

H2O VENEZIA: DIARI D'ACQUA / WATER DIARIES

LAPIS LAZULI:
artE

presents in collaboration with
Fondazione Barovier&Toso

H₂O VENEZIA:

DIARI d'ACQUA • WATER DIARIES

18/04/2024 – 24/11/2024

GROUP EXHIBITION

a visual account of Venice based on first-hand experience

The Barovier&Toso Foundation, in collaboration with Lapis Lazuli: artE, is proud to present the exhibition 'H2O Venezia: Diari d'acqua / Water Diaries', coinciding with the Venice Biennale 2024.

Murano (Venice), Italy – The Barovier&Toso Foundation is excited to announce its groundbreaking collaboration: 'H2O Venezia: Water Diaries', an international group exhibition organized by Lapis Lazuli: artE, running from 18 April to 24 November 2024, at SPUMA – Space for the Arts, set in the enchanting Giudecca Island, Venice. This event marks a historic moment for the Foundation, aiming to promote and preserve the art and culture linked to Venice's rich history, while also supporting contemporary arts and innovations in glass art and beyond.



The exhibition is the result of an artist residency program featuring five talented emerging artists from across the globe: **Alizée Gazeau** (France), **Marija Jaensch** (Netherlands), **Amy Thai** (Australia), **Sofía Toribio** (Argentina), and **Jiaying Wu** (China). Each artist spent up to three months in Venice, immersing themselves in the city's unique life and landscape, then transforming these experiences into artworks that explore and interpret the dynamic relationship between Venice and its waters, central to the city's identity. The artists in 'H2O Venezia: Diari d'acqua / Water Diaries' had the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in Venetian life, bringing their own sensitivity and perspectives shaped in different parts of the world. Their stay in this historic city, known for its rich artistic heritage and unique challenges, offered them a living canvas on which to express their visions. By viewing Venice through their distinct cultural lenses, they created works offering new interpretations of the city and how it communicates with contemporary observers.



'H2O Venezia: Diari d'acqua / Water Diaries' serves as an intimate dialogue with the city of Venice, providing a multicultural and contemporary perspective that transcends traditional art boundaries. The exhibited works encompass a wide range of artistic languages, from paintings and sculptures to works on paper, textiles, and installations, all inspired by the profound connection between Venice and its waters, defining the city's identity more than any other element. These artistic creations reflect Venice's long history as a melting pot of cultures, a city defined by water, but also centuries of immigrants, travelers, and traders. Each piece, in its own way, not only captures the imprint Venice leaves on its visitors but also the mutual influence artists and visitors have on the city.



In this light, 'H2O Venezia: Diari d'acqua / Water Diaries' perfectly embodies this year's Biennale theme 'Stranieri ovunque / Foreigners Everywhere', curated by **Adriano Pedrosa**, contemplating our universal condition as strangers and the inevitable encounter with the other wherever we go.

Choosing Venice as the place for artistic exploration highlights not only its formidable history and unique environmental challenges but also its ability to change and adapt based on its inhabitants, the climate, and, notably, the artists that populate it. Venice proves to be a fertile ground for art, capable of inspiring while presenting challenges, a place where tradition and innovation meet in a continuous dialogue. The works showcased in 'H2O Venezia: Diari d'acqua / Water Diaries' reflect this dynamic, showing how Venice continues to inspire artists worldwide, renewing itself through their visions and remaining vibrant and relevant in the global artistic landscape.



On the occasion of the exhibition, Rinaldo Invernizzi, President of the Barovier&Toso Foundation, stated: 'The Barovier&Toso Foundation marks a historic moment for us, embodying the guardianship and dissemination of an unparalleled artistic and technical heritage. This event is not just a homage to tradition but a bridge towards the future. 'H2O Venezia: Diari d'acqua / Water Diaries' precisely represents this spirit, merging our legacy with new visions, in a city that has been a crossroads of cultures and innovations for centuries. The exhibition is a tribute to Venice, an exploration of its infinite facets through the eyes of artists from different cultures, who, with their works, offer a fresh interpretation of our city and its intimate relationship with its waters, the element that defines its essence.'

The Barovier&Toso Foundation, through events like 'H2O Venezia: Diari d'acqua / Water Diaries', reaffirms its commitment to promoting the arts, supporting emerging artists, and creating a bridge between Venice's venerable artistic tradition and contemporary art expressions globally. The exhibition invites residents and visitors to reflect on the beauty, history, and identity of Venice, while also providing an international visibility platform for emerging talents in the global art scene.

The exhibition catalogue, published by Electa in the 20x24 cm format, includes a foreword by Jennifer Sliwka (Keeper of Western Art at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford) and features detailed contributions from authors Laure Martin-Poulet (Art Agent and Exhibition Curator, Paris), Liberty Adrien (Curator at Kunsthalle Portikus, Frankfurt am Main), Elizabeth Morrison (Senior Curator of Manuscripts at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles), Philippe Malgouyres (Chief Curator of the Department of Decorative Arts at the Musée du Louvre, Paris), Martina Mazzotta (Art historian and Associate Fellow at the Warburg Institute, London), and Xiaosong Wang (Artist, Curator, and Professor at Zhejiang University). These contributions provide a detailed analysis of the involved artists and their works, aiming to place them within a broader social and historical context, further enriching the experience of 'H2O Venezia: Diari d'acqua / Water Diaries'.