

LA BIENNALE  
DI VENEZIA



La Biennale di Venezia

Arte  
Architettura  
Cinema  
Danza  
Musica  
Teatro  
Archivio Storico

# Social Guide

60<sup>TH</sup>  
INTERNATIONAL  
ART EXHIBITION



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The guide was created in collaboration with the Centro Diurno Sant’Alvise in Venice, run by the Cooperativa sociale CSSA, and with the help of the group Anffas Nord Milano autorappresentanti; both were involved as proofreaders and in the production of the text.



Photo by Andrea Avezù.  
La Biennale di Venezia

## Ca' Giustinian

Headquarters of La Biennale di Venezia

# Introduction

**This guide will help to lead you into the world of La Biennale di Venezia and to get to know all its activities.**

In the guide you will find information about:

- What La Biennale di Venezia is
- What you can see there
- What rules you must follow
- Where you can go
- Who can give you the information that can help you.

This is a long guide,  
but you can read just the parts that interest you.  
You can ask someone for help if you are unsure  
or if there is a word or a sentence you don't understand.

# La Biennale di Venezia

**La Biennale di Venezia is a cultural institution that organizes exhibitions and festivals.**

**La Biennale di Venezia organizes:**

- the Art Exhibition
- the Architecture Exhibition
- the Film Festival
- the Dance Festival
- the Theatre Festival
- the Music Festival

You can see shows at the festivals.

For example you can see:

a ballet



a show



a concert.



Photos by Andrea Avezzi.  
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At the Architecture Exhibition you will find projects designed by architects.  
A project is for example the design of a house, of a building or of a city square.

At the Architecture Exhibition you will find:

a drawing



a sculpture

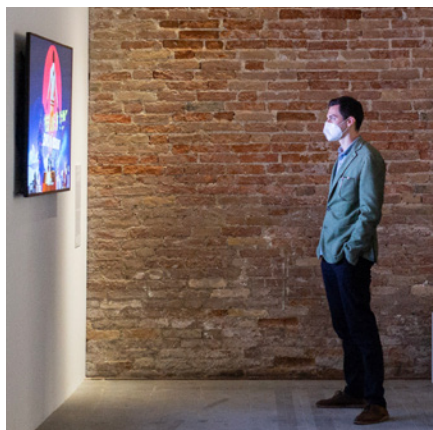


an environment



Photos by Luca Chiandoni.  
La Biennale di Venezia

a video



a model



an installation.



Photos by Jacopo Salvi.  
La Biennale di Venezia

People go to an exhibition  
to learn new things,  
to have fun,  
to be with their friends.

# The Art Exhibition

The title of the Art Exhibition this year is “**Foreigners Everywhere**”.  
The title “Foreigners Everywhere” comes from a work by Claire Fontaine.



**Foreigners Everywhere (Spanish)**, 2007  
Photo Studio Claire Fontaine.  
Courtesy Claire Fontaine and Mennour, Paris.  
© Studio Claire Fontaine.

Claire Fontaine is not a person, like you or me:  
it is the name of an 'art collective':  
a group of artists working together.

Claire Fontaine is an invented name,  
which suggests the name of a woman.

Two artists have created a new name  
as if she were the one making the works.

Together, they use art to express ideas and emotions  
and also to make people think about the world around them.



Photo by Luca Chiandoni.  
La Biennale di Venezia

The work "Foreigners Everywhere" by Claire Fontaine  
is made up of 53 neon writings in different colours.  
Each one shows the phrase 'foreigners everywhere'  
in a different language.



The curator of this exhibition decided to call the exhibition “Foreigners Everywhere” because wherever we are, we always meet foreigners, people who are different from us.

Think of the city of Venice:  
here foreigners are everywhere!

We are all a bit like foreigners for each other,  
because we are all different from each other.



Photo by Luca Chiandoni.  
La Biennale di Venezia

A foreigner can be someone who has arrived from another country and has chosen to live far away from home, or has been forced to leave the place where he or she was born. The words 'foreigner' and 'stranger' bring to mind the word 'strange'... because sometimes foreigners and strangers may seem a bit strange to us.

