

Milan POLI.design

'Neuroscience and Design' 2026

The Executive Course in Neuroscience and Design will close its third edition at the 61st International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia. It will feature two seminars moderated by Davide Ruzzon, founder and director of the POLI.design program and of the Master's in NAAD at IUAV Venice.

Art and/or Architecture: Can We Inhabit an Artwork?

Saturday, on May 9th, from 2 PM to 4 PM, Sala d'Armi D, Arsenale

This panel explores a provocative question: can a work of art—such as an opera—be inhabited in a way comparable to architectural space? The question foregrounds how the habitual body potentially limits, resists, or constrains pure aesthetic engagements or experiences of artistic freedom. Does art introduce genuine novelty in contrast to habit, which relies on repetition and stabilization. If so, does this tension define a fundamental difference between art and architecture? Or can architecture itself be understood as an artistic practice that negotiates between habit and transformation?

Bringing together neuroscience and philosophy, **Vittorio Gallese** (known for his work on embodied simulation) and **Joerg Fingerhut** (working on neurourbanism and aesthetic cognitivism) the panel ultimately asks whether the inability to fully inhabit art marks a limit of the body—or whether it is precisely this tension that makes aesthetic transformation possible.

Kalos Kai Agathos – The Beautiful Is Good, The Beautiful Is Healthy

Sunday, on May 10th, from 11.30 AM to 13.30 PM, Sala d'Armi D, Arsenale

The 61st International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia hosts a compelling conversation between **Angela Vettese** and **Suchi Reddy**, centered on the theme “Kalos kai agathos”.

Drawing from philosophy, art history, and contemporary design practice, the talk explores the enduring idea that aesthetic experience is not merely decorative, but essential to human well-being. From ancient Greek thought to present-day interdisciplinary research, beauty has often been understood as a force that nourishes both mind and body. This dialogue revisits that legacy, asking how art and design can actively contribute to a healthier, more meaningful life.

Angela Vettese brings a critical perspective shaped by decades of engagement with contemporary art, examining how artistic practices frame and transform our perception of beauty today. Suchi Reddy, known for her concept of “neuroaesthetics” in architecture, and artistic works offers insight into how built environments and experiences can positively affect emotional and cognitive states. Together, they bridge theory and practice, reflecting on how sensory experience, cultural context, and spatial design intersect.