

# chi ha paura...?

## GLOBAL IDENTITY

Throughout history man has traveled the world via intricate networks such as the trading roads of the Roman Empire, the Silk Road, and the sea routes of the British and Dutch East (and West) India Companies. Although global aspirations were restricted to those with specific means, global influences have been widely known for ages, in food, fashion, textiles, ceramics, architecture, ship building, science and so on.

Today *global* is a notion that is used in many ways. We refer to the world as a 'global village' thanks to advances in communication; electronic connections that are available anywhere, anytime. But what, exactly is 'global' now, what does the term designate? Is global an orientation or attitude? Is it part of our identity? Does it alter our thinking and actions?

*Identity* can be described as the fusion of characteristics and definitions that make each one of us recognizable and unique.

For millennia jewelry has acted as symbol and signifier of a wearers identity. We broadcast our status, affiliations, and beliefs through adornment. In what way does a global perspective change not only what we put on the body but also what we make for the body? How does the idea of global affect our personal, cultural, and national identities?

Designers and artists from different continents were invited to think about these questions and to design a new piece of jewelry, by reflecting on global issues, to explore our *global identity*.