



La Biennale di Venezia

Arte
Architettura
Cinema
Danza
Musica
Teatro
Archivio Storico

SOCIAL GUIDE

**61ST
INTERNATIONAL
ART EXHIBITION**



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Ca' Giustinian, headquarters of La Biennale di Venezia

Photo by Jacopo Salvi

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



Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

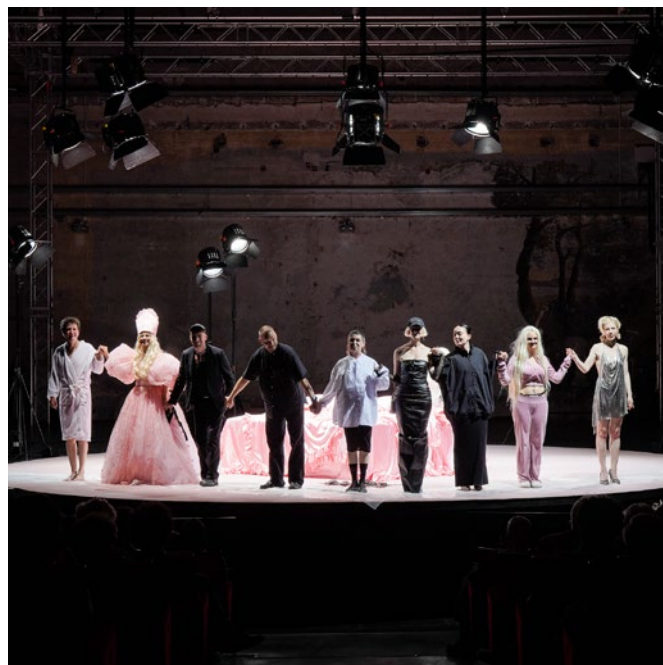
You can see shows at the festivals.

For example you can see:

a ballet



a show



a concert.



Photo by Andrea Avezzi
La Biennale di Venezia

At the Art Exhibition you can see artworks.

An artwork can be:

a drawing



a sculpture



Photos by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

a painting



a video



Photos by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

a photograph



Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

a light installation.



Photo 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

This exhibition was organised by a woman called Koyo Kouoh.

The title of the Art Exhibition this year is “In Minor Keys”.



Corderie, Arsenale
Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

In music, “minor keys” are sounds that are soft, calm, and sometimes a little sad.

They are not loud like the drums in a march;
they are gentle like a whisper or a poem.

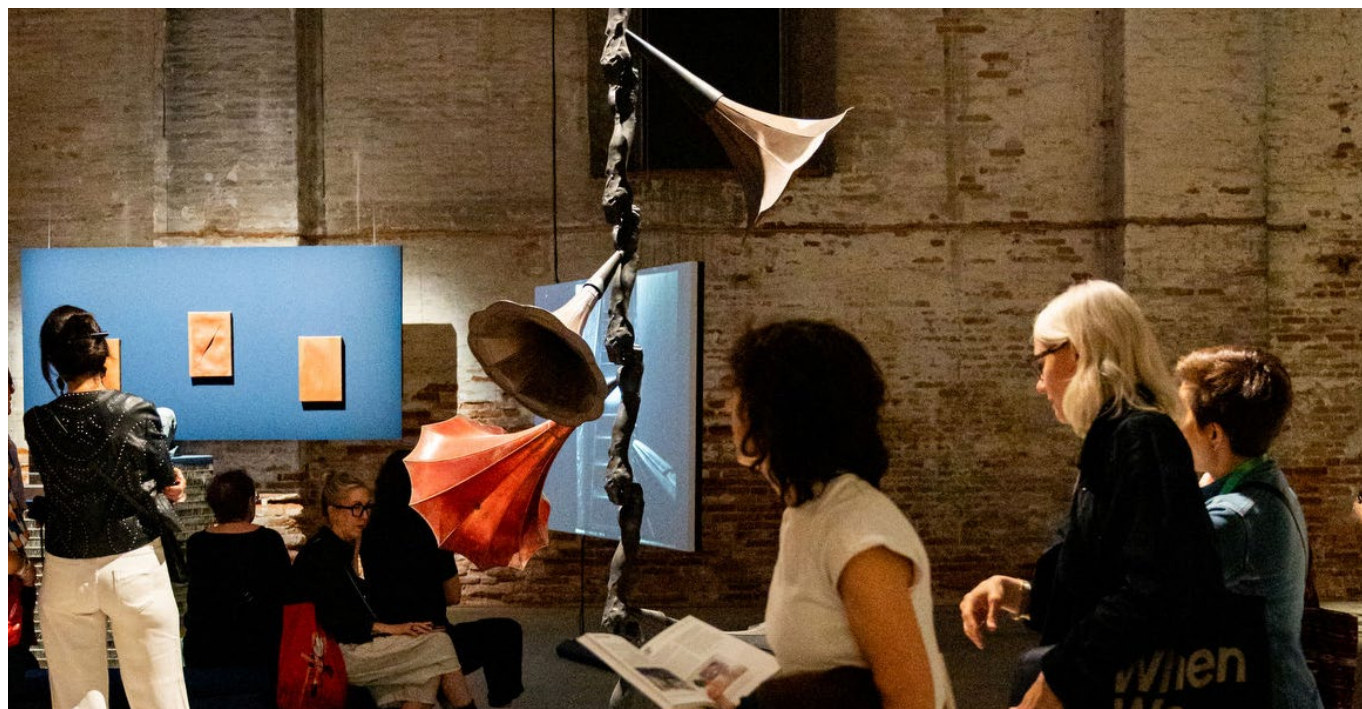
They are sounds that feel like a comforting song.

The curator invites us to do three simple things.

Slow down: do not be in a hurry.

Breathe: take a deep breath and relax.

Listen: use your ears and your heart to feel the beauty.



Corderie, Arsenale
Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

Even though today's world is full of noise and confusion,
art and music create beauty
despite the difficulties.

Minor keys are often associated with sadness,
but in this exhibition they also bring
joy and hope.

They are a way to feel connected to others,
acting like a light that shines in dark times.

According to the curator, art is like a garden or a cluster of many small islands.

Art is made of many special spaces, such as courtyards, dance floors, or rooms where artists create their work.

In these places, we can feel better and full of energy; in these places, everyone is respected and protected.



Central Pavilion, Giardini
Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

In this exhibition,
the artists work together like jazz musicians:
they create new things freely.



**Belgium Pavilion,
Artiglierie, Arsenale**
Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

The artists show us things we can see,
things we can feel,
and things we can listen to.
To experience this exhibition,
we can use all of our senses,
not just our minds.



Central Pavilion, Giardini
Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

The exhibition does not just want to talk about the world's problems.

Its goal is to:

make you dream and wonder;
help you feel at peace with nature;
make you feel the love and magic in life,
just like in ancient songs and stories.

This exhibition is like one big song
written by many different people;
each artist adds their own melody
to create a more welcoming world.

The curator of the Exhibition is Koyo Kouoh.

The curator is a very important person because:

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



Photo by Mirjam Kluka.

Koyo Kouoh has unfortunately passed away.

The exhibition was organised by her closest collaborators:
**Abe Beckhurst Feijoo, Marie H el ene Pereira, Rasha Salti,
Siddhartha Mitter and Rory Tsapayi.**



Photo by Andrea Avez u
La Biennale di Venezia

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**.



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/2026/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.

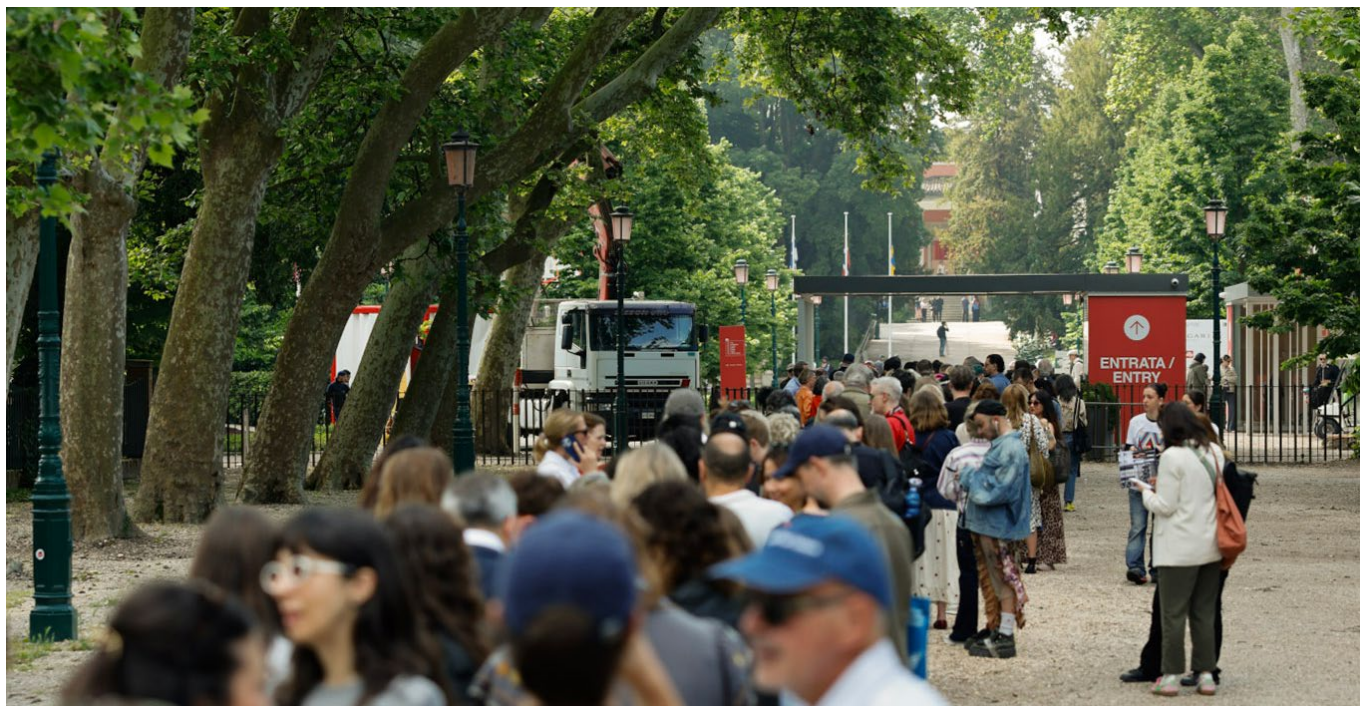


Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

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



Catalogo attivo
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'.

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



Giardini entrance
Photo by Andrea Avezù
La Biennale di Venezia

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 must show your ticket to these persons before going in.



Giardini Infopoint / Ticket Office

Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

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



Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

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

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 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.



Photo by Jacopo Salvi
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 people give you permission to touch them.



Central Pavilion, Giardini

Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

The curator has included some quiet spaces in the exhibition.
If you are tired, you can sit on the chairs and benches
you find as you walk through the rooms.



Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

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.



Central Pavilion, Giardini
Photo by Jacopo Salvi
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

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 Jacopo Salvi
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 Luca Chiandoni
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 Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

**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 France Pavilion.

Inside the France Pavilion you can find drawings and projects that come from France.



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



Arsenale entrance
Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

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, for instance from Giardini to Arsenale or vice-versa.



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 must show your ticket
to these persons before going in.



Arsenale Infopoint / Ticket Office
Photo by Jacopo Salvii
La Biennale di Venezia

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



Bird's-eye view of the Arsenale
Photo by Andrea Avezzi
La Biennale di Venezia

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.

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.



Alla Gru Cafe, Arsenale
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 people give you permission to touch them.

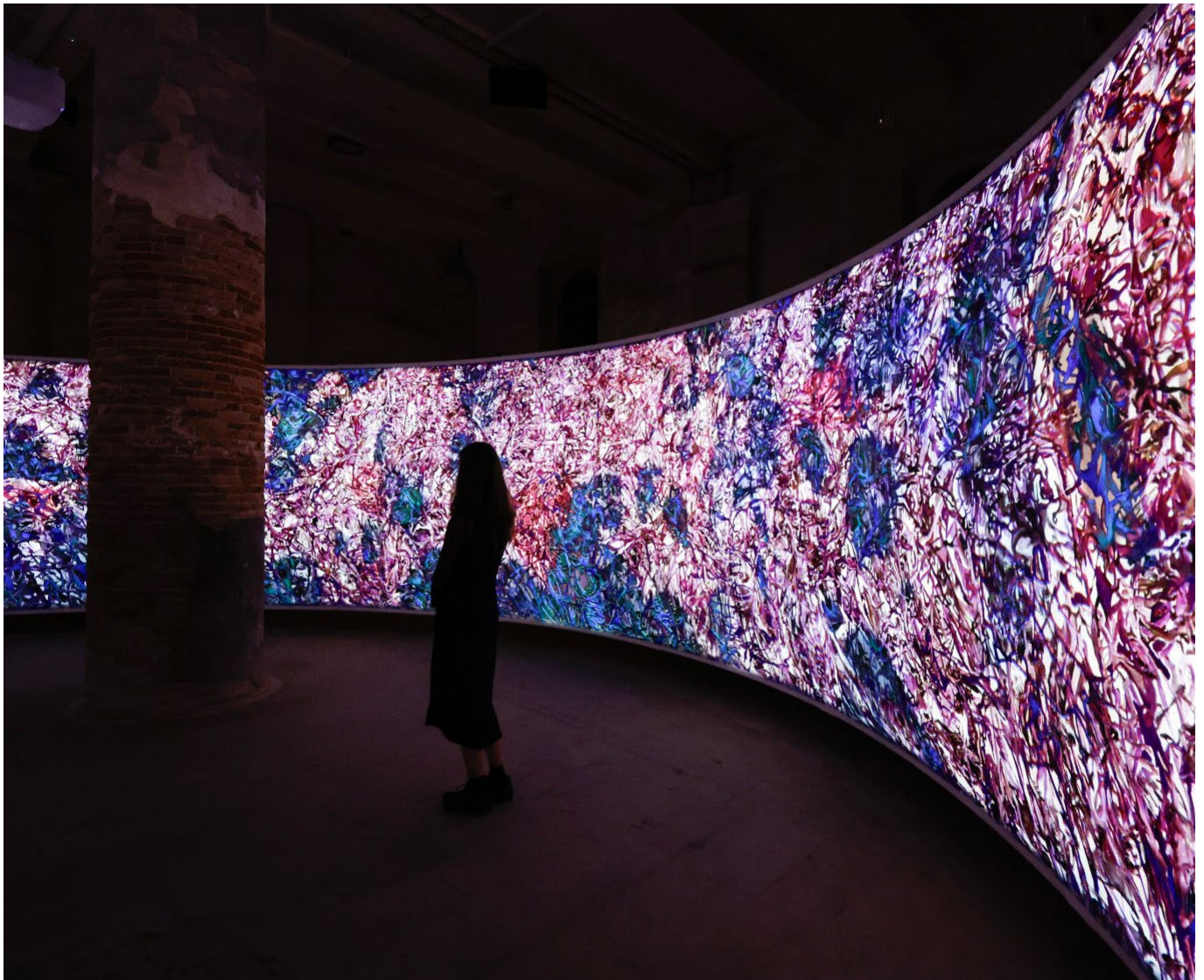


Chile Pavilion
Artiglierie, Arsenale
Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

The curator has included some quiet spaces in the exhibition.
If you are tired, you can sit on the chairs and benches
you find as you walk through the rooms.



Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia



khalil

Corderie, Arsenale

Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

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 1st 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.

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.

**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.**



Corderie, Arsenale
Photo by Andrea Avezzi
La Biennale di Venezia

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.



Artiglierie, Arsenale
Photo by Andrea Avezù
La Biennale di Venezia



Ireland Pavilion
Artiglierie, Arsenal
Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

The Artiglierie building is divided into different spaces, where you can find the projects by architects from different nations.

These spaces host the National Participations.

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



Saudi Arabia Pavilion
Sale d'Armi, Arsenale
Photo by Jacopo Salvi
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.

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

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.



Le Bombarde Restaurant
La Biennale di Venezia



Arsenale Bookshop
La Biennale di Venezia

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.

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



Arsenale outdoors
Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

As you walk you will find:
an antique Crane from the 19th century



Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

the Italian Pavilion



Photo by Andrea Avezzù
La Biennale di Venezia

the Gaggiandre.



Photo by Andrea Avezzù
La Biennale di Venezia

Long ago, ships were repaired inside the Gaggiandre.
The ships could leave from here to sail into the sea.

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.

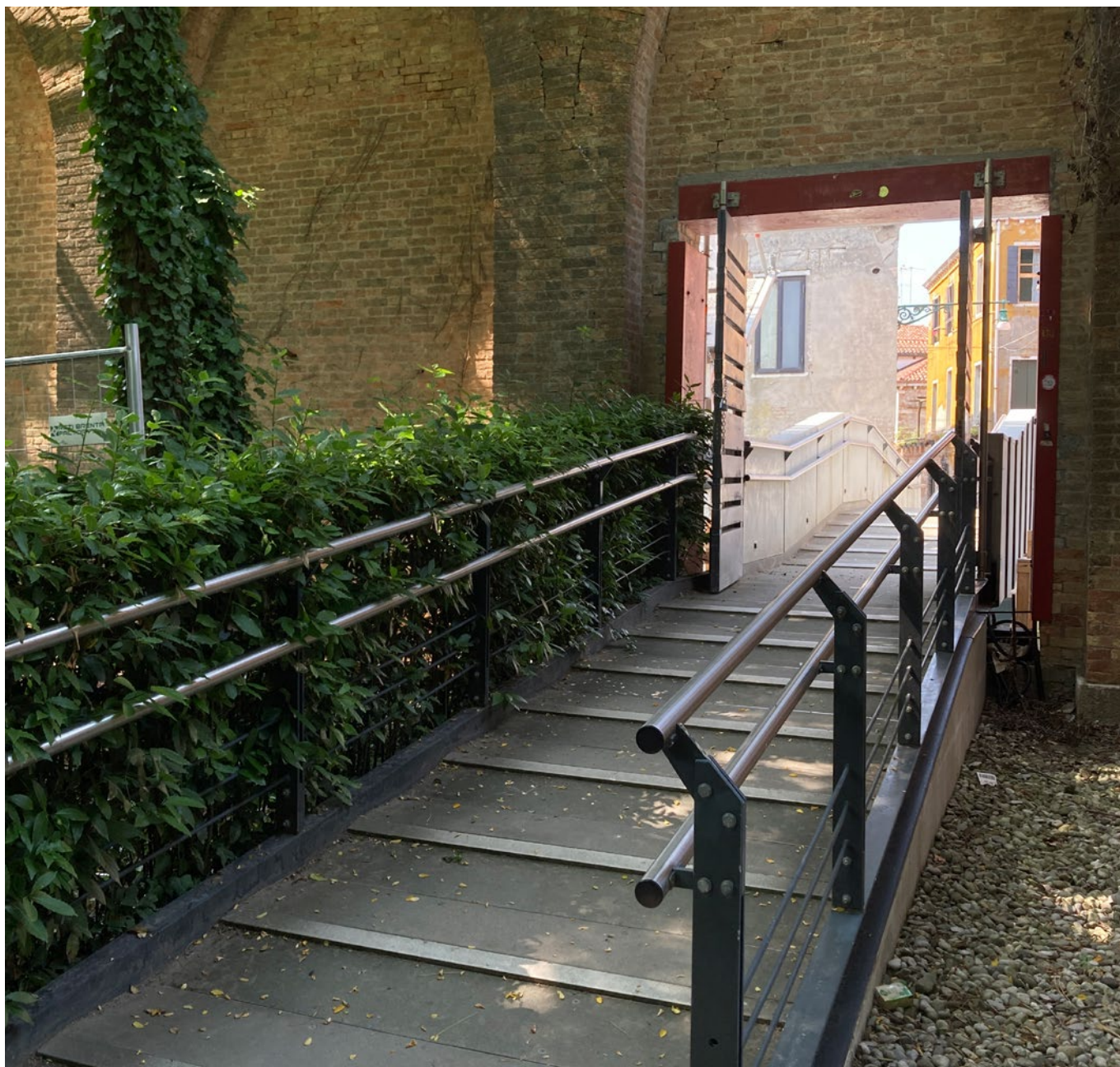
Also in this garden you can encounter the works of the artists of the Exhibition.



Obroni Wawu
Giardino delle Vergini
Photo by Luca Capuano
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.



Ponte dei Pensieri
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.



Ca' Giustinian
Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

Visitor Services

If walking is difficult for you, you can use an electric car to get around the exhibition venues.

You can ask staff for the following (subject to availability):
strollers, walkers, wheelchairs.



Electric car

Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

It is possible to book special guided tours for blind or visually impaired visitors.

It is possible to book special guided tours for deaf visitors in Italian Sign Language (LIS).

You can write to **promozione@labiennale.org**



Giardini wardrobe
La Biennale di Venezia

At the Giardini, there is a place where you can store small objects (like small bags or jackets).

However, you cannot leave suitcases or large bags there..

There is a paid service to look after or walk your dog if you bring one.

But you need to book this service at least one day in advance.

Small or medium-sized dogs, on a leash, are only allowed in the green area of the Giardini and not in the Arsenale.

Dogs must be kept on a leash and must be supervised.



Curated by

**Biennale
Educational**

Thanks to Gilberto Pozzi