



AN ELDERLY MAN FROM THE RABARI TRIBE, RAJASTHAN, INDIA, 2010

A Look Beyond

Step behind—and beyond—the lens of legendary photojournalist Steve McCurry at a new exhibit at the Cinecittà studios. **Tiffany Parks** reports.

American photojournalist **Steve McCurry** burst onto the world stage in the late 1970s at the onset of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Disguised as a native, McCurry, then in his late 20s, crossed the border from Pakistan into rebel-controlled Afghanistan on foot and returned with rolls of film sewn into his clothing. His were among the first images of the conflict to be seen around the world, most famously the iconic *Afghan Girl*, which would come to be considered the most recognized photograph ever published in *National Geographic*. These photos earned McCurry the Robert Capa Gold Medal for Best Photographic Reporting from Abroad, an auspicious start to what was just the beginning of a brilliant career.

Covering conflicts in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Cambodia, and the Philippines, his name eventually became known world-wide, and he continued to garner numerous international awards, including an unprecedented four first-place prizes at the World Press Photo contest in 1984.

A new exhibition at the Cinecittà Film Studios, *Beyond the Gaze*, displays some of McCurry's most recent work. More than 100 new photographs, as the name of the exhibit implies, explore a new perspective, pushing both photographer and viewer beyond the normal constraints of photography, using space and light to overcome fear and pain. In addition to this new body of work, many of his most classic shots are also on display, including the portrait of Sharbat Gula, immortalized forever as the *Afghan Girl*.

An audio guide narrated by the master photographer himself is available free of charge, and six videos follow him on his extraordinary journeys through some of the most dangerous war zones around the world. These, in addition to the 150 images on display, allow visitors to experience as fully as possible the vision and artistic process of one of the greatest photographers of our time (p53).