



workinprogress

Press release – for immediate distribution

www.veniceagendas.eu

Venice Agendas 2015 is a programme of breakfast events and performances, curated by workinprogress, during the preview week of the 56th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia followed by a series of outcome events that take place internationally throughout 2015. The theme for this edition is Crossing Boundaries; an open brief, which considers the many ways art not only trespasses geographical territories but how it crosses cultural, political and artistic boundaries. