



Art for Tomorrow 2024: Imperfect Beauty

Programming Brief

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. For example, we’re in talks to organize private tours of the Palazzo Grimani, the workshop restoring Saint Mark’s Basilica, a lace-making atelier on the island of Burano and the Benedetto Marcello Music Conservatory.

Topics highlights:

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. Can anything be done to mitigate the damage? Can Venice be saved?

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.

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. 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.

Other topics to include:

Arts as the Ultimate Mediator

AI and Creativity: Revolution or Disruption?

Identity Crisis: Museums in the Eye of the Storm

Beauty and the Marketplace: Affect or Effect?

Craftsmanship is Dead. Long Live Craftsmanship.

Speakers and moderators

Confirmed speakers already include:

- Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairperson, Qatar Museums
- Yto Barrada, Multimedia Artist
- Thijs Biersteker, Ecological Artist
- Daniel Birnbaum, Curator
- Victoria Bousis, Filmmaker and AI Expert
Alison Cole, Editor-at-Large, Art Newspaper
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- 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
- 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

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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