

In Venice, the so-called “kilometre of art” in the Sestiere (quarter) of Dorsoduro – which extends and starts from the Ca’ Pesaro Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art to the Punta della Dogana, including the Academy of Fine Arts, the Guggenheim Museum, the Vedova Museum, the Salt Warehouses and the Pinault Collection to Punta della Dogana – will host an important artistic and cultural event, the international art exhibition.

Water Meridian Fire Meridian

*To observe, create and display, while going beyond the division between artist and spectator, in an area with a strongly symbolic character, is a feature of Venice and, in particular, its historic centre. The event will experiment with overcoming the boundaries of **the subtle link between water and fire as elements that are apparently opposite, but are joined by a connection that places them in an intermediate position, as complementary opposites.***

The event will experiment with overcoming the boundaries of the subtle link between water and fire as elements that are joined by a connection that places them in an intermediate position, like their complementary opposites, earth and air. They have always stimulated strongly symbolic cultural and artistic activity. This connotation can be sought in the fluid, transparent, diaphanous and purificatory elementary nature of water, whose reflections give rise to dreams and flights of fancy, or in the boiling, radiant luminosity and the cathartic burn of fire. Nevertheless, the material imagination of water is of something that is always in danger, because there is a risk of its annihilation when it comes into contact with the material imagination of earth or fire. In this differentiation and contrast the two elements find a reciprocal vitality that is translated into a creative stimulus.

The exhibition aims to lead the artist to suggestion and reflection that give rise to the creation of a synthesis of 'reveries', so that the works, in whatever formal-aesthetic form, have an autonomous character and unconstrained importance, while evoking the elements of water and fire that are considered their primary source.

The exhibition will take place **from 5th June to 30th September 2011**, in a period in which a series of important events, including the inauguration of the Visual Arts Biennale, the continuation of the new exhibition of the Pinault Collection at Punta della Dogana, the 'Notte dell'Arte' (Night of Art), the Marine Republics Rowing Cup and the traditional Festa del Redentore, make Venice an extremely lively and incomparable setting with a large number of quality events, until the month of September with the Campiello Award, the Film Festival and the Historic Regata, all initiatives that are a moment of **cultural ferment and great focus on the lagoon city**.

The **Water Meridian Fire Meridian** event is held to coincide with the Venice Biennale – Visual Arts, whose headquarters are at the **Salt Warehouses, in the historic Magazzino Gardini**, the enchanting home of the Royal Bucintoro Rowing Club 1882, the only Salt Warehouse with a three 'deck' structure almost like the inside of a ship, a company that is part of the event promoted by **Art&fortE**, with its **Bucintoro Cultura – Art&sale** Cultural Division. Located in the Zattere area, **in the heart of the new and most active cultural fulcrum of this city of contemporary art**, the exhibition space hosts important and internationally known artists.

In the Salt Warehouses, at the Magazzino del Sale Gardini, are works in the Water Meridian Section, by artists who share the same propensity for research into the theme of water, which has also been followed through a long path of artistic partnerships:

Gianmaria Potenza, Ferruccio Gard, Piergiorgio Baroldi, Adolfin de Stefani and Antonello Mantovani, Luigi Ballarin, Gerardo Di Salvatore, Resi Girardello, Ruggero Maggi, Lughia, Susanna Viale, Piero Ronzat, Lucio and Cesare Serafino, Vincenzo Vanin, Grieco Eleonora, Ornella Piluso – topylabrys, Giannino Ferlin and Luca Dall'Olio.

These also include the sensational new **Mostro della Laguna ("Lagoon Monster") with Simona M. Favrin** (curator of the work), **Nicola Moretti** (master glassmaker), **Jean Blanchaert** (arts consultant), **Orazio Gianluca** (project manager), **Alberto Toso Fei** (historical consultant) and the **Consorzio Promovetro Murano**, a unique work over six metres long, made of stainless steel and Vetro Artistico® Murano brand glass by maestro Nicola Moretti. The "Monster" is a sea creature that takes shape and inspiration from its place of origin, the Venice Lagoon, as narrated by Alberto



Toso Fei, traveller, journalist and Venetian history expert, on the basis of the ancient legend that tells of the monster that dwelt beneath Punta della Dogana, very close to where the exhibition is held.

In Palazzo Ca' Zanardi, in its prestigious multifunctional headquarters, the 'piano nobile' is the second location for the Fire Meridian Sector, where artists experiment with the boiling, radiant luminosity and the cathartic burn of fire of which fire is both the cause and the effect.

Water & Fire

Two opposing elements in nature that in this case blend in a single artistic and poetic impulse. Installations, video, painting and sculpture allow this exhibition to cover a vast national artistic panorama.

Water and Fire: two sides of the same coin that in this case do not cancel each other out but, through the filter of art, interact in this magnificent experience.... isn't an artist a bit of an alchemist anyway?

