

PERSONAL STRUCTURES

Reflections

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| Exhibition Title: | Personal Structures - Reflections |
| Venues: | Palazzo Bembo, Palazzo Mora, Marinaressa Gardens |
| Promoter: | European Cultural Centre |
| Curatorial Team: | Sara Danieli, Rachele De Stefano, Bérénice Freytag, Yuki Gómez Asami, Vittoria Mastrolilli, Lucia Pedrana, Claudia Piovan, Valeria Romagnini, Micaela Skerl, Suzanne van der Borg, Elena Volpato, Katerina Zachou |
| Opening Period: | 23 April - 27 November, 2022 |
| Welcoming Event: | 21 April 2022 11.00am - 2.00pm Palazzo Michiel |
| Preview Days: | 21 - 23 April 2022 Palazzo Bembo, Palazzo Mora, Marinaressa Gardens |
| Websites: | ecc-italy.eu personalstructures.com |

The European Cultural Centre (ECC) is working on the final preparations of the sixth edition of *Personal Structures*, the biennial contemporary art exhibition that will be launched next month on the 23rd of April and will run until the 27th of November, 2022, in the city of Venice. The ECC is delighted to celebrate the exhibition's opening with a range of preview events:

Welcoming Event

Introduction to this year's edition of *Personal Structures*, the ECC organisational team and the catalogue of the exhibition.

21 April – By invitation only
11.00am - 2.00pm | Palazzo Michiel

Reception Events

Networking events for industry and media professionals.

21 and 22 April – By invitation only
5.00 - 8.00pm | Marinaressa Gardens – Levante
6.00 - 10.00pm | Palazzo Bembo, Palazzo Mora

23 April – By invitation only
5.00 - 8.00pm | Marinaressa Gardens – Ponente

The extensive exhibition will feature a wide selection of artworks from internationally-renowned and emerging artists, photographers, and sculptors, as well as showcase projects by worldwide academic institutions. For 2022, the ECC is proud to announce that a total of 192 participants have joined this edition to present their works in the historical venues of Palazzo Bembo, Palazzo Mora and Marinaressa Gardens, located in the heart of the Venetian city. With a strong presence of female participants and an overall contribution of 51 countries, the ECC will present an edition unlike any other which this year will revolve around the idea of *reflections*.

After a careful study of the projects submitted, the ECC selected the concept of *reflections* as the guiding principle of the exhibition. The theme will be presented with a double reading and value: physically, as a phenomenon of the visible; and mentally, as a thought resulting from a meditative action.



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As envisioned by the ECC curatorial team, the act of reflecting carries the potential to foresee possibilities and the responsibility of imagining a better future.

In a present that demands more responsible and conscious actions, both individually and collectively, it is essential to be able to imagine a sustainable future. It is important to *reflect* by expressing the ideas, feelings, and experiences one has towards the outside world and in response to a community of individuals, reflecting on others' reflections, ultimately creating a virtuous circle.

The exhibitions at the European Cultural Centre aim to respond to the changing contexts and, as such, *Personal Structures* emerges in line with current conversations. The disruption of individuality and community experienced today and in these last two years has led to a revalorization of the self, art, the environment and our surroundings. Through different means and languages, artists express their thoughts and emotions on these aspects, presenting artworks touching upon spirituality and intimacy, feminism and equality, the environment and sustainability, the common and private spaces, and many more.

Artists and intellectuals have always looked at society and the events surrounding them, suggesting interpretations or proposing different points of view. In 'Personal Structures - Reflections', the artists reflect through their works of art, different themes and current issues, such as climate change, environmental and social sustainability, ethnic and gender equality. Hence, the exhibition imprints and suggests realistic and utopian art-driven alternatives, where the audience has the opportunity to relate with.

– Sara Danieli, Head of Art, ECC Italy

The pieces will be exhibited across three different venues, with each location offering a particular experience. Palazzo Mora takes advantage of its vast and white-cube rooms of different dimensions to dedicate each space to an artist, aiming to enhance the concept that lays beneath each project. Palazzo Bembo hosts inedite site-specific installations created by the artists especially for this occasion, allowing for an immersive experience within the palace. And the Marinaressa Gardens welcome installations and sculptures that tune into the natural environment, converting these beautiful public gardens into an open-air sculpture park.



