photographs on some of the films
where you can see the sky with clouds.

On other films there is nothing.



On the ground near the palace there is a big round box made of lead.

Inside this box are more lead films.

On these films there are photographs with some people's faces.





These 2 palaces are very close to each other and look almost the same, in fact both have:

- 6 floors
- the top floor made only of 2 walls
- 9 lead books on the roof.

Above the 9 lead books, however, there are 2 different neon letters:

- On one palace are the **JH** letters
- On the other palace are the **WH** letters.



These letters suggest the name of Yahweh.
These letters are also off,
like the ones you find on the Sefiroth palace.

In Hebrew language if you put these letters all next to each other → **JHWH**
they sound like you are saying the name of Yahweh.

On the ground between the 2 palaces
there are also 11 large stones made from lead.
Above each stone there is a number from 1 to 11.



Torre dei quadri cadenti



This palace is called **Torre dei quadri cadenti**.

Torre dei quadri cadenti means **Tower of the falling pictures**.

This palace is 6 stories high.

This palace is called Tower of the falling pictures

because **frames** made of wood and lead hang on its floors.

Frames are used to hang paintings or photographs on the walls.

There are no paintings or photographs in these frames, only broken glass.

These frames look like empty paintings that are about to fall down.



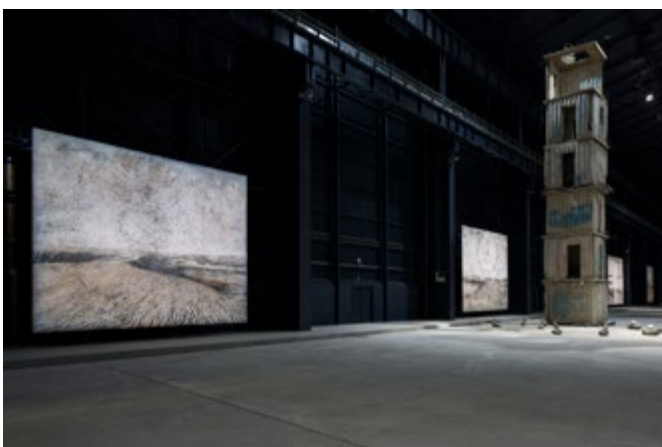
There are also many paintings
on the ground near the palace.



The paintings



On the walls around the Seven Heavenly Palaces, you can see 5 large paintings. Anselm Kiefer painted these paintings a short time ago.



Anselm Kiefer hung these **paintings** in 2015.

These paintings do not have a frame and are made with:

- paint



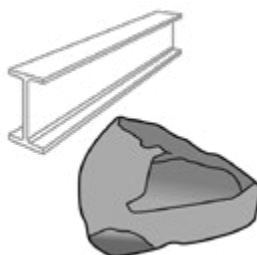
- sunflower seeds



- salt



- lead



- a scale.



The paintings are:

Die Deutsche Heilslinie



Jaipur



Alchemie



**Cette obscure clarté
qui tombe des étoiles**



On the next pages we explain 3 of these paintings:
Die Deutsche Heilslinie, Jaipur and Alchemie.

Die Deutsche Heilslinie



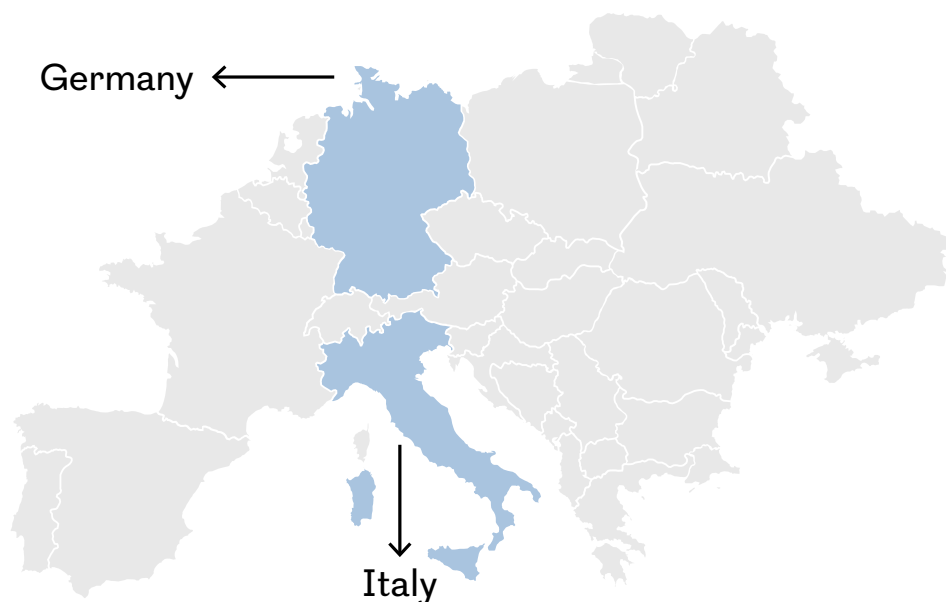
This painting is called **Die Deutsche Heilslinie**.

Die Deutsche Heilslinie means **The German line of spiritual salvation**.

Die Deutsche Heilslinie is a sentence in German.

German is the language spoken by people living in Germany.

Anselm Kiefer was born in Germany and speaks German.



In the centre of the painting you can see a man looking at a river.
The man is standing with his back turned, in fact you cannot see his face.
He is wearing a long coat and his hands are in his pockets.
This man is thinking as he looks at what is in front of him.



In front of the man there are:



rainbow

river



Under the rainbow Anselm Kiefer has written the names of some German **philosophers**.

Philosophers are people who think and study very difficult and important things. Philosophers ask a lot of questions.

For example, philosophers:

- try to understand how people behave
- ask themselves what is right and wrong
- they try to understand why things happen a certain way.

The philosophers that Anselm Kiefer wrote on the painting were worried because bad things were happening in the world.

Bad things make people sick.

These philosophers thought that all the people should behave well and help others be well.

These philosophers thought that this was the way to keep bad things from happening in the world.

Anselm Kiefer thought these philosophers were right.

That is why he called this painting

The German line of spiritual salvation.

Because what the philosophers thought could help people save themselves from the bad and difficult things in life.

A person is safe when he is well and not in danger.

When a person is safe, he is peaceful.

Jaipur



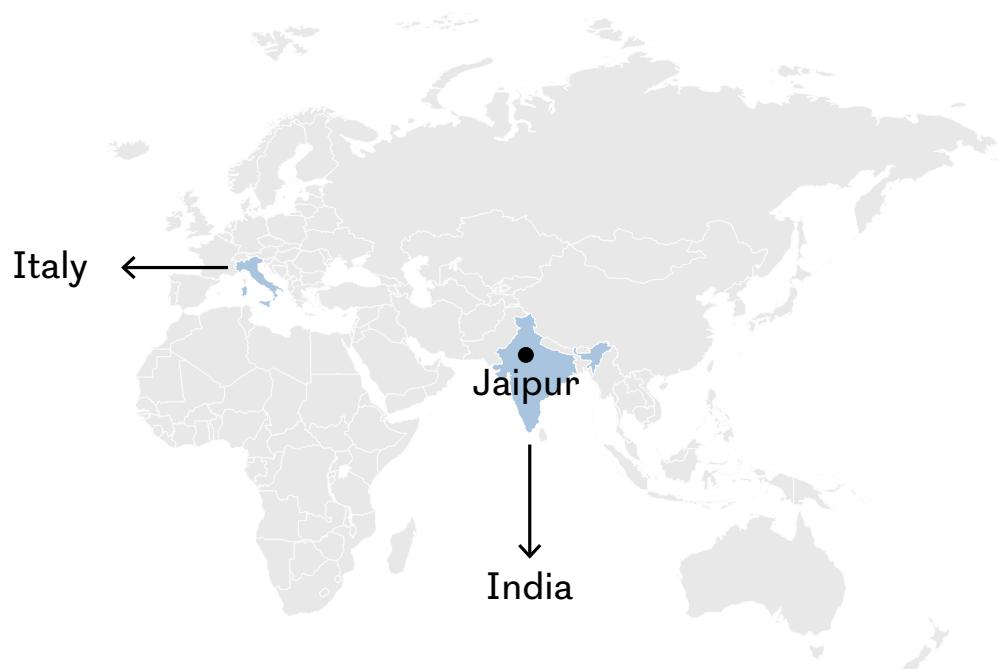
This picture is called **Jaipur**.

Jaipur is the name of a city in **India**.

India is a country very far away from Italy.

A long time ago Anselm Kiefer had gone to see the city of Jaipur.

After some time, Anselm Kiefer decided to paint the city of Jaipur.





At the top of the painting you can see the sky.

The sky is dark because it is night.

The white dots you see are the stars.

In the sky you can also see many white lines with numbers and letters on them.

These white lines are the **constellations**.

Constellations are groups of stars close together in the sky.

Each constellation has a name.

The white lettering is the names of the constellations.

The same lettering is on the pieces of glass in the tower called Melancholia.

Anselm Kiefer drew the constellations

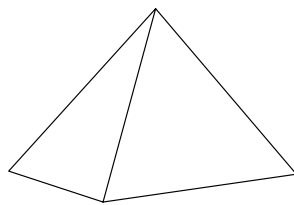
because there was an **astronomical observatory** in Jaipur.

An astronomical observatory is the place where people can look and study the sky and the stars.

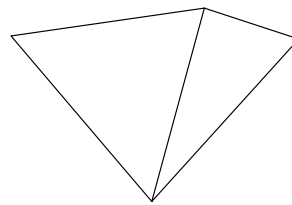




At the bottom of the painting you can see the city of **Jaipur**.
 If you look carefully, there is a hole in the center of the painting.
 Here Anselm Kiefer painted an **upside-down pyramid**.



normal pyramid



upside-down pyramid

A very long time ago the pyramids were the tombs of the **pharaohs of Egypt**.
 The pharaohs were the kings of Egypt, a country very far from Italy.
 The pyramids are very big and very tall.

Anselm Kiefer painted this pyramid to remind
 the Seven Heavenly Palaces that you see in the same hall
 at Pirelli HangarBicocca.

The Seven Heavenly Palaces are high toward the sky.
 The pyramids are also high toward the sky.

Alchemie



This painting is called **Alchemie**.

Alchemie means **Alchemy**.

Long ago some people studied alchemy
to try to turn **lead** into **gold**.

Lead is a non-precious metal.

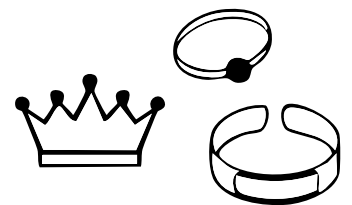
Gold is the most precious metal of all.

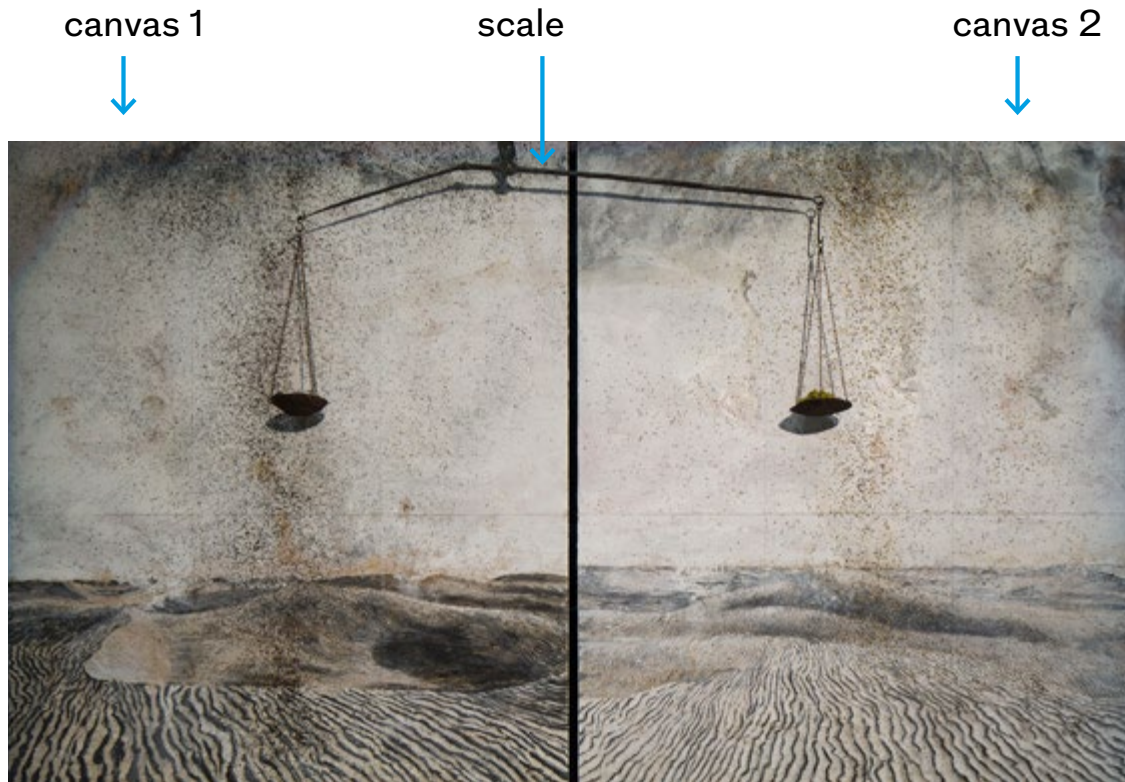
In fact, gold is used to make precious objects such as crowns and jewelry.

These people were called **alchemists**.

To the alchemists, lead represented bad things.

Instead, gold represented beautiful things.





This painting is made of **2 canvases**.

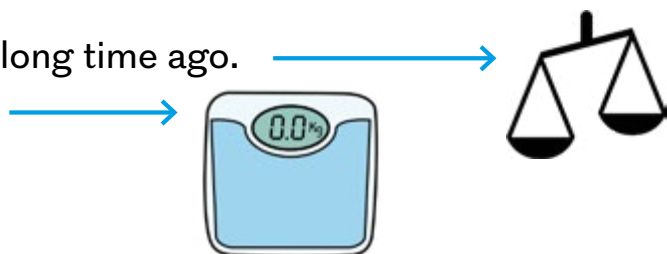
A canvas is like a soft sheet made of cloth where you can paint.

Anselm Kiefer used a large **scale** to join the 2 canvases together.

A scale is used to know how much a thing or a person weighs.

In the painting you see a scale from a long time ago.

Today new scales are made like that.



In the 2 canvases you can see a **desert**.

A desert is a part of land where there is very little rain.

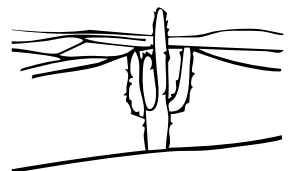
Water is needed for plants and animals to live well.

That is why few plants grow and there are few animals in the desert.

In a desert the earth may be very hard or there may be a lot of sand.

With this desert Anselm Kiefer wants you to see a **landscape**.

A landscape is a part of a city, a country or a desert.



Canvas 1 →



In Canvas 1 you can see that salt falls from the scale onto the desert sand. When there is so much salt in the earth, plants cannot grow.

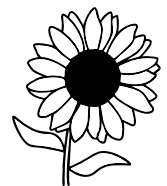
Anselm Kiefer represented salt to make you understand that no plant will ever grow there.

Canvas 2 →



In Canvas 2 you can see that from the scale **sunflower seeds** fall on the desert sand.

Sunflowers grow from sunflower seeds. →



Anselm Kiefer represented the sunflower seeds to let you know that sunflowers will grow there and there will be a beautiful garden.

Anselm Kiefer called this painting Alchemie to make you understand that sunflower seeds can turn the desert into a beautiful place like a garden.

This means that we can try to change things that are not good to make them good. Like the alchemists tried to turn lead into gold.

Waves Only Exist Because the Wind Blows





This **mural** is called **Waves Only Exist Because the Wind Blows**.

A mural is a painting painted on a wall.

eL Seed did this work in 2024, a very short time ago.

eL Seed is an artist born in Tunisia, a country in **Africa**.



Africa is a **continent**.

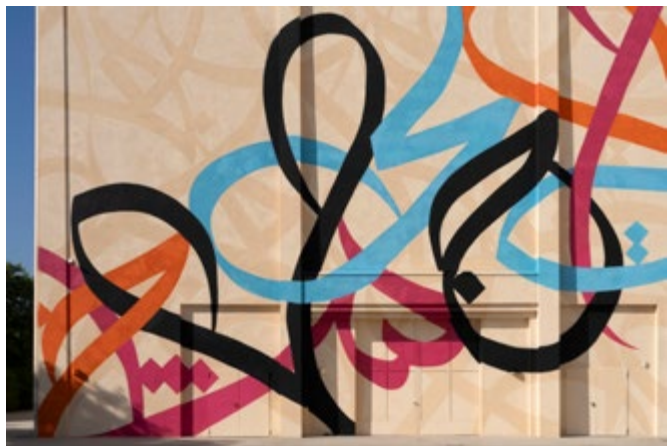
A continent is a part of the world where all around there are **oceans**.