A foreigner can be someone who feels different, different from us or from others. Being different makes us unique and special and that can be beautiful.

The curator thinks we are all foreigners because we are all different and we do not know ourselves fully. The others are like an unknown country to us. We are like foreign countries to be known and discovered.

Most of the artists present in this exhibition are exhibiting for the first time at the Biennale.

Many artists are not very famous, and have learnt their art by themselves without studying it at school.

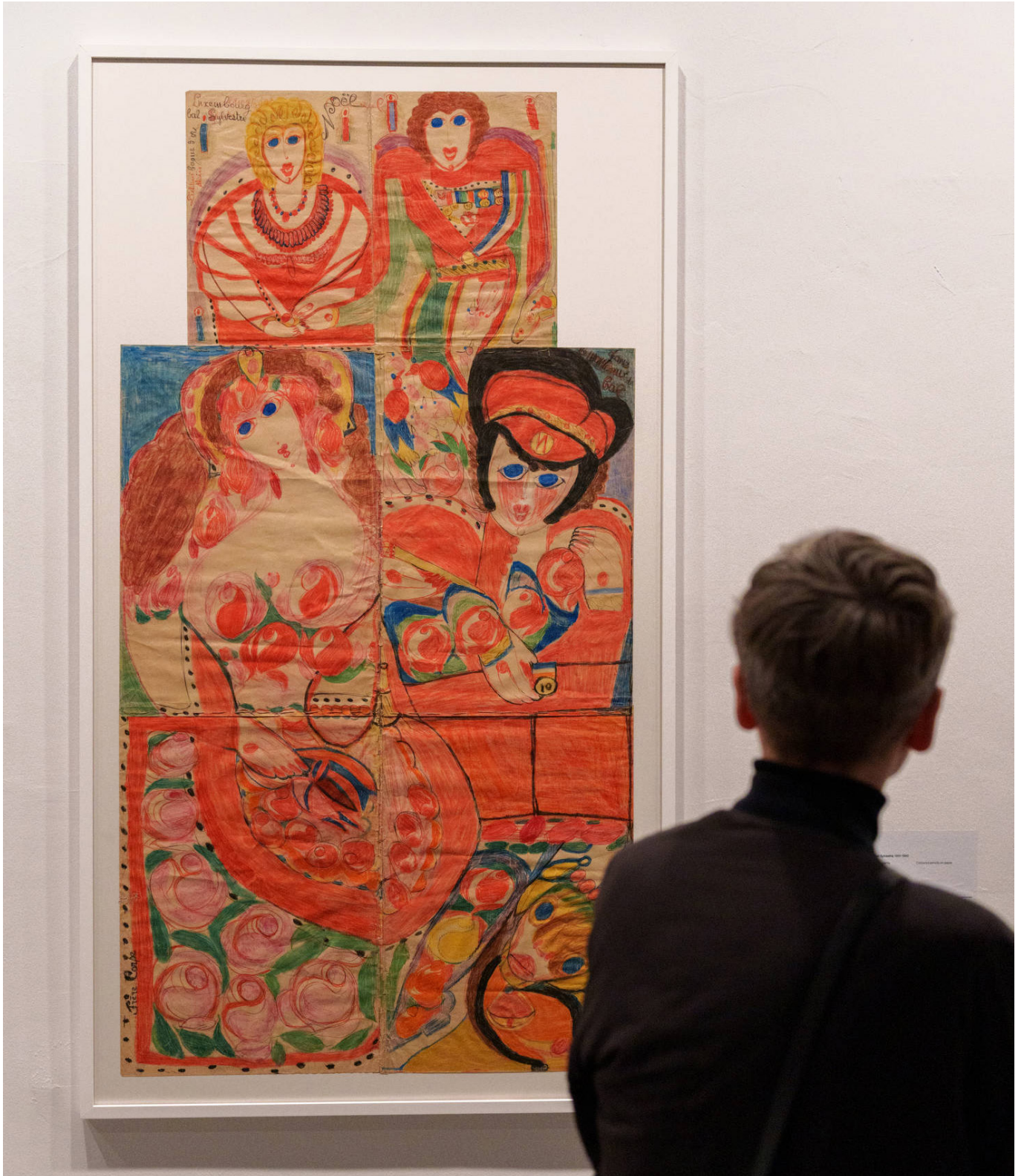


Photo by Luca Chiandoni.  
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Many are indigenous artists: that is, they come from faraway places and are the descendants of ancient and fascinating populations.



Photo by Luca Chiandoni.  
La Biennale di Venezia

Many are queer artists.  
'Queer' once meant 'strange' or 'odd'.  
Now 'queer' is used  
to talk about people  
who experience love and sexuality  
as they wish.

Queer people may love people of the same sex,  
they may love people of a different sex  
or they may feel different about their gender.

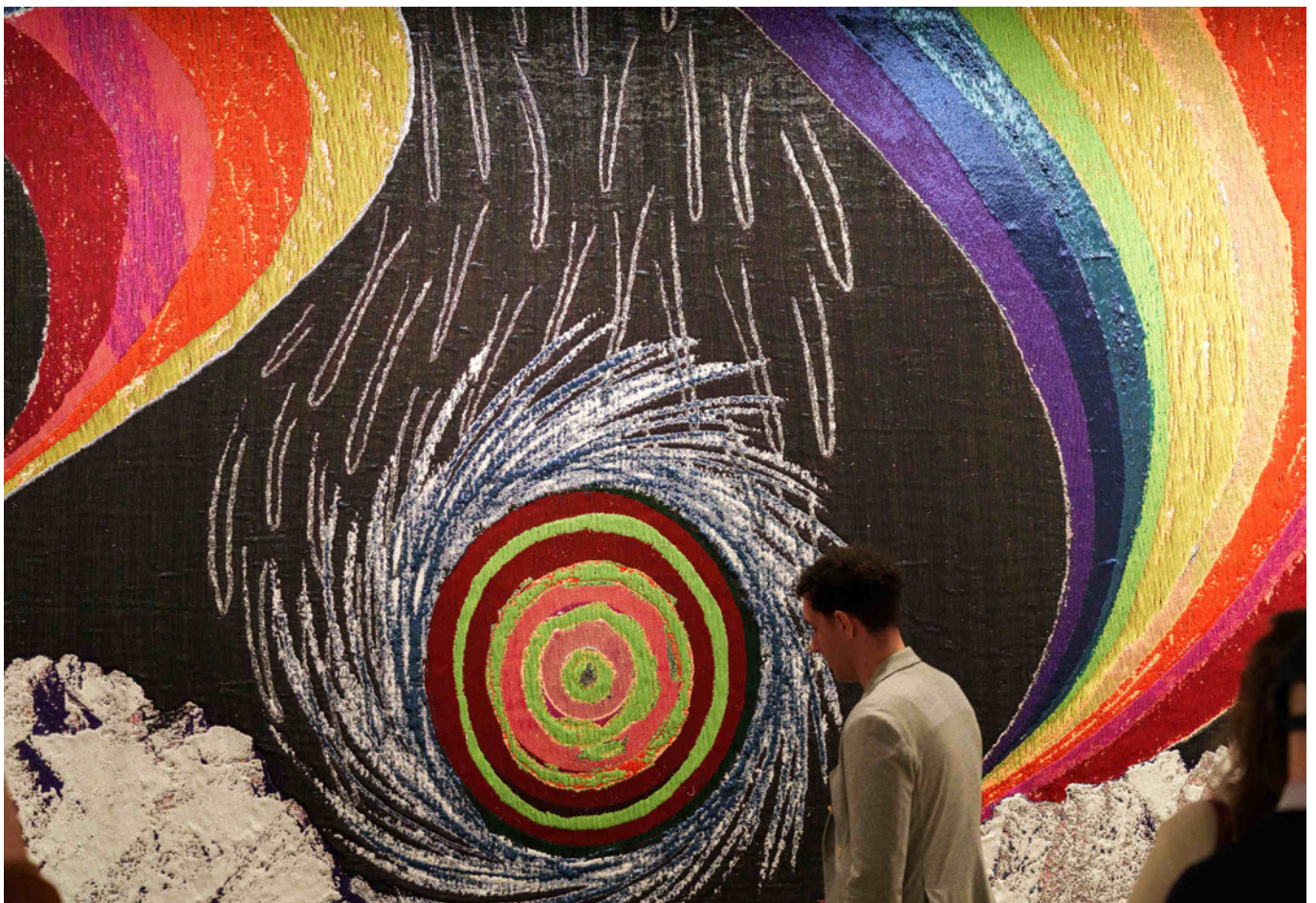


Photo by Luca Chiandoni.  
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## The curator of the Exhibition is Adriano Pedrosa.

