

# Biennale Arte 2015

## *Survival Kit*



**The best of 56th International  
Art Exhibition of Venice, curated  
by Okwui Enwezor**

**09.05.2015 – 22.11.2015**

**hours 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.**

**Closed on Mondays**

One hundred and twenty years have gone by since the first Venice Biennale (1895). This year the show's curator, Okwui Enwezor, from Nigeria, explores the future through the theme *All the World's Futures*. As for the multitude of art, this edition is particularly distinguished by a focus on the use of video and drawings.

Our intention with this short guide is not to give a critical evaluation of the works, but rather to offer our approach to disentangling and enjoying the best of the myriad cultural offerings of the Biennale.



Above: view from the Arsenale

On the bottom left: San Marco Square

On the bottom center: Ibrahim Mahama, *Out of Bounds*, 2014-2015 (Arsenale)

On the bottom right: view from Palazzo Fortuny



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# Biennale Giardini



Central Pavilion

With both the curator's show and 29 national pavilions at the Giardini, the grounds offer a number of thought-provoking insights on the contemporary world. In the **Central Pavilion**, stop and take in the monumental wall of suitcases by **Fabio Mauri** near the entrance, complemented by examples of arte

povera on the walls. In fact, some of the most interesting works included are not from the contemporary day – keep an eye out for pieces scattered throughout such as *Un Jardin d'Hiver* (1974) by **Marcel Broodthaers**, a set-like installation involving 36 potted palms and exotic and enigmatic prints on the walls.



We then suggest immersing yourself in the room dedicated to large-format photographs of crowded factories and chaotic stock exchange floors by **Andreas Gursky**, executed in his typical, mesmerizing style. Reflect for a moment on the video installation *Vertigo Sea* by the Ghanaian artist **John Akomfrah**, a meditation on the environment and our relationship with the sea, made using spectacular images of seascapes and the destructive actions of man. Finally, we suggest not to miss the chance to take a 20-question iPad quiz and participate

in **Hans Haacke**'s *World Poll*, 2015, while sitting in a room surrounded by the questions and results of his series of controversial museum polls over the years from the 1970s onwards. After finishing the quiz, take a moment to examine the results and see what other Biennale visitors have answered. The questions from past and present polls, confront the viewer with simple yet powerful subjects in a critique highlighting the relationship between museums, the private sector, politics – and, of course, the visitor.

On the left: Marcel Broodthaers, *Un jardin d'hiver*, 1974

On the right: Hans Haacke, *World Poll*, 2015



**Japan.** Perhaps the most photographed pavilion in the entire Biennale, a tangle of red wires is intertwined with thousands of hanging keys that seem they could open any possible lock. The work, by the artist Chiharu Shiota, is a reflection on memory. Don't miss the video and photographs in the pavilion that complete the experience.

**Holland.** “Visit the lagoon, look, listen, smell, feel, and experience all of its aspects. Then, finally, be careful.” Herman de Vries, with these words, introduces the visit to the Dutch Pavilion, and offers a delicate reflection on the theme of nature and on the lagoon of Venice that materializes in a beautiful carpet of rosebuds in the center of the space.



On the left: Chiharu Shiota,  
*The KEY in the HAND*



Upper right: Herman de Vries,  
*108 pound rosa damascena*



Bottom right: Herman de Vries,  
*From earth: everywhere*

**Canada.** An immersive experience, *Canadassimo* is an experiential pavilion created by a trio of artists, BGL. The work reproduces a small Canadian store and an artist's studio in a hyper-real, but distorted, style. The pavilion is constructed entirely from recycled materials, a response to the theme of consumerism in America.



**England.** A controversial pavilion, and often criticized pavilion. Sarah Lucas, of the Young British Artists group, has painted the space yellow from top to bottom and filled it with sculptures and photographs related to sexuality and gender, playing on stereotypes and the body.



