

British Airways BA0570 Tuesday 07.09.2021

Depart London Heathrow
18:35 (local time)

Arrive Milan Linate
21:35 (local time)

During the late summer of 2021, Cristina Colomar and I ventured on our first trip abroad after a long and eventful eighteen months of Covid and lockdowns. I had been invited by GAMEC to visit Bergamo in the region of Lombardy, Italy. Already armed with research on the area, I knew that I was entering a place that was deeply wounded by this catastrophic global pandemic that had plateaued in this region of Europe. Aware that I am open to being oversensitive to situations, I was cautious and apprehensive about embarking on this journey.

When we arrived in Bergamo, I was quite shocked to see how complex the situation was, and whenever we entered a shop or a restaurant, we were treated with alarming trepidation. This was not surprising considering the seemingly lax attitudes towards Covid-19 that some prominent UK citizens were demonstrating. The city of Bergamo was eerie and unwelcoming; it seemed haunted. This behavior was of course understandable.

In sharp contrast to this, our hosts were warm and welcoming, and the following morning I went to visit the Palazzo della Ragione and the Sala delle Capriate. I instantly knew that I could create a memorial that might help with the process of healing.

My idea came almost immediately: I wanted to use my spatial chair motifs to create within the hall a series of marble pieces that would be placed two meters apart and in “bubbles,” coinciding with the rules of social distancing.

Lorenzo Giusti and Sara Fumagalli both got behind the idea and set about looking for sponsorship and funding. I looked at the surroundings and made a decision on the marble and stone to be used—it had to directly relate to the fabric of the surrounding buildings.

I wanted to make a poetic reference to the colors in the streets and the fascinating his-