BIENNALE ARTE 2026

La Biennale di Venezia

Arte
Architettura
Cinema
Danza
Musica
Teatro
Archivio Storico

13 — 22 NOVEMBER

PERFORMANCES
LECTURES
DISCUSSIONS
ROUNDTABLES

VENEZIA ARSENALE

BVLGARI

illy

DI/BY KOYO KOUOH

IN MINOR KEYS

9.5 — 22.11.26

Building on core motifs from *In Minor Keys* and its gathering of forces and contributors, the 2026 programme unfolds over the course of the exhibition's final two weeks. Conversations, roundtables and lectures revisit artist practices as sites of cultural and spiritual renewal, worldmaking and ethical negotiation. They complement debut and newly staged performances by Laurie Anderson, Ziad Antar, Clarissa Herbst & Dominique Rust, Natalia Lassalle-Morillo & Sofía Gallisá Muriente, rana elnemr, Tammy Nguyen, Hagar Ophir, Yo-E Ryou, Lerato Shadi and Nathalie Vairac.

Part of this programme is devoted to a special assembly of 10 artist– and collective–led organisations. These initiatives have emerged in capital cities, provincial centers and rural communities. Their emphasis and methods vary, as do their organizational structure and sustainability models. Together, however, they have proven vital to artists and practitioners, weathering the storms and shifts in the art system with an ethos of listening, sharing and conviviality. Koyo Kouoh established RAW Material Company in this spirit, and cultivated collaboration, learning and exchange among these organizations. To put forward their methods and bring them into visibility, she invited six such groups as participants in *In Minor Keys* (Denniston Hill, Catskills; RAW Material Company, Dakar; GAS Foundation, Lagos; lugar a dudas, Cali; blaxTARLINES, Kumasi and NCAI, Nairobi). As the exhibition concludes, four further groups (Dar Jacir, Bethlehem; Fresh Milk, Barbados; Picha Collective, Lubumbashi and Gudskul, Jakarta) join these in an Assembly — a generative convention that wants to facilitate and strengthen dialogue and exchange.

Through sessions on ‘seeding resilience’ and ‘epistemic disobedience,’ the assembly shares experience and explores approaches to pedagogy, knowledge transmission, research, and the tending of land, body and community.

FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

DISCUSSION

11 AM

SALA D'ARMI E

Assembly – Day 1: Seeding Resilience (Part 1)

105'

This panel begins with the simple act of sowing seeds. What intentions are planted with the seed? Across the world, artists, curators, writers, critics and educators have acted on the necessity to establish spaces that offer artists and cultural practitioners time and resources to convene, collaborate, slow down or simply rest. These are also 'seeds'—ideas that are planted and propagated. Each of the organisations discuss a 'seed' project, followed by an open discussion across context, geography, demand and desire.

Speakers: Emily Jacir (Dar Jacir, Bethlehem), Megan Steinman (Denniston Hill, Catskills) and Haja Fanta (RAW Material Company, Dakar)
Moderator: Noah Simblist (Curator, Writer and Associate Professor of Art, Virginia Commonwealth University)

PERFORMANCE

4.30 PM

TESE DEI SOPPALCHI

TAMMY NGUYEN

Timaeus and the Teacher: Foreword

45'

Timaeus and The Teacher: Foreword is an aria sung by a Vietnamese English teacher turned refugee while lost at sea. The performance unfolds within a panoramic tapestry designed by Nguyen and manipulated by a team of dancers. In the spirit of Nguyen's approach to painting, an entire world emerges from this quilted ring, whose form references the diagram of the cosmos in Plato's *Timaeus*. Synthesizing symbols and music associated with the maritime practice of 'Flags of Convenience', *Timaeus* considers what it means to search for national belonging in a world steadily shaped by the will of Nature.