Oceans are very large seas.

There are 6 continents and in each continent, there are many countries.

The continents are:

- Africa
- America
- Antarctica
- Asia
- Europe
- Oceania.



This large **mural** is on the outside wall of the **Cubo**, one of the parts of Pirelli HangarBicocca.

eL Seed painted large, coloured lines all over the wall of the Cubo.

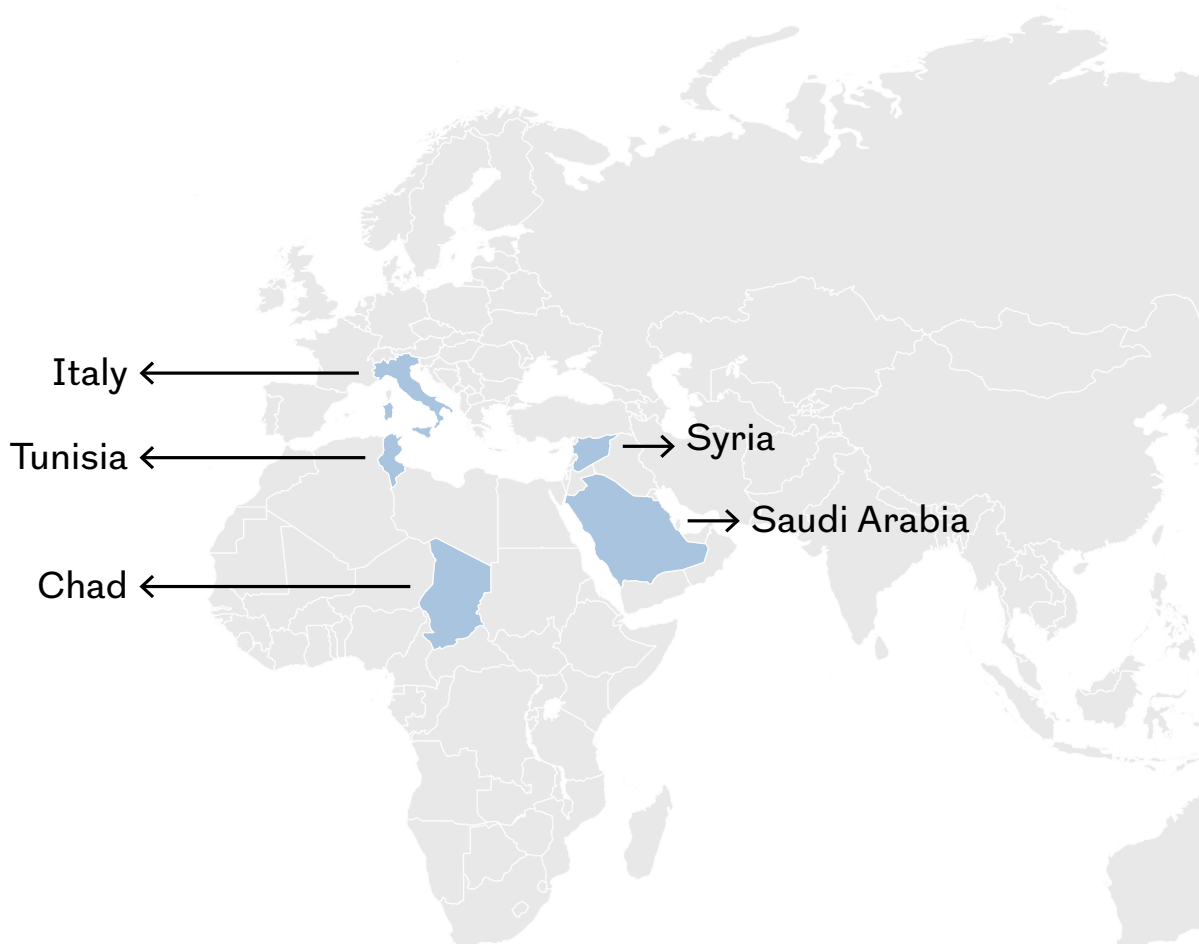
With these lines eL Seed has written words in **Arabic**.

eL Seed speaks and writes in Arabic and French because he now lives in France.