The curator is a very important person because:

- he decides the title of the Exhibition;
- he invites the participating artists;
- he chooses the featured works;
- he decides the location of the works,  
the precise place where they have to be exhibited.



Photo by Jacopo Salvi.  
La Biennale di Venezia

Adriano Pedrosa was born in Brazil;  
he graduated in law and studied Art and Critical Writing.  
Since 2014, he has been the Artistic Director  
of Museu de arte de Sao Paulo - MASP in Brazil.

# The venues of La Biennale

La Biennale di Venezia, as the name says, is in Venice.

To get there you might have to take a **train or a bus**.

To get there you might have to take a boat,  
the boat that carries people is called a **vaporetto**.



Photo by Jacopo Salvi.  
La Biennale di Venezia

To visit the Exhibitions and the Festivals of La Biennale di Venezia

**You can buy a ticket on the Internet website:**

<https://www.labiennale.org/en/art/2024/information#tickets>



You can download the ticket on your phone  
in order to avoid printing and help the environment.

La Biennale di Venezia is located in **two main venues**.  
The first one is called **Giardini** and it is the original location.



The second one is called **Arsenale**.



Photos by Luca Chiandoni.  
La Biennale di Venezia



With your ticket you can visit both venues,  
even on different days.

With your ticket you can go  
once into the venue of the Giardini,  
and once into the venue of the Arsenale.

The Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia is very big.  
It takes a long time to visit, at least one day.

La Biennale di Venezia organizes exhibitions that last a few months.  
This is why every year you can see different artworks or projects.



Photo by Jacopo Salvi.  
La Biennale di Venezia

**Inside the Giardini and the Arsenale  
there are people who can help you.**

You can ask these people questions  
and you can ask for all the information you need.  
You can recognize these people by the T-shirts  
they wear that say 'ASK ME'.



Photo by Jacopo Salvi.  
La Biennale di Venezia

You can ask these people for information about the works  
and the projects on display in the Exhibition spaces.

You can also ask them where is:

- the bar
- the bookshop
- the exit
- the bathrooms

These people are glad to help you.

# The Giardini venue

At the entrance to the Giardini of La Biennale you will find people wearing a badge.

They are there to welcome and admit the people who want to see the Exhibition.

You can show your ticket to these persons before going in.



Photo by Andrea Avezzù.  
La Biennale di Venezia

If you were unable to buy your ticket you can go to the Information Office (Info Point) where you will find help.



Photo by Andrea Avezzù.  
La Biennale di Venezia

**This venue is called Giardini  
because it is inside a very large garden.**



Photo by Jacopo Salvi.  
La Biennale di Venezia

A long time ago these gardens were part of the Napoleonic Gardens  
because Napoleon was the one who created them.

Napoleon was an important French politician and general.

There were houses and churches here before.

The houses and churches were torn down  
to make space for trees and plants.

**An architect named Giannantonio Selva designed this garden.**

This means that he chose the plants, the trees, the flowers, and laid out trails and pathways to walk through the greenery.

In this garden there are sycamore trees, ivy, honeyberry trees.

You can even find laurel bushes.

If you walk you can smell the aroma of the flowers and the plants.



Photo by Jacopo Salvi.  
La Biennale di Venezia

**Inside the Giardini you can start your visit.**

**Here you can:**

- visit the Central Pavilion
- visit one or more National Pavilions
- take a walk along the paths in this garden
- sit on the benches and rest
- eat or drink something while sitting on the benches
- eat or drink something in the bars or in the restaurant.



Photo by Luca Chiandoni.  
La Biennale di Venezia

## When you walk into the pavilions

**you have to be careful and follow these rules:**

- you can take photos
- you can't eat or drink
- you can't sit on the floor
- you can't touch the artworks and the projects,  
or you can touch the artworks and the projects  
only if you have permission to do it.



Photo by Luca Chiandoni.  
La Biennale di Venezia

**You can start your visit to the Exhibition from the Central Pavilion**

and continue your visit by going into the National Pavilions

**or**

you can do the opposite,

**first visit one or more National Pavilions**

and then the Central Pavilion.



# The Central Pavilion

**The Central Pavilion is a big white pavilion,  
it is the biggest Pavilion of all.**

On the front of the Pavilion is a sign saying 'la Biennale'  
because in this Pavilion you can visit  
the Biennale Arte or the Biennale Architettura.

Every year the front of the pavilion can be a little different.  
Sometimes the artists or the architects decide to change the front  
by putting artworks or installations on it.



Photo by Luca Chiandoni.  
La Biennale di Venezia

Inside the Central Pavilion this year you can visit  
the Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.  
This means that you can see the artworks of artists  
who come from all over the world.

**Inside the Central Pavilion there is the bar and restaurant called Caffetteria Rehberger after the artist who won the Golden Lion as best artist of the 2009 Biennale Arte.**

It was given this name because it was designed by the German artist Tobias Rehberger.

Here you can sit at a table and eat or drink.

You can hear the sounds of people eating and talking, and smell the coffee and the food.



Photo by Giorgio Zucchiatti.  
La Biennale di Venezia

There are also other places to eat outside the Central Pavilion.

There are little bars in the gardens where you can drink, eat, rest and look at the view.

**Inside the Central Pavilion,  
you can take a look around the Biennale Bookshop.**

The Bookshop is a store where you can find books and objects.

Here you can buy books and objects to remember your visit.



Photo by Jacopo Salvi.  
La Biennale di Venezia

# The National Pavilions

**Inside this garden are the National Pavilions.**

The pavilions were built to show the projects by architects and art works from all around the world.

There are 29 National Pavilions at the Giardini.

The National Pavilions look like little houses, each pavilion carries the name of a country.

Inside each pavilion there is a small exhibition with projects and artworks that come from the Country named on the front of the building.



Photo by Luca Chiandoni.  
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**Inside each pavilion you can find  
the artists' artworks.**

**This one, for example, is the United States Pavilion.**



Photo by Jacopo Salvi.  
La Biennale di Venezia

Inside the United States Pavilion you can find  
artworks that come from the United States.

**This one is the German Pavilion.**

Inside the German Pavilion you can find artworks that come from Germany.



Photo by Jacopo Salvi.  
La Biennale di Venezia

All these pavilions were built at different times.

If you want, you can have fun discovering when they were built.

# The Arsenale venue

The second venue in which the Exhibitions of La Biennale di Venezia take place is the Arsenale.

It is a 15-minute walk to get from one venue to the other.



Photo by Luca Chiandoni.  
La Biennale di Venezia

At the entrance of the Arsenale  
you will find persons wearing a badge.  
They are there to welcome and admit  
the people who want to see the Exhibition.  
You can show your ticket  
to these persons before going in.



Photo by Luca Chiandoni.  
La Biennale di Venezia

If you were unable to buy your ticket  
you can go to the Information Office  
(Info Point) where you will find help.



The Arsenale di Venezia is a very old place.

The Arsenale in the past was a very important place for Venice.

**Long ago, in this large area the Venetians used to build ships.**

The Arsenale was a sort of large ship factory  
and a lot of people worked there.



Photo by Andrea Avezù.  
La Biennale di Venezia

**La Biennale has been using the Arsenale spaces since 1999.**

**After restoring them La Biennale opened the spaces to the public.**

## Here you can:

- visit the Exhibition spaces which are called Corderie and Artiglierie
- visit one or more National Participations
- rest on the chairs outdoors
- eat or drink something as you sit on the chairs
- eat or drink something in the bars or in the restaurant.



Photo by Luca Chiandoni.  
La Biennale di Venezia

## When you walk inside the rooms

### you must be careful to follow these rules:

- you can take photographs
- you can't eat and drink
- you can't sit on the floor
- you can't touch the artworks and the projects  
or you can touch the artworks and the projects  
only if you have permission.

In the Arsenale you can visit part of the Art Exhibition of La Biennale.

**Inside the Arsenale you will find different buildings.**

The first building you will see is called **Corderie**.

In 1980 the 1<sup>st</sup> International Architecture Exhibition was organized.

With the first Architecture Exhibition,

La Biennale began to use this space

to show the works of the artists and the projects by the architects.

This is where the Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia starts.



Photo by Jacopo Salvi.  
La Biennale di Venezia

Every year the curator can decide to divide this space into a series of smaller spaces or leave it as it is. Here you see the empty space, without artworks or projects.



Photo by Andrea Avezzù.  
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**In this big building divided by columns,  
they made ropes for the ships.  
The Italian word for ropes is 'corde'.  
That is why this building is called Corderie.**

After the Corderie you will find another big long building which is called **Artiglierie**.

**The building is named Artiglierie because it used to be a warehouse and could hold weapons or gunpowder.**

Weapons and munitions were produced and kept in these buildings.

Most of these buildings were built in the sixteenth century.



Photo by Andrea Avezù.  
La Biennale di Venezia

The Artiglierie building is divided into different spaces, where you can find works by artists from different nations.

**These spaces host the National Participations.**

Here you can find small exhibitions with works from all over the world.



Photo by Luca Chiandoni.  
La Biennale di Venezia

In front of the Artiglierie you will find the **Sale d'Armi**, which were used as a place to display weapons. This happened during the times of the Serenissima (as Venice once was called).

**Today the Sale d'Armi host the National Participations and the Pavilion of Applied Arts.**



Photo by Jacopo Salvi.  
La Biennale di Venezia

**Inside the Arsenale there is a bar and restaurant.  
The bar and restaurant is called Le Bombarde.**



La Biennale di Venezia

Here you can sit at a table and eat or drink.  
You can hear the sounds of the people eating and talking.

You can smell the coffee and the food.  
You can find other places to eat outside  
the Corderie and the Artiglierie.  
You will find little bars  
where you can drink, eat, rest and look at the view.



When you finish your visit you can take a look around the **Biennale Bookshop**.

The bookshop is a store where you will find books and objects.

Here you can buy books and objects to remember your visit.



La Biennale di Venezia

If you want you can take a walk  
outside the buildings.



Photo by Luca Chiandoni.  
La Biennale di Venezia

As you walk you will find:

the Teatro alle Tese



La Biennale di Venezia

an antique Crane  
from the 19<sup>th</sup> century



Photo by Jacopo Salvi.  
La Biennale di Venezia

the Italian Pavilion



Photo by Andrea Avezzù.  
La Biennale di Venezia

the Gaggiandre, where long ago  
they repaired the ships.

The ships could leave from here  
to sail into the sea.



Photo by Jacopo Salvi.  
La Biennale di Venezia

It can be wonderful to walk through these spaces  
and see these ancient buildings.

If you go beyond the Gaggiandre  
you arrive at the **Giardino delle Vergini**,  
a space open to the public even without a ticket.

This garden takes its name  
from the monastery of Santa Maria Vergine,  
which used to be there but was later demolished.

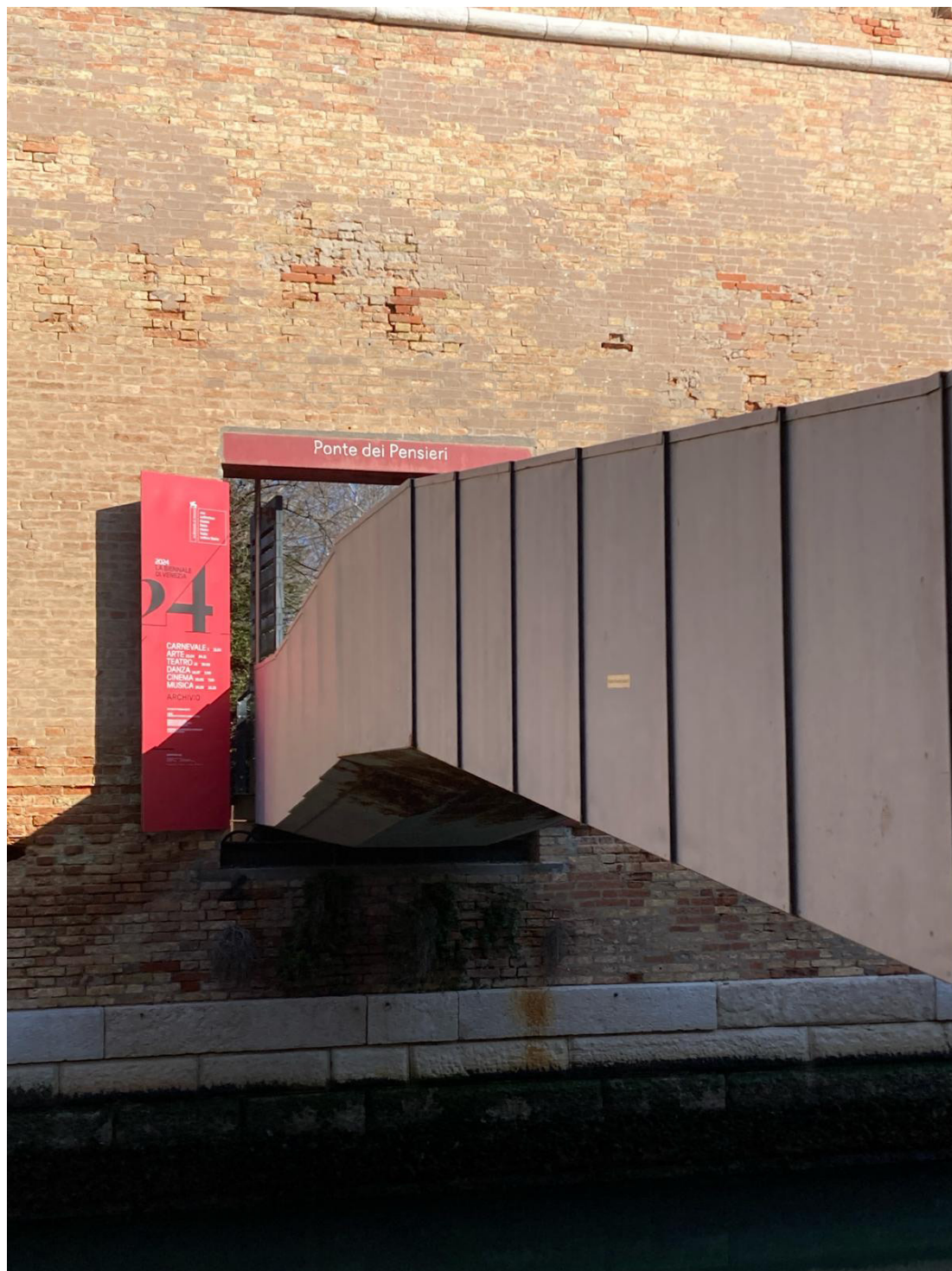
Also in this garden you can encounter the works of the artists of the Exhibition.



Photo by Jacopo Salvi.  
La Biennale di Venezia

At the end of the route you can exit crossing the **Ponte dei Pensieri**, a new bridge built in 2009.

Through this bridge it is possible to enter and exit this location.



La Biennale di Venezia

# In the city

Some of the National Participations are located outside the venues of Giardini and Arsenale.

If you walk around the city in fact, you will see this image.

**It is called logo, and it is the symbol to recognize La Biennale di Venezia.**

If you find this image it means that you are standing in front of a **National Participation**, a space where you can find works by artists that come from another country; or in front of a **Collateral Event**, another exhibition linked to the Biennale.

This means that you can enter and visit the exhibition.

In Venice you will also find **Ca' Giustinian**, a sixteenth-century building where the offices of La Biennale di Venezia are located.



Photo by Jacopo Salvi.  
La Biennale di Venezia

Curated by

# **Biennale Educational**

Thanks to Gilberto Pozzi