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Personal Structures in Venice: At the crossroads of culture

The exhibition takes place in one of the most historically artistic cities in the world and coexists simultaneously with other cultural attractions that unfold at the same time in Venice. Grasping the opportunity at hand, the European Cultural Centre emphasises the importance of broadening the scope and aims to offer a space for creative and artistic expression, to both new and established names. It reminds us that art, being an essential part of culture and a key to opening new ideas and experiences, should be open to everyone. Therefore, as every year all ECC venues will continue to be accessible free of charge for all visitors, giving the public the chance to wander in typically characteristic Venetian buildings.

Program

During the opening weeks in April, the European Cultural Centre will host multiple events taking place in its different locations, including an engaging artist talk by the creative Galerie Myrtis, an interactive panel presented by the Spanish photo book fair *Fiebre*, and different stunning performances by artists who will bring their artworks to life.

Throughout the entire duration of *Personal Structures*, the exhibition will be completed by a series of events both in-person and online, which will be streamed and shared on ECC's YouTube and Instagram @ecc_italy channels. These include conversations, performances, and workshops that aim to create a dialogue between current developments, ideas, and thoughts in the contemporary art field.

The complete programme is available on the exhibition's website [Personal Structures](#).

Website and Catalogue

With the goal to enhance the experience of the exhibition virtually, the ECC has launched an exclusive platform dedicated to *Personal Structures* that can be explored at www.personalstructures.com. This digital space features all artworks exhibited along with the complete list of participants and their respective, individual profiles - providing all necessary information about their work, scope and location. In parallel, through the website visitors can also experience the exhibition online by means of immersive virtual tours, written and filmed stories, and conversations with participants.

Additionally, the official catalogue of the sixth edition of *Personal Structures*, curated and designed by the ECC Italy team and created by local printer Grafiche Veneziane, is dedicated to over 200 projects presented at Palazzo Mora, Palazzo Bembo and Marinaressa Gardens in occasion of the biennial art exhibition in Venice. As an extension of the exhibition itself, the European Cultural Centre will offer two printed versions of the *Personal Structures* 2022 Catalogue: a collectable hardcover publication and a paperback one that accompany and guide the spectator through the exhibition. The catalogue will also be available digitally and downloadable at the exhibition's website.



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Collateral event: *From Palestine With Art*

The European Cultural Centre is delighted to host *From Palestine With Art*, an exhibition organised by the Palestine Museum US, which will take place in the iconic venue of Palazzo Mora. The exhibition is a Collateral Event of the 59th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, and will run from the 23rd of April until the 27th of November, 2022. “We are proud to be selected to participate in La Biennale Arte 2022. This gives us a great opportunity to fulfill our mission of celebrating and showcasing Palestinian artistic excellence and telling the Palestinian story to a global audience through the arts.”, says Founder and Executive Director Faisal Saleh.

Curated by Nancy Nesvet, Head Curator at the Palestine Museum, the exhibition will feature 19 Palestinian artists from across the diaspora, from New York, Boston and New Jersey to Kuwait, Jordan, Luxembourg, and Palestine itself. It will showcase paintings, including nine portraits of Palestinians prominent in arts and literature; installations, sculptures, photography and a floor-length historic map of Palestine; as well as a live olive tree filled with keys from Palestinian refugees’ homes signifying the right of return, and an audio program presenting recorded Palestinian oral histories and a continuous stream of Palestinian music.

Collaborations

Media Partner: Venezia News

For the sixth edition of the biennial art exhibition *Personal Structures*, the European Cultural Centre has partnered with local media outlet [Venezia News](#) for the promotion and dissemination of the exhibition. Thanks to this fruitful collaboration, the exhibition will reach the hands and eyes of both international and national readers, who will view *Personal Structures* as an etape to cover in their cultural tour on the island of Venice.

Fiebre x ECC

The European Cultural Centre is proud to announce the collaboration with *Fiebre*, the first and only festival in Spain specialised in photobooks, established with the goal of enhancing the attention on editorial initiatives and publications. This year *Fiebre* will be included in the section dedicated to contemporary photography as part of *Personal Structures* 2022. The partnership will see the ECC Italy joining the festival in autumn with a special presentation of photographic publications.