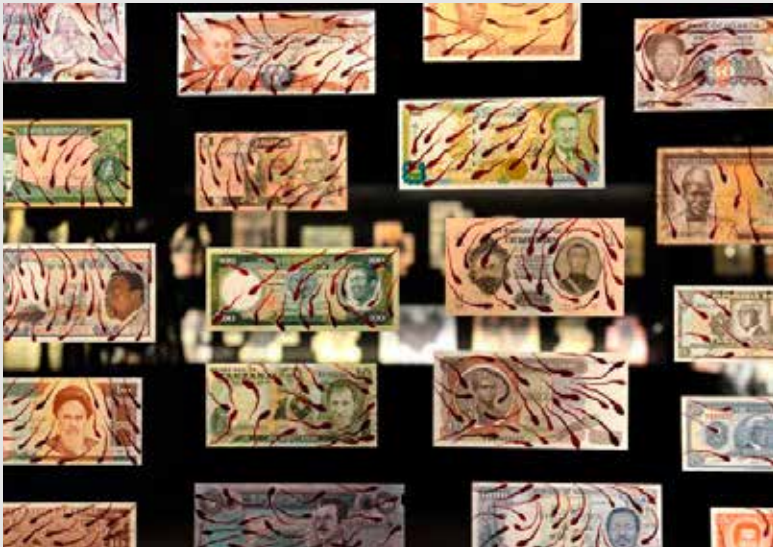
On the left: BGL, *Canadassimo*

On the right: Sarah Lucas,  
*I SCREAM DADDIO*, Installation  
View



**Australia.** The artist Fiona Hall has created a kind of spectacular Wunderkammer. Lose yourself in the vitrines of improbable objects reworked by the artist, like a cuckoo clock or her collection of branches brought from the Manuhiri travelers. This pavilion will envelop you, 360 degrees.

**Serbia.** This pavilion presents a reflection on the concept of nationalism in a globalized world. The artist Ivan Grubanov, with the installation *United Dead Nations*, has strewn flags of states that no longer exist (such as the Ottoman Empire or the Soviet Union) haphazardly over the floor, and paint that seems to have bled from the flags stains the ground.



On the left: Fiona Hall, *Manuhiri (Travellers)*, 2014–15

On the right: Ivan Grubanov, *United Dead Nations*

**Biennale  
Arsenale**

The Arsenale opens with the exhibition by curator **Okwui Enwezor**, a strong collection characterized by works that lead us to reflect on man-centered scenes, represented both as an individual as well as a multitude. In this fascinating exhibition, well organized but at times challenging, we suggest you to some works that caught our attention.

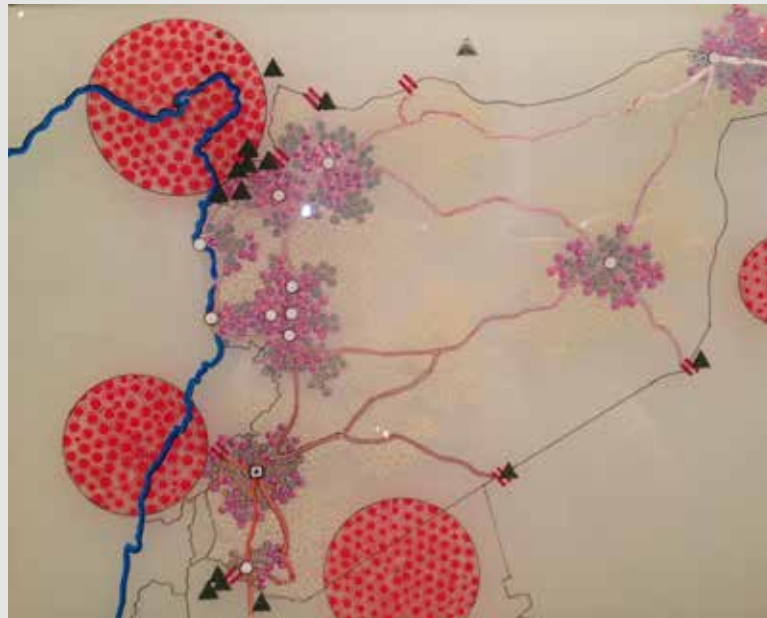
The “Impossible Bouquet” by **Taryn Simon** revives historical agreements, contracts, treaties, and decrees, and subtly gestures to how nature is constrained into serving man’s ego.