Performers: Brian Vu, Lila Doromal, Rebecca Greenbaum-Goodhart, Karina Ikezoe, Herne Jean-Baptiste, Anne Later, Emily Pacilio, Brion Vann
Choreography: Jamal Jackson
Composition: Neely Bruce
Chorus and reed quintet (recorded): María Brea, Krysty Swann, Victor Khodadad, Libby Van Cleve, James Forgey, Julie Asuma Levene, John Mastroianni, TD Ellis, Anthony DeQuattro

SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

LECTURE

11 AM
SALA D'ARMI E

FELWINE SARR
To Inhabit the World
60'

Felwine Sarr proposes new modes of "inhabiting our world" grounded in rethinking the conceptual frameworks of relationality (political, economic, epistemological) and of the imaginary as a central category in cultural renewal. In addition, Sarr invokes reconceptualizing the cosmopolitics of circulation and of hospitality, to redefine mobility on a global scale, and to shift from the societal and cultural imperative of hospitality to a right to mobility and a right to hospitality.

Speaker: Felwine Sarr
Introduction: La Squadra di Koyo

DISCUSSION

2 PM
SALA D'ARMI E

Assembly – Day 2:
Seeding Resilience (Part 2)
105'

This panel begins with the simple act of sowing seeds. What intentions are planted with the seed? Across the world, artists, curators, writers, critics and educators have acted on the necessity to establish spaces that offer artists and cultural practitioners time and resources to convene, collaborate, slow down or simply rest. These are also 'seeds'—ideas that are planted and propagated. Each of the organisations discuss a 'seed' project, followed by an open discussion across context, geography, demand and desire.

Speakers: Belinda Holden (GAS Foundation/Yinka Shonibare Foundation, Lagos/London);
Annalee Davis (Fresh Milk, St. George, Barbados) and Ericka Florez (lugar a dudas, Cali)
Moderator: Wanda Nanibush (Independent Curator and Community Organiser)

3 PM
ARTIGLIERIE

HAGAR OPHIR

Report on a Séance: Bound with the Living, Gathering in Venice

60’

PERFORMANCE

Hagar Ophir’s performative practice explores the séance as a research method. During the opening week of the Biennale Arte, the artist invited nine experts to gather around a Ouija board to inquire collectively about the untold histories of four objects: a skull, a silver rattle, a copper tray and a kite. *Report on a Séance* uses audio recordings and the protocols of the séance to return to what was conjured, and to contend with the silenced or forgotten histories received.

Performers: Miriam Schickler, Maya Avis, Hagar Ophir
Script and dramaturgy: Hagar Ophir, Juna Suleiman, Maya Avis
Sound composition: Miriam Schickler
Costume design: Antonia Eckardt
Translation: Sereen Dhamshi

4.30 PM
TESE DEI SOPPALCHI

TAMMY NGUYEN

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45’

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Chorus and reed quintet (recorded): María Brea, Krysty Swann, Victor Khodadad, Libby Van Cleve, James Forgey, Julie Asuma Levene, John Mastroianni, TD Ellis, Anthony DeQuattro

SUNDAY
15TH NOVEMBER

ROUNDTABLE

11 AM
SALA D'ARMI E

Saudade: A Roundtable
100'

In Minor Keys pays tribute to Issa Samb (1945-2017) and Beverly Buchanan (1940-2015), incandescent worldmakers who employed often fugitive methods. This session expands the frame to three other artists in the exhibition who are no longer living: Nancy Brooks Brody (1962-2023), Seyni Awa Camara (1945-2026), Marcel Duchamp (1887-1968) and Pauline Oliveros (1932-2016). It addresses the unstable meanings of legacy, the alchemy of juxtaposition with contemporary practices, and more emotionally, the idea of an absent presence.