Arabic is the language used by people who live:

- in some countries in Africa, such as Tunisia and Chad
- in some **West Asian** countries such as Syria and Saudi Arabia.

The West Asian countries are in the leftmost part of Asia.



Arabic writing is very beautiful.

The letters in this language have a very different shape from ours.

eL Seed uses Arabic words to make very beautiful and colourful designs that look like embroidery.



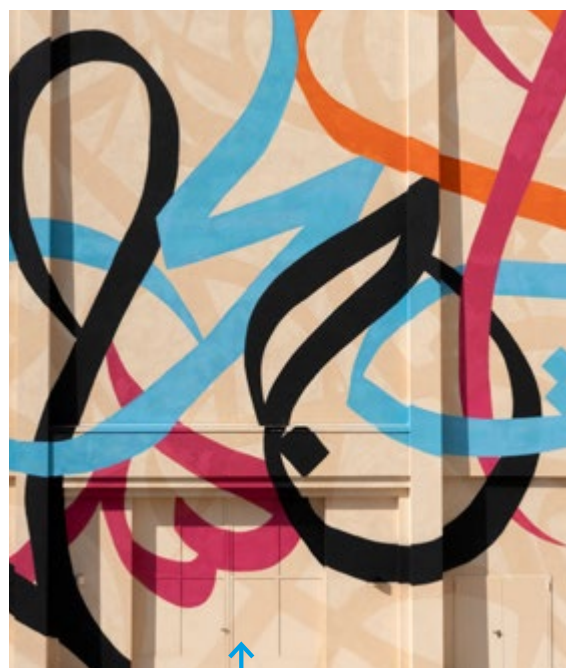
In fact, eL Seed paints the words on top of each other.

So, the lines of each letter tie together

like the colourful threads in an embroidery design do.

On the wall you can see the lettering very well:

- blue
- black
- orange
- fuchsia pink.



If you look carefully, however, the whole wall is full of writing done in brown, a little darker than the colour of the wall.

The light brown of the wall reminds the colour of dry sand,

the darker brown of the lettering reminds the colour of wet sand.

These writings are all done on top of each other and it is difficult to tell where one letter begins and the other ends.

The coloured words that look like a drawing
are a sentence by an Italian writer named **Cesare Pavese**.

The sentence is: **You need a place that's home,
if only for the excitement of leaving.**

Cesare Pavese meant that it is important for everyone to have a home,
to have a place to return to, to be comfortable and feel safe.



**Every time eL Seed makes an artwork in a country
he looks for special sentences by writers or poets who live in that country.**

eL Seed chooses sentences that are special to him
because they make people think.

eL Seed thought that Cesare Pavese's words are important
and decided to write them in his mural.

**Cesare Pavese's sentence makes people think about people who leave
their homes and go to live in a faraway country.**

These people are called **migrants**.

It is important for migrants to have a place to return to and always feel safe.

**Being able to return home means going back to the places where we grew up,
to the people we love, finding objects and places we know very well.**

But why did eL Seed call this mural

Waves Exist Only Because the Wind Blows?

What do sea waves have to do with migrants?

We explain it on page 78.

If you want to know more about:

- who eL Seed is, turn to page 93.

Arabic script, sea waves and migrants

The letters written by eL Seed in this mural have a special shape.
If you look carefully at them all together you can see that they resemble a sea wave.



That is why the mural is called
Waves Exist Only Because the Wind Blows.

Waves are formed when the wind blows over the sea and lifts the water.

The stronger the wind, the higher the wave.

Waves always make the same movement:

they go toward the beach and then back toward the sea.

For eL Seed, the waves going back and forth on the beach are like migrants.

Migrants are the people who leave their country and go to live in a faraway country.



For example, there are people who leave from Italy and go to live in America. However, these people often return to Italy to see their families and then leave again for America.

These people go back and forth between Italy and America like the waves of the sea go back and forth on the beach.

The Arabic letters written by eL Seed on the mural, however, are not just drawings.

With these letters eL Seed painted a sentence written by **Cesare Pavese**. Cesare Pavese was an important writer who wrote many books.

This sentence is about migrants.