Beautiful maps by Vietnamese artist **Tiffany Chung** represent the outcome of a project to revisit places where cultural traumas have occurred. These images, delicately painted and embroidered, are in sharp contrast with that which they demonstrate: the violence of war and its consequences.



Above: Taryn Simon,  
*Paperwork and the Will of Capital*, 2015

Below: Tiffany Chung,  
*Syria Deeply Day 1387-December 21, 2014*



A room dominated by large paintings of **Georg Baselitz**. The figure of the German painter is expressed in a series of striking overturned self-portraits on a black background.

Varied works by the American artist **Adrian Piper**, winner of the Gold Lion for best artist, are scattered in the Corderie. Among these are photos without faces titled Everything – a reflection on the sense of loss.

One of the last sites of note before continuing on is the work of Thai artist **Rirkrit Tiravanija**, that invites you to “take home” a piece of the Biennale. Around 14,000 bricks, the amount necessary to construct a simple house in China, all bearing the inscription “*never work*” in Chinese characters, are for sale.



Top: Georg Baselitz, *Fällt von der Wand nicht (not falling off the wall)*, 2014

Center: Adrian Piper, *Everything #2.9*, 2003

Bottom: Rirkrit Tiravanija, *Untitled*, 2015







**Albania.** Artist and playwright Armando Lulaj, star of the Albanian pavilion, faces the ghosts of history and his native country with performances that recall little known episodes from the socialist past of the country, like a huge whale skeleton that was confused with an enemy submarine.



**Latvia.** Immersive and spectacular, the show *Armpit* in the Latvian pavilion is filled with installations by artists Katrina Neiburga and Andris Eglitis that reconstruct garages used as homes and workshops on the outskirts of Latvian cities. These unique spaces invite the viewer to rediscover manual work, providing an escape in the age of immaterial creation.

On the left: Armando Lulaj, *It Wears as It Grows*, 2011

On the right: Katrīna Neiburga, Andris Eglītis, *Armpit*, 2015



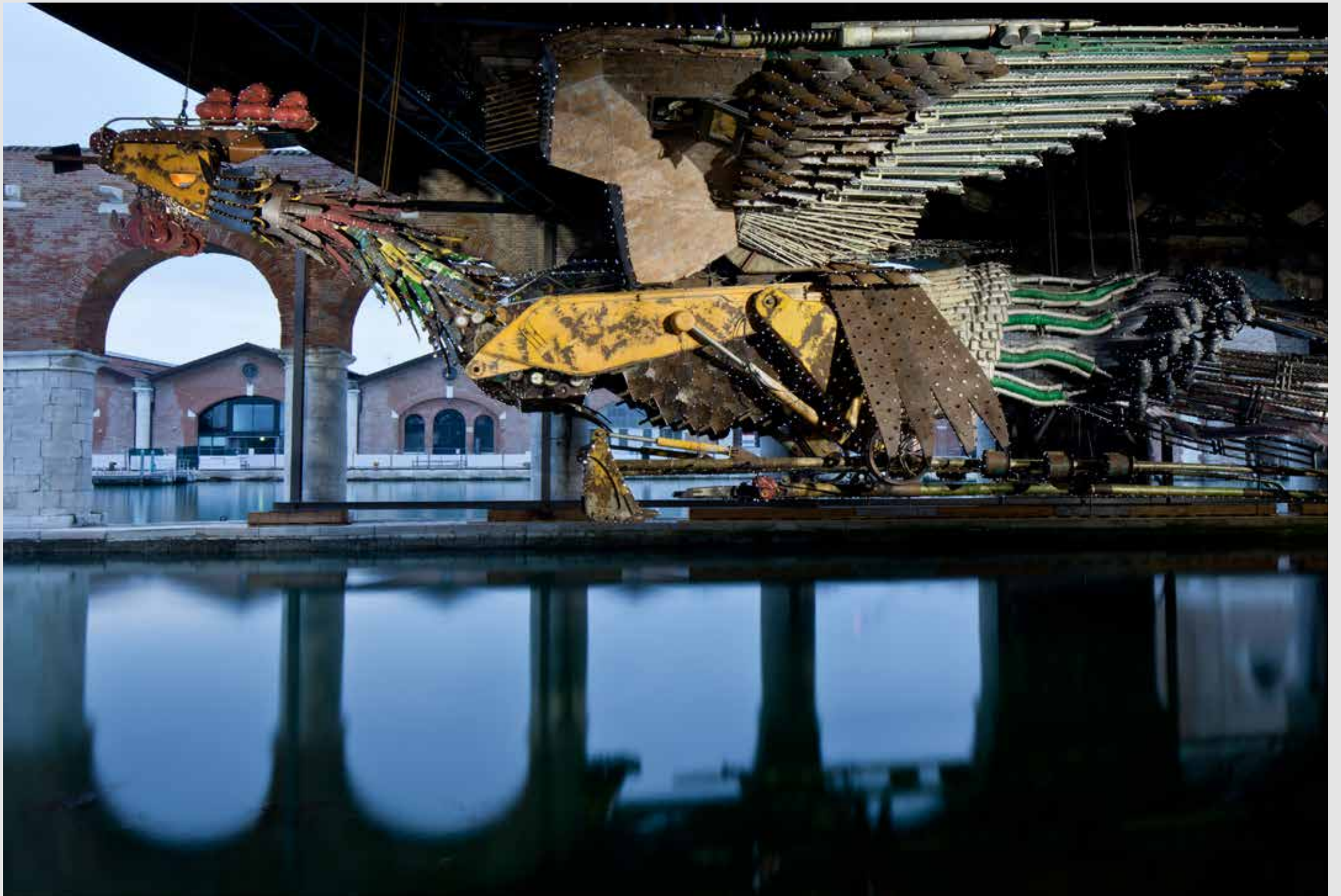
On the left: China Pavilion,  
*Other Future*