Speakers: Patricia Ekpo (Assistant Professor of African American and African Diaspora Art, Cornell University),
Océane Harati (Director of OH Gallery, Dakar),
Sarah Shin (Curator, Writer, Co-Director of Silver Press, London) and Jo-ey Tang (Artist, Curator and Author)
Moderation and introduction: Siddhartha Mitter

DISCUSSION

2.30 PM
SALA D'ARMI E

Assembly – Day 3: Epistemic Disobedience
175'

This panel expands out from a publication *The Ideal Library*, edited by Koyo Kouoh and Nana Oforiatta Ayim in 2012, and expansively revisited in RAW Material Company's project *Ideal Seeds for Fertile Grounds* in the Stirling Pavilion, Giardini. This slim volume manifested a collectively compiled library of books, writings and songs. This session builds on this epistemic act, inviting four organisations to discuss their philosophy and practice of pedagogy and knowledge transmission.

Speakers: Bukonola Ngobi (Nairobi Contemporary Art Institute, Nairobi), Jean-Sylvain Tshilumba Mukendi (Picha Collective, Lubumbashi), Farid Rakun (Gudskul, Jakarta) and Kwasi Ohene-Ayeh (blaxTARLINES, Kumasi)
Moderator: Tandazani Dhlakama (Curator of Global Africa, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto)
Closing reflections: Simon Njami (Writer, Curator and Art Critic)

PERFORMANCE

3 PM
ARTIGLIERIE

HAGAR OPHIR

Report on a Séance: Bound with the Living, Gathering in Venice
60'

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Script and dramaturgy: Hagar Ophir, Juna Suleiman, Maya Avis
Sound composition: Miriam Schickler
Costume design: Antonia Eckardt
Translation: Sereen Dhamshi

MONDAY
16TH NOVEMBER

PERFORMANCE

3.30 PM

TEATRO PICCOLO ARSENALE

NATALIA LASSALLE-MORILLO & SOFÍA GALLISÁ MURIENTE

Tactics of Transmission

90’

Acting as unruly colonial subjects, Natalia Lassalle-Morillo and Sofía Gallisá Muriente infiltrate the imperial archive, namely two collections of Puerto Rican cultural artifacts at the Smithsonian Institution to question the logics of dis/possession and preservation that permeate museums across the world. Presented in collaboration with Alexandra Buschman-Román, *Tactics of Transmission* offers a strategy to reconnect historical materials held in these vaults to the people and places they belong to, deploying storytelling, images and sound as forms of restitution. *Tactics of Transmission* is presented in tandem with the participation of the artists in *In Minor Keys*.

Writers, Directors and Transmitters: Sofía Gallisá Muriente, Natalia Lassalle-Morillo
Composer and Musical Performer: Alexandra Buschman-Román
Assistant Director: Pelé Sánchez Tormes
Videos: Sofía Gallisá Muriente, Natalia Lassalle-Morillo
Objects by: Amara Abdal Figueroa, Rocío Cáliz-Padilla, Richard Cameron, Pedro Pablo Rinaldi Jovet
Costume Designer: Cristina Agostini Fitch

TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

11 AM
TEATRO PICCOLO ARSENALE

NATALIA LASSALLE-MORILLO & SOFÍA GALLISÁ MURIENTE

Tactics of Transmission

90’

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Costume Designer: Cristina Agostini Fitch

2 PM
SALA D’ARMI E

CLARISSA HERBST & DOMINIQUE RUST

Whiteout

45’

PERFORMANCE

This performance deploys the Duchampian concept of the ‘inframince’ to explore boundary states between bodies, cultural entities and moments in time. Dominique Rust and Clarissa Herbst, along with Michael Wolf, have worked together for many years on performance projects that are partly scripted and improvised. *Whiteout* was developed in the context of Rust and Herbst’s project for *In Minor Keys* at Casetta Scaffali, located in the Arsenale. Their installation revisits Parfumerie, an artist-led urban experiment that took place in Zurich in the late 1980s. A patchwork of mostly illegal, ad hoc parties and club nights, Parfumerie carved out a space for collective joy.

