

"2000 CHILDREN FOR THE YEAR 2000", by Franco Costa

This project has been organized to involve "rich" children and parents with the problems of less lucky children who live in poverty. The aim is to stimulate "rich" children through painting and creating artwork which can be sold to support the poor.

The first meeting has been organized in **December 1999 in Genzano- Roma** at my daughter Carlotta's (age 4) school, and through Internet there has been a link with 3 other schools in **Emden- Germany**, where contemporary other children were painting in a similar project.

Many other events like this have been organized in different schools in Europe and are still going on, also during my exhibitions under my direction with the use of Internet as communication and union.

I wish that within the next 20 years these children who will be grown- ups will understand the problems of those who suffer, for a better world with less hate and differences between rich and poor, and then this project will evolve into **"Peace Happiness and Love"**.



TELETHON AT THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO, 8 and 9 December 2000

From the basic idea of father project **"Peace, Happiness and Love"** by the artist Franco Costa, we are starting his new project **"2000 children for the year 2000"** in Monaco to support the AFM (Association Francaise contre les Myopathies) to find the means to cure and help people with neuromuscular diseases.

The Telethon was introduced from the United States in 1986. The French Telethon came into being on a December evening in 1987, placing the spotlight on forgotten diseases and the solidarity and fraternity of a whole nation. The Telethon exists in a number of countries in Europe. It has been running for over 10 years in some, with the common aim of combating neuromuscular diseases. The donations collected are pooled and used to organize international scientific co- operation.

First victory this year, for the first time, patients have been treated with gene therapy: two children with a hereditary disorder of the immune system. Even if it cannot yet be generalized to other pathologies, this first worldwide result with two "bubble babies" shows that it is possible to correct a genetic disease by gene therapy.

With the participation of the "Education Nationale de la Jeunesse et des Sports", the "Ercole Municipale d'Arts Plastiques", artists and voluntaries help children from Monegasque schools creating their art work, which will be sold in favor of the AFM, at the end of the Telethon, **Saturday evening, 9 December**, at the **"Salle d'Exposition", Quai Antoine 1er** (free admission).