The sentence is: **You need a place that's home, if only for the excitement of leaving.**

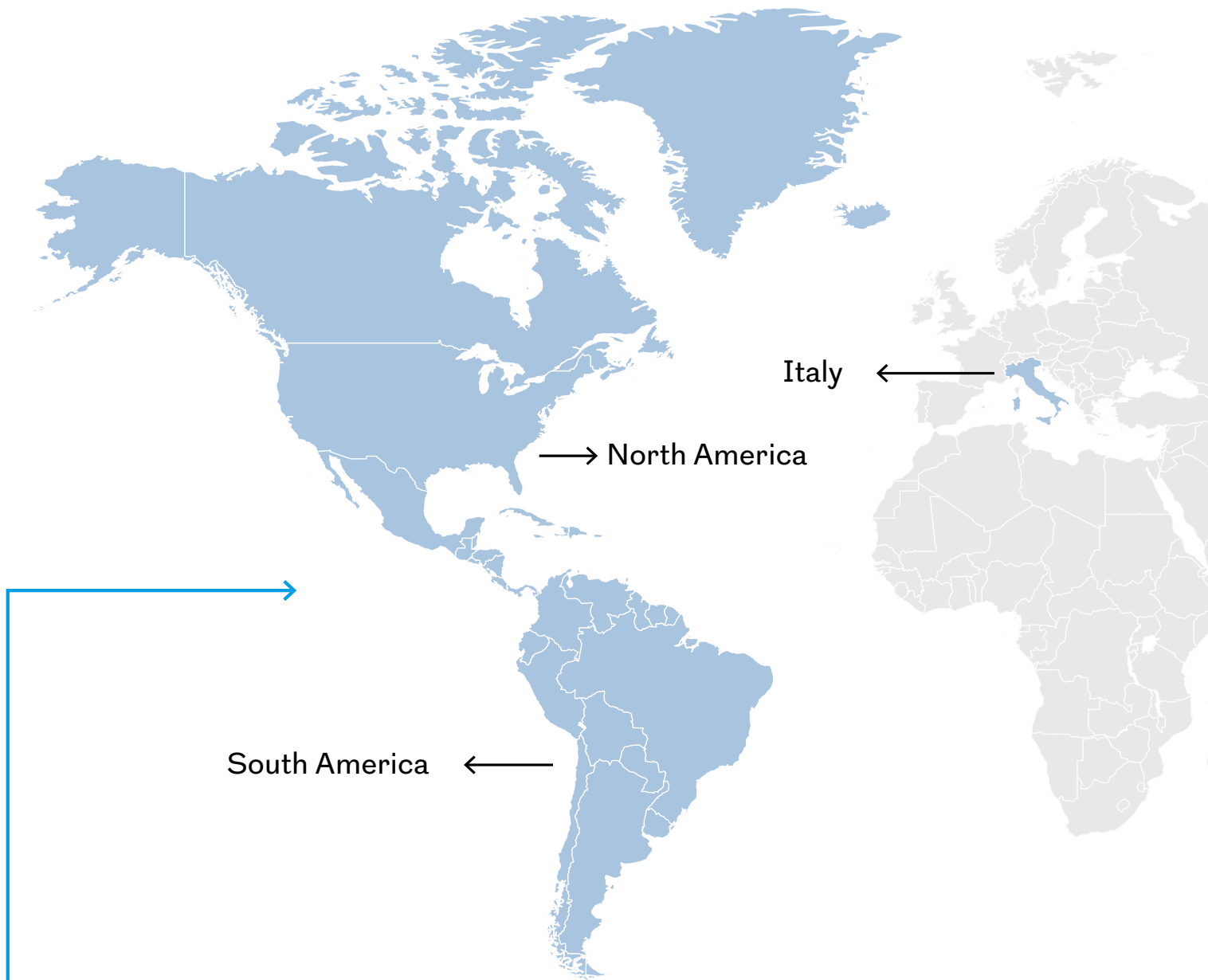
With this sentence Cesare Pavese wants you to understand that it is important for everyone to have a home, a place where to feel safe. This is even more important for migrants who leave and leave everything they know behind.

Because knowing that they have a place to return to and to feel safe gives them the courage to leave and to endure through the difficult times in life.



Cesare Pavese wrote this sentence in the book called **The Moon and the Bonfires.**

Cesare Pavese tells the story of a migrant in this book.



This gentleman had left a small town in Italy to go and live in America.

The man had stayed in America for many years, found a job and earned a lot of money.

After many years he had decided to return to his country.

Cesare Pavese tells how difficult it is for this gentleman to return to his country.

It is difficult because so much time has passed and so much has happened.