On the next page:  
Xu Bing, *The Phoenix*, 2015

**China.** Reflecting on the biennial theme, the People's Republic of China Pavilion addresses the impact that every individual, part of the mass, has on the world's future. Don't miss *The Phoenix* by Xu Bing, made of industrial scraps,

that dominates the space in front of the Chinese pavilion and that seems as it might escape and fly away at any moment.





**Italy.** Entrusted to curator Vincenzo Trione, the show *Codice Italia* presents well-known artists that carry with them the “genetic code” of Italian style, a constant balancing act between experimentation, memory, and tradition.

Few international names were also chosen, such as William Kentridge, who exhibits preparatory sketches for the never-realized frieze intended to be projected along the banks of the Tiber River in Rome.

Among the Italians, Marzia Migliora creates the farm of her father’s memory through a playful room carpeted in corn, and Vanessa Beecroft sculpts different color blocks of marble with a clear reference to classical art.



Top: Vanessa Beecroft,  
*Le membre fantôme*, 2015

Below: Marzia Migliora,  
*Stillheaven/Natura in posa*





# External Pavilions



*Sotoportego de Gheto Novo,  
Sestiere Cannaregio*

Other national pavilions are scattered throughout the city of Venice. A visit to these spaces completes the Biennale experience, inviting you to explore the interiors of closed palaces and hidden neighborhoods.

**Armenia.** Winner of the Golden Lion for best national pavilion at Venice Biennale. This pavilion is dedicated to artists of the Armenian diaspora on the 100th commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. The exhibition's curatorial

concept implies the notion of displacement and territory, justice and reconciliation, *ethos* and resilience. Located inside a monastery on San Lazzaro Island, the pavilion can be reached by vaporetto from S. Zaccaria stop. Not easily reached, but it worth a visit.

