

Art for Tomorrow 2024: Imperfect Beauty

Draft Agenda

June 5-7: Venice, Italy

The next Art for Tomorrow will take place in Venice from June 5-7, at the Palazzo Diedo, owned and newly renovated by the Berggruen Institute. The “floating city” is an appropriate setting to consider the complex problems that beauty can bring: How can cities and cultural sites celebrate their heritage without becoming victims of their own success through overtourism? How can museums and monuments protect themselves from the inevitable impact of the climate crisis? How should institutions and artists think about and reflect the concerns of their changing populations? How can the arts help bridge cultural and even political divides?

These are just a few of the questions we’ll consider at Art for Tomorrow, in a rich program with sessions moderated by New York Times journalists. Underpinning it all will be the central premise that the arts can help **unite and heal**.

The plenary sessions will be complemented by exclusive cultural visits to iconic landmarks and some of the city’s best-kept secrets such as guided tours of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection to view the exhibition “Jean Cocteau: The Juggler’s Revenge,” the Orsoni furnace, Giardini and Arsenale at the 60th International Art Exhibition and tours of private collectors’ homes.

Draft Agenda (subject to change):

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

18:00 - 18:10 Welcome Remarks

18:15 - 18:55 Opening Panel: Sustainability and the Pitfalls of Beauty

Last September, Venice again escaped calls to include it on the list of endangered World Heritage sites. The panel rejecting UNESCO’s recommendation said efforts like banning cruise ships from the lagoon and installing a system of sea walls signaled progress in the battle against flooding and erosion. However, critics argue that these are temporary solutions that don’t do enough to counter the most pervasive threats to the city’s heritage: overtourism as well as rising sea levels caused by climate change. What is being done to mitigate the damage? Can Venice be saved?

19:00 - 19:30 Conversation with an Artist

19:35 - 19:55 Opening Keynote

Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director, Equal Justice Initiative

Cocktail Dinatoire

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

9:30 - 9:40 Welcome Remarks

9:45 - 10:00 Opening Provocation

10:05 - 10:45 Arts as the Ultimate Mediator

10:50 - 11:05 Lightning Talk: Crisis Mode

11:05 - 11:35 Coffee Break

11:35 - 12:15 Identity Crisis: Museums in Context

Museums are often called upon to be global institutions that ponder wide-ranging international issues. But in an era dominated by virtual interactions, some aim to anchor themselves firmly in their local (often shifting) communities, and create a sense of place. Do museums have a responsibility to consider and reflect the concerns of people close to home in their programming? Should new institutions take local views into account? To what degree should museums challenge prevailing narratives, or even push for social change?

12:20 - 12:50 Keynote Conversation

12:55 - 13:10 Lightning Talk: Emerging Films

13:10 - 14:40 Lunch

14:45 - 15:25 Beauty and the Marketplace: Affect or Effect?

Recent reports on the art market showed that the ranks of the wealthiest buyers are thinning, auction sales have come down and sales at fairs have slowed. However, gallery sales are up overall and the market has weathered multiple storms relatively unscathed (although economic and geopolitical uncertainties could change that quickly). Meanwhile, an increasing number of museum curators have been jumping ship to commercial galleries. What does this all mean for the art itself? To what extent does the market dictate our visual culture, or vice versa?

15:30 - 16:10 Cultivating Creativity

Turning creativity into business is a daunting task, especially for emerging artists and designers with little capital or connections. Three icons of culture and design discuss the challenges that young creative leaders face, and the importance of supporting them as they build networks and infrastructure.

16:20 - 18:00 Cultural Tours*

- Guided tour of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection and the exhibition "Jean Cocteau: The Juggler's Revenge"
- Tour of the historical Orsoni furnace and its artistic mosaics
- Visit to the century-old Codognato Jewelers

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

10:00 - 10:10 Welcome Remarks

10:15 - 10:55 AI and Creativity: Revolution or Disruption?

In recent months, artificial intelligence has been advancing at an exponential rate. Some creative minds are celebrating how generative AI tools like Chat GPT, Midjourney and Synthesia, can help power their work. At the same time, the tools make it easy for anyone to become a content creator, potentially saturating an already crowded field and raising questions about where technology ends and art begins. We bring together a diverse group of experts to explore how AI is reshaping the creative landscape, and the threats and opportunities it poses to creators.

11:00 - 11:30 Keynote Conversation

11:30 - 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 - 12:40 Architecture for Good: Can Transformation Be Designed?

Architecture is increasingly seen as one means to bring communities closer together, and to address issues like inequality, accessibility and sustainability. Meanwhile, architectural principles can also be used to design solutions to complex societal problems. As the practice of architecture has evolved, so has its most coveted award: the Pritzker Prize, which has been recognizing great architects since 1979. In this conversation we'll explore this evolution with the director of the field's most coveted prize, as well as with practitioners who are finding new purpose in this world.

12:45 - 13:00 Lightning Talk: Repurposing Architecture

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch Roundtables

14:30 - 15:00 Keynote Conversation

15:00 - 18:00 Cultural Tours*

- Biennale Arte 2024 - guided tours of both Giardini and Arsenale
- Tour of the historical Orsoni furnace and its artistic mosaics
- Guided tour of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection and the exhibition "Jean Cocteau: The Juggler's Revenge"
- Visit to the century-old Codognato Jewelers
- Tour of Fondazione Valmont – Palazzo Bonvicini
- Tour of the Berengo Studio, Fondazione Berengo, which transforms glass through collaborations with contemporary artists

*All delegates are welcome to join one of the Cultural Tours both on June 6 & 7. Registration options will be available closer to the actual date.

Speakers and moderators

Confirmed speakers include:

- Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairperson, Qatar Museums
- Toto Bergamo Rossi, Director, Venetian Heritage
- Thijs Biersteker, Ecological Artist
- Daniel Birnbaum, Curator
- Victoria Bousis, Filmmaker and AI Expert
- Melissa Chiu, Director, Hirschhorn Museum
- Alison Cole, Editor at Large, Art Newspaper
- Marcello Dantas, Director, SFER-IK Museum
- Olga Kefalogianni, Minister of Tourism, Greece
- Manuela Luca-Dazio, Executive Director, Pritzker Prize
- Hermann Parzinger, President, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation
- Wim Pijbes, Director, Droom en Daad Foundation
- Magnus Resch, Art Market Economist
- Thaddeaus Ropac, Gallerist
- Adama Sanneh, CEO Moleskine Foundation
- Victoria Siddall, Frieze and Gallery Climate Coalition
- Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director, Equal Justice Initiative
- Jordan Weber, Artist and Activist
- ...and more to be added soon!

The New York Times Moderators

- Matthew Anderson, European Culture Editor, The New York Times
- Farah Nayeri, Culture Writer, The New York Times
- Pamela Paul, Columnist, The New York Times
- Scott Reyburn, Journalist, Art Newspaper and The New York Times
- Roslyn Sulcas, Culture Writer, The New York Times

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