Performers: Dominique Rust, Michael Wolf
Scenography and Video: Clarissa Herbst
Music Composition: Martin Schütz

PERFORMANCE

4 PM

TESE DEI SOPPALCHI

ZIAD ANTAR

Bladder Diplomacy

80’

Threading stories of international diplomacy and the cultivation of potatoes and tomatoes in the eastern Mediterranean with personal family stories, *Bladder Diplomacy* explores radical interventions in the natural environment and the nutritional habits sowed in these lands by modernization and globalized agribusiness. Lebanese artists Ziad Antar, Hatem Imam and Nayla Mabsout collaborate in this lecture performance to draw a satirical puzzle of malicious weeds and civil wars, their blowback and the uncanny resilience of indigenous seeds.

Performers: Ziad Antar, Nayla Mabsout
Script: Ziad Antar
Director: Hatem Imam
Video: Nayla Mabsout

WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER

PERFORMANCE

11 AM

CORDERIE DELL’ARSENALE

RANA EL NEMR

The Newborn Birthchart

30’

Designed as an active threshold, rana elnemr’s *the sugarcane choir* two-part installation registers each visit, as a vibrational contribution to the work in space. Through readings, songs, incantations, and cues of the artwork’s carddeck, the performance invites the audience to communally harvest the stories and songs of swamps, canefields, sugar, resistance and yearnings. Gathering to witness invisible footprints and evanescent potentialities, the performance initiates in the fringe of a six-meter recycled plastic curtain featuring a sunken sun and a protruding moon: a constellation for what is yet to be born.

Performers: Maissa Alameldine, Mariamme Boctor, rana elnemr, Nour Kamel, Farida Rehab

PERFORMANCE

4 PM

TESE DEI SOPPALCHI

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Performers: Ziad Antar, Nayla Mabsout
Script: Ziad Antar
Director: Hatem Imam
Video: Nayla Mabsout

THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

PERFORMANCE

11.30 AM

SALA D'ARMI E

NATHALIE VAIRAC

Uppu

30'

Uppu is the Tamil word for salt, a mineral essential to life; it is vital to our physiology and unites us in our shared humanity. To present a performance with salt—centered on salt and immersed in salt—means, for Nathalie Vairac, gazing at this infinite white mineral and giving it both space and a voice. It is a desire to learn from it and to fill the surrounding space with its resonance and the power of its vibration. It is about letting the salt that lives and vibrates within us shape our humanity.

Performer: Nathalie Vairac

LECTURE

4 PM

TEATRO PICCOLO ARSENALE

BJØRN SCHAEFFNER

Another Switzerland: Club Culture and the Forging of a Liberal Society

80'

In the late 1980s, nightlife across urban Switzerland was tightly regulated; in Zurich, much of it was required by law to stop at midnight. Amid this drabness, another Switzerland was taking shape. DJs, activists, artists, insiders and outsiders turned basements and disused factories into improvised, illegal venues: testing grounds for a new urban culture. Prompted by Clarissa Herbst and Dominique Rust's site-specific multimedia installation *Parfumerie* at Casetta Scaffali in the Arsenale, Bjørn Schaeffner's lecture places Parfumerie within the wider history of Swiss club culture. It asks what its nightlife reveals about a changing Switzerland, and how it helped change the country in turn.

Speaker: Bjørn Schaeffner
Introduction and moderation: Gabe Beckhurst Feijoo

FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

PERFORMANCE

2 PM & 5 PM
CORDERIE DELL'ARSENALE

YO-E RYOU

Breath Orchestra: Score for Silence

35'

A series of live orchestrations that build on the artist's audiovisual installation in the Arsenale. Performers gather through attentive acts of listening and breathing. Rooted in the artist's hydrofeminist research and relationship with the Haenyeo community—women who continue the tradition of freediving to collect food from the sea, and whose embodied knowledge is increasingly at risk of disappearing—the work draws from moments of breath-holding and silence within underwater labour. Each performance unfolds as an act of transmission and collective learning through a workshop-performance model.