On the left: Sarkis, 67 – *Croix de brique*, from *Ailleurs ici*, Chaumont-sur-Loire, 2012

On the right: Mikayel Ohanjanyan, *Tasnerku*, 2015





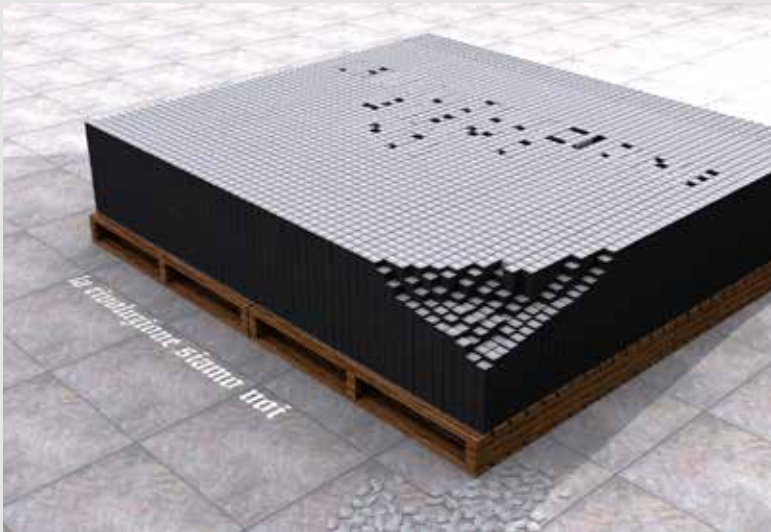
**Cuba.** The Pavilion of Cuba exists at the convergence of speculative and imaginary movements, inherent in the country's identity, and in both Cuban and international art.

It presents works by four Cuban artists in dialogue with works by Afghan Lida Abdul, Russian Olga Chernysheva, Chinese Lin Yilin and Italian Giuseppe Stampone. Located on San Servolo island, it's worth a visit if you have time.

**Azerbaijan.** Azerbaijan has two pavilions in the area of Campo S. Stefano. Our suggestion is to see *Vita Vitale*, located in the gorgeous palazzo Ca' Garzoni on the Grand Canal. The exhibition looks forward, beyond the geographic borders of Azerbaijan, providing a platform for international artists and scientists who address ecological challenges globally faced today and tomorrow as a result of technological advances, and the consequent rise in consumerism.

On the left: Luis Gómez Armenteros, *La Rivoluzione Siamo Noi*, 2015

On the right: Stephanie Quayle, *The monkeys*





**Iceland.** The Swiss-Icelandic artist Christoph Büchel converted a former catholic church in the Canareggio neighborhood into Venice's first-ever fully functioning mosque, providing Islamic residents a place to gather and worship. The controversial pavilion attracted extensive public and media attention, raising the topic of Islamophobia and Islamic culture in Europe. An unusual experience, even for the Biennale.

N.B.: AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION, THIS PAVILION HAS BEEN CLOSED. IF IT REOPENS, WE RECOMMEND A VISIT!

**Our suggestions:** The pavilions of Iceland and Iran are not far from each other in the area of Canareggio. We suggest walking between the two and exploring the quiet and non-touristy, yet utterly picturesque traditional Jewish neighborhood in which they are located.

**Iran.** With over 40 artists participating from Iran and neighboring countries including India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, the multi-media exhibition attempts to redefine The Great Game into a New Great Game. The exhibitions is about new beginnings and well-known tales, fresh creativity and revisited political debates. This is an intense pavilion in a perfect location that completely transports the viewer.

On the left: Christoph Büchel,  
*The Mosque*

On the right: Adel Abidin,  
*I'm Sorry*, 2008



# Exhibitions



View from Palazzo Fortuny

In coordination with the Biennale, don't miss the shows hosted at classic Venetian institutions. Here is a selection of our favorites.



## ***Proportio* – Palazzo Fortuny.**

*Proportio*, the title and theme of this not-to-be-missed exhibition, curated by Axel Vervoordt and Daniela Ferretti, aims to restart a contemporary dialogue around the lost knowledge of proportion and sacred geometry. Extraordinary works by artists such as Marina Abramovic, Arthur Duff, Anish Kapoor, Alberto Giacometti, Sol Lewitt, Fausto Melotti, Martio Merz and many others, are placed in a dialogue with Egyptian relics and paintings by Dutch Old Masters on the theme of universal proportion in art, science, music and architecture.

S. MARCO, 3780 | 9 MAY – 22 NOVEMBER  
| 10.00 A.M. – 6.00 P.M. (CLOSED ON  
TUESDAY)

Top: Shuji Mukai, *Space of the  
Signs Selfie Studio*

Bottom left: Nanda Vigo, *Deep  
Space*, 2013

Bottom right: Francesco  
Caneloro, *Linee Sospese*, 2015





***My East is Your West – Palazzo Benzon.***

Exhibiting side by side an artist from India – Shilpa Gupta – and Pakistan – Rashid Rana – it calls attention to and questions the division between the two nations, in spite of their shared cultural histories: “*We come from a shared past, we are separated by the present and we hope for a collaborative future*” – Feroze Gujral, Founder & Director, The Gujral Foundation. The exhibition contains some engaging interactive and performative works — focus on Rana’s clever video works in the first half of the exhibition.

CALLE BENZON SAN MARCO, 3927 | 6 MAY  
– 1 OCTOBER | 10.00 A.M. – 6.00 P.M.  
(CLOSED ON MONDAYS)

Above: Shilpa Gupta, *Untitled*

Below: Rashid Rana,  
*War Within II*



### **Portable Classic – Fondazione Prada.**

This year Fondazione Prada focuses its attention on classical art. The exhibition, curated by Salvatore Settis (also responsible for the simultaneous show, Serial Classic, presented at the new Fondazione Prada in Milan), examines themes surrounding the historical trend of small reproductions of large classical statues. The centerpiece of the display – multiple versions of the Farnese Hercules

of different sizes and materials – it is striking. The exhibition is manageable, and the space, located on the Grand Canal and extensively restored by the Foundation. Beautiful!

On the left: one of the *Farnese Hercules*

On the right: view of the show *Portable Classic*

CA' CORNER DELLA REGINA, SANTA CROCE  
| 9 MAY – 13 SEPTEMBER | 10.00 A.M. –  
6.00 P.M. (CLOSED ON TUESDAY)





**Mario Merz. Città irreale – Galleria dell'Accademia.** *Città Irreale* is a memorable show of one of the greatest exponents of the “povera Italiana” art style. Curator Bartolomeo Pietromarchi highlights the recurring themes in Merz’s poetry, relating them to the environment of the restored Galleria dell’Accademia, that houses them.

CAMPO DELLA CARITÀ, 1050 | 8 MAY –  
20 SEPTEMBER | 8.15 A.M. – 7.15 P.M.  
(MONDAY 8.15 A.M. – 2.00 P.M.)



On the left: Mario Merz,  
*Spirale di cera*, 1970 – 1981

On the right: Mario Merz, *Igloo*



## **Martial Raysse – Palazzo Grassi.**

The exhibition, curated by Caroline Bourgeois, examines Martial Raysse's work in a contemporary, non-chronological approach.

His colorful sculptures and paintings, inspired by pop culture in the 1990's, express his ideas and opinions regarding a utopian humanity, the American dream, consumer society, and classic mythology. An opportunity to get to know the work of this great artist.

CAMPO SAN SAMUELE, 3231 | 12 APRIL  
– 30 NOVEMBER | 10.00 A.M. – 7.00 P.M.  
(CLOSED ON TUESDAY)



Top: *America America*, 1964

Bottom left: *Make up*, 1962

Bottom right: *Peinture à haute tension*, 1965





## Shows on the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore.

The beautiful island of San Giorgio Maggiore holds a number of refined and unusual shows through the sites of the Fondazione Giorgio Cini, the Abbey of San Giorgio Maggiore and the project of the Glass Rooms. Amongst these sites are sculptures of **Jaume Plensa**, suspended in the central nave of the Basilica Palladiana

and lined in the Manica Lunga, like presences able to speak to all faiths. In the Cenacolo Palladiano, photographs by **Matthias Schaller** of the painter's palettes used by some of the world's most well known artists, reveal striking similarities between the pictorial style and use of colors by artists such as Picasso, Cy Twombly, and Velasquez in a fascinating experiment.

On the left: Jaume Plensa, *Lou, Olivia, Duna, Sanna II, Laura III*, 2015

On the right: Matthias Schaller, *Palette of Cy Twombly*, 2007



# Bar and Restaurants



On the left: **Al Remér**,  
Campiello del Remer

After taking in the Biennale, we're sure you might be getting hungry, or at least looking for a place to rest your feet.

Below we've included some of our suggestions for where to get a refreshing drink and a delicious bite, in perfect Venetian style.



## Al Bottegon (già Cantina ai Schiavi)

A Venetian institution, managed by two generations of Gastaldi family, skilled hosts that offer more than 30 wine labels. The cold “cichétti” are the house specialities.

FONDALENTA NANI, 992 | DORSODURO  
MON-SAT 8:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. | SUN 10:00  
A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

## Al Remér

A precious hidden bar, with an unusual perspective of the Grand Canal and Rialto Bridge. Very romantic!  
Better to ask the locals for directions in order to find it.

CAMPIELLO DEL REMER, 5701 | CANNAREGIO  
MON-SUN 11.00 A.M. – 11.30 P.M. (CLOSED  
ON WEDNESDAY)

## Alla Bifora

A bar of traditional Venetian taste, which preserve its original character, situated in the heart of the city’s buzz.  
First have a Spriz, then everything else.

CAMPO S. MARGHERITA, 2930 | DORSODURO  
MON-SUN 12.00 P.M. – 3.00 P.M. AND 6.00  
P.M. – 2.00 A.M.

## Da Fiore

The sardines in sauce and cod fish definitely worth a stop in this trattoria with cichétti bench. In addition, you’ll find the repertoire of classic Venetian cuisine with fried fish and vegetables, octopus and other seasonal delicacies.  
Very central.

CALLE DE LE BOTTEGHE, 3461 | SAN MARCO  
MON-SUN 9.00 A.M. – 10.00 P.M. (CLOSED ON  
TUESDAY)



**Bacaro:** a bar for Venetian happy hour, where you can taste typical “ombre” and “cichétti”.

**Ombra:** small glass of house wine.

**Cichétti:** snacks to be tasted during the happy hour, often a smaller version of the typical dishes of Venetian cooking.

## Ristorante La Zucca

This is not a restaurant for vegetarians, but vegetables are undoubtedly the element that makes this place notable! If you pass by, you can enjoy delicious dishes prepared with seasonal fruits in an original, imaginative and very tasty menu.

Speciality: *pumpkin flan*

CALLE DEL TINTOR, 1762 | SANTA CROCE  
MON-SAT 12:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. / 7:00 P.M. - 10:30 P.M. (CLOSED ON SUNDAY)

## Ristorante Lineadombra

In Zattere, a fantastic terrace overlooking the Giudecca Canal with great food, fish in particular. Excellent menu and a vast wine list.

Speciality: *sea bass*

FONDALENTA ZATTERE, 19 | DORSODURO  
MON-SUN 12:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. / 7:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M. (CLOSED ON TUESDAY)

## Ristorante Acqua Pazza

The taste of Amalfi in Laguna. High quality products are brought directly from Amalfi and on the tables of this restaurant, customers can discover the authentic and ancient kitchen of the coast. It is a must for anyone who loves fish.

Speciality: *peppered mussels*

CAMPO SANT'ANGELO, 3808 | SAN MARCO  
TUE-SUN 12:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. / 7:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M. (CLOSED ON MONDAY)