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Notes for editors

ECC:

Who We Are

The European Cultural Centre (ECC) is a non-profit organisation headquartered in the Netherlands. It is an international network of cultural platforms and ECC-Satellites - with established centres in Italy, Belgium, the USA, Japan, Russia and South Africa - committed to promoting culture through international exchanges. We work with associations and partners from around the world, ranging from educational, cultural and governmental institutions to non-governmental organisations as well as museums, foundations and several other private initiatives.

Our Mission

We are determined to further develop and enhance the intellectual and cultural exchange of each ECC-Satellite. To achieve this we continue to expand our international network of inspired, creative, and dedicated individuals. Among our main activities are the planning and management of cultural projects, the creation of exhibitions, publications, videos, and educational programmes.

ECC Italy:

Who We Are

ECC Italy is a well-established branch of the larger European Cultural Centre, with its base in Venice. Focusing on diverse topics within art, architecture and design, we aim to create dynamic exhibition spaces that show the interchanging of ideas from different cultures. Our art exhibitions, *Personal Structures*, alternate each year with the architecture exhibition *Time Space Existence*. Our exhibitions draw a range of visitors, from professional architects and artists to locals and tourists. Past exhibitions and virtual tours can be seen on our website ecc-italy.eu.

Personal Structures Curatorial Team

Sara Danieli
Bérénice Freytag
Yuki Gómez Asami
Vittoria Mastrolilli
Lucia Pedrana
Claudia Piovan
Valeria Romagnini
Micaela Skerl
Suzanne van der Borg
Elena Volpato
Katerina Zachou



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Our Venues

From the beginning of its activities in 2011 down to the present day, ECC Italy has been extending the exhibition spaces from a single location to four venues of more than 5.000 square metres indoor and 7.000 square metres outdoors. The exhibitions as well as the respective events of each edition are set in two Venetian *palazzos* and two gardens, each having its own particular atmosphere and curatorial guidelines: Palazzo Mora, Palazzo Bembo, Palazzo Michiel and the Marinaressa Gardens. The palaces are located alongside the Grand Canal while the Marinaressa Gardens, which we transform every year into an extraordinary sculpture park, are placed near the San Marco square on Riva dei Sette Martiri. Palazzo Michiel holds every year events and conferences organised in the scope of the ongoing exhibition.

Palazzo Bembo

4793 Riva del Carbon
San Marco, Venice

Situated near the Rialto Bridge, Palazzo Bembo is characterised by a magnificent façade built in the Venetian Gothic style facing the Grand Canal. The palace itself was committed by the noble Bembo family in the 15th century. While the interior has been modified several times during the past centuries, the exterior still maintains its original appearance. Thanks to the collaboration between the current owner of the palace and the ECC, the palace revives its past glory and hosts, since 2011, high quality exhibitions in its two noble floors.

Palazzo Mora

3659 Strada Nuova
Cannaregio, Venice

Palazzo Mora is located between the church of San Felice and the Canal di Noale in the district of Cannaregio. It was constructed in the 16th century and was bought by the Mora family in 1716. The noble floor shows some frescoes attributed to Tiepolo made from 1720 to 1770. The exhibitions are being held in the two main floors, the mezzanine floor, the third floor and the entrance garden. Due to the position of the palace at the crowded Strada Nuova and the dimensions of the exhibition itself, the Mora Palace welcomes a large number of visitors.



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Palazzo Michiel

4391 Strada Nuova
Cannaregio, Venice

Palazzo Michiel del Brusà is situated at the northern site of the Canal Grande with an entrance from Strada Nuova near the Campo SS. Apostoli. The building has a unique gothic balcony that dates back to the 15th century. The rooms of the interior are decorated with frescoes from Jacopo Guarana. This location is used as the ECC-Italy headquarters and for conferences, workshops and events.

Marinaressa Gardens

Riva dei Sette Martiri
Castello, Venice

The Marinaressa Gardens were constructed in the thirties of the 20th century and are located alongside the Riva dei Sette Martiri, a monumental shore of the city. The two gardens are situated in the district of Castello, close to the Piazza San Marco. Every year, these gardens are transformed into an extraordinary sculpture park with pieces of art and architecture displayed in both the Gardens of Levante and Ponente. This location had to undergo some renovation work carried out by ECC Italy to be open to the public in 2017.



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