Performers: Young Sun Kong, Jiin Gook, Emy Mårtensson Liljegren, Kim Han Yeonji, Hearin Jeong, KkotShin Im, Suhwa Kim, Bitna Youn, Hayun Kim
Choreographic Advisor: Young Sun Kong
Vocal Advisor: Jinsol Yu
Wearable Objects: Yumi Lee

LECTURE

4 PM
TEATRO PICCOLO ARSENALE

FRIEDA EKOTTO

Resilience Against Value: Authored Practices of Repair in Otobong Nkanga and Ibrahim Mahama

90'

This lecture looks at the gathering, wrapping, repairing and regenerating actions central to the practice of Otobong Nkanga and of Ibrahim Mahama. These are processes that redirect materials, labor, and time toward the relationships between land, body, and community that extraction was designed to break. They form a kind of resilience that only makes sense once we see it as an act of refusal. By treating disobedience as the foundation of resilience, the lecture reframes both artists' work as a sustained challenge to the value system that produces that damage pointing toward a model of authorship rooted in relation, not spectacle.

Speaker: Frieda Ekotto
Introduction and moderation: Rasha Salti

SATURDAY 21TH NOVEMBER

11 AM & 2 PM
CORDERIE DELL'ARSENALE

YO-E RYOU

Breath Orchestra: Score for Silence

35'

PERFORMANCE

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Choreographic Advisor: Young Sun Kong
Vocal Advisor: Jinsol Yu
Wearable Objects: Yumi Lee

12 PM
SALA D'ARMI E

LERATO SHADI

Unfolding

40'

PERFORMANCE

Rooted in Lerato Shadi's ongoing exploration of memory, visibility and collective processes, *Unfolding* is a quietly persistent reflection on how meaning is produced, preserved and transmitted across bodies and through time. The work unfolds through a group relay structure: participants move individually to the stage, wrap a stone with red wool and pass the transformed object to another participant, who continues the work. As the action repeats, the object slowly changes form, accumulating time, touch and the traces of many hands. The act of wrapping becomes a gesture of protection and connection, while the passage of the stone from one participant to another evokes histories and forms of knowledge carried collectively rather than individually.

Performers: Camille Badirou, Trovania Dellile, Viviana Medina, Rebecca Pokua Korang, Lerato Shadi

4 PM

TEATRO PICCOLO ARSENALE

TAREK EL-ARISS

Emptying the Jars of War, or How We Learned to Love Nature

90’

LECTURE

Crises and wars don’t just damage the environment; they unsettle how we think about nature itself. Beginning with scenes culled from the quotidian (like saving jars of water for bathing during wartime in Lebanon), the lecture moves through longer histories and mythologies of water and greenery, from the Garden of Eden to Greek and Islamic traditions, pausing on the oasis as a recurring fantasy. Environmental practices do not necessarily emerge from conscious ethical choices; often, they happen against our will, through habit, fear or the quest for survival. Sustainability is reframed as a negotiation interrogating the politics of purity and control, imagining alternative futures.

Speaker: Tarek El-Ariss
Introduction and moderation: Rasha Salti

SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER

PERFORMANCE

4 PM

TESE DEI SOPPALCHI

LAURIE ANDERSON

In This World

90’

In Minor Keys concludes with a solo performance by multidisciplinary artist Laurie Anderson, combining music, storytelling and video projection in a performative extension of her installations *Notebook* and *All In Your Head*, presented in the Arsenale as part of Biennale Arte 2026.

TESE DEI SOPPALCHI

TEATRO PICCOLO ARSENALE

SALA D'ARMI E

Arsenale Nord

Giardino
delle Vergini

Ponte dei
Pensieri

TPA

EDU

ACTV Stop:
Arsenale

Via Garibaldi

ARSENALE

CORDERIE / ARTIGLIERIE

ARTIGLIERIE

Hagar Ophir

CORDERIE

Yo-E Ryou, rana elnemr

BIENNALE ARTE 2026

ARSENALE

Open until 22 November 2026

Opening hours 10.00–18.00

To attend the events, visitors must hold a valid admission ticket to Biennale Arte 2026, except for events taking place at Teatro Piccolo, which are free of charge until capacity is reached.

The programme may be subject to change.

Scan the QR code or click here to prepare your visit and buy your ticket

Info

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