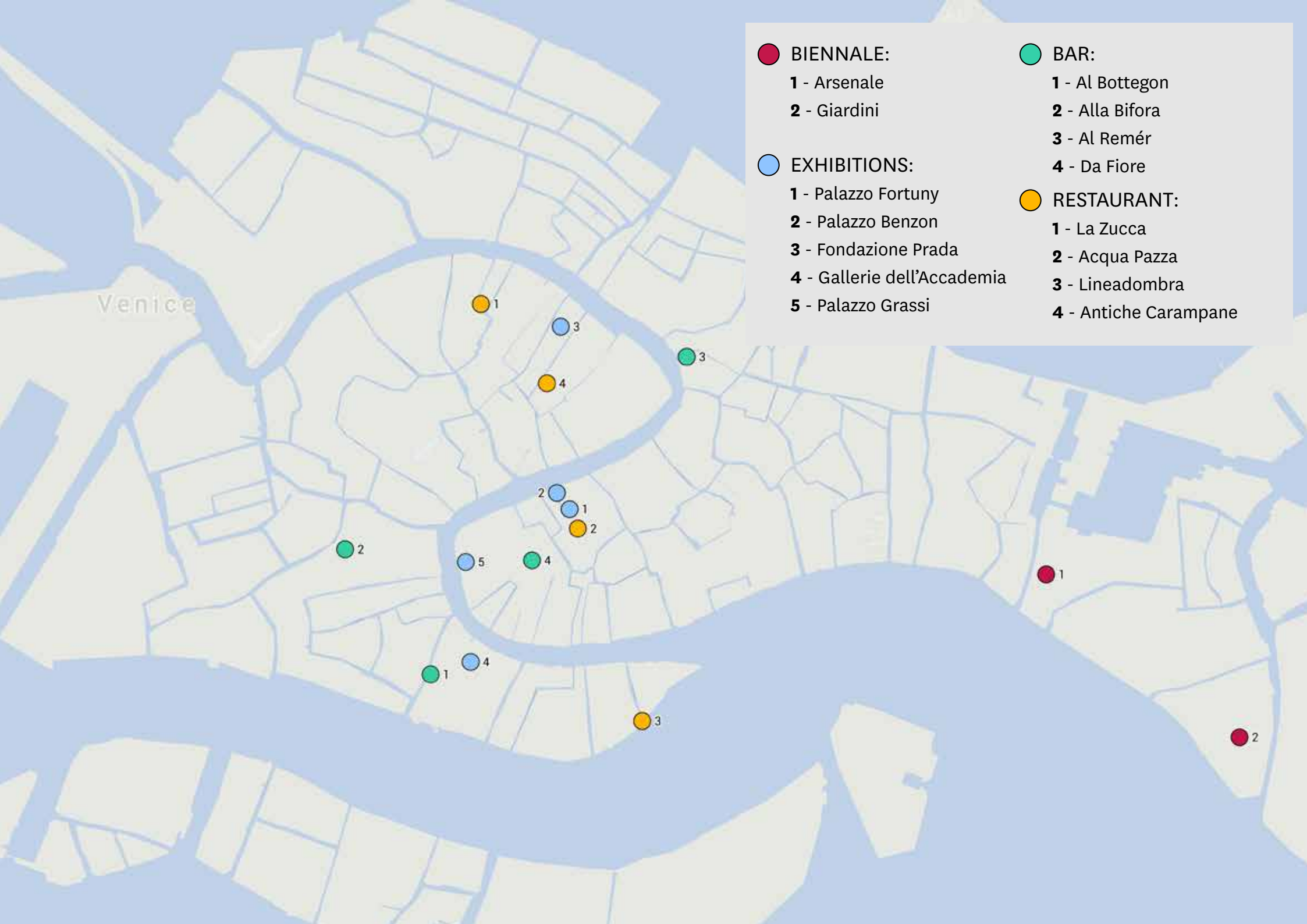
## Trattoria Antiche Carampane

Faithful to the trattoria genre for more than a hundred years, this warm, friendly place with a non-written menu offers high quality dishes, Venetian fish in particular.

Speciality: *bigoli in cassopipa*

RIO TERÀ DELE CARAMPANE, 1911 | SAN POLO  
TUE-SAT 12:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. / 7:30 P.M. - 11:00 P.M. (CLOSED ON MONDAY AND SUNDAY)





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| <p><b>BIENNALE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1</b> - Arsenale</li><li><b>2</b> - Giardini</li></ul>  | <p><b>BAR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1</b> - Al Bottegon</li><li><b>2</b> - Alla Bifora</li><li><b>3</b> - Al Remér</li><li><b>4</b> - Da Fiore</li></ul>                 |
| <p><b>EXHIBITIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1</b> - Palazzo Fortuny</li><li><b>2</b> - Palazzo Benzon</li><li><b>3</b> - Fondazione Prada</li><li><b>4</b> - Gallerie dell'Accademia</li><li><b>5</b> - Palazzo Grassi</li></ul> | <p><b>RESTAURANT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1</b> - La Zucca</li><li><b>2</b> - Acqua Pazza</li><li><b>3</b> - Lineadombra</li><li><b>4</b> - Antiche Carampane</li></ul> |

Venice