

The Historical Archives of Contemporary Arts - ASAC

The Historical Archives of Contemporary Arts – ASAC collect documents and collections related to the activities of La Biennale di Venezia, gathered from 1895 to the present. In addition to their activities of conservation, cataloguing, inventorying and researching, the Historical Archives give free access to their funds to students and researchers from all over the world. Every artistic director of the different sectors of La Biennale (Art and Architecture, Cinema, Dance, Music and Theater) is called to further evaluate the archive materials by designing and curating small exhibitions.*

The **Historical Archives** are organized in the **Archive** and the **Library**.

Since 2008 the **Archive** has found its location in the spaces of the VEGA Scientific Park of Porto Marghera, appropriately set up to host archives and collections (Historical Fund, Posters, Music store, Film library, Media library, Artistic Fund, Collection of documents, Library, Periodicals) guaranteeing optimum microclimatic conditions for conservation and access to scholars for the consultation of materials. The Archive preserves documents related to the activities of the Biennale Foundation and materials related to the arts from the end of the XIX century. The Archive is distinguished by the heterogeneity of its materials, including press articles, photographs, documents, audiovisuals, scores, works of art, vinyl records, posters.

Since 2009 the **Library** is an integral part of the Central Pavilion at the Giardini. The Library specializes in contemporary art, with a special focus on documentation and deepening of the Foundation's activities, preserving all the catalogs of La Biennale activities and collecting bibliographic material related to the disciplines of visual arts, architecture, cinema, dance, photography, music, theater. Thanks to its book heritage of more than 159,000 volumes and 3,000 periodicals, it is one of the leading libraries of contemporary art in Italy.

A selection of works from the artistic fund are now on display in La Biennale headquarters at Ca' Giustinian.

The specific project of Biennale College “Scrivere in residenza” will be developed also at the Historical Archives: young scholars will be hosted to attend Festivals and events, accompanied by their tutors. They will attend seminars to deepen the themes related to the activity programs. One of the crucial steps for them will be the consultation and studying of the materials of the Archive, which becomes home to future critics.

* Artistic Directors have realized the following exhibitions starting from 2010:

Il Teatro del Mondo di Aldo Rossi; Italia: 150 / Biennale: 116 - Tutti i manifesti di 116 anni di vita in Mostra; Video Medium Intermedium - Video d'artista degli anni settanta dalle collezioni dell'ASAC; Gli “Archi” di Aldo Rossi per la III Mostra Internazionale di Architettura 1985; 20 Anni di Maschere e Costumi - Mostra dalla collezione di bozzetti teatrali; Amarcord - Frammenti di memoria dall'Archivio Storico della Biennale; Riapparizioni. Corpi, gesti, sguardi dai palcoscenici della Biennale. Album dal 1934 al 1976; L'idea del corpo. Merce Cunningham, Steve Paxton, Julian Beck, Meredith Monk e Simone Forti dall'Archivio della Biennale 1960-1976; 1999 - Una riproposta del percorso espositivo della mostra d'APERTutto a cura di Harald Szeemann; Biennale Arte 2001 - Platea dell'Umanità curatore Harald Szeemann; Registe alla Biennale Teatro 1934 – 2016; Il Cinema in Mostra. Volti e immagini dalla Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica 1932 – 2018; La Biennale per i giovani. College ed Educational 2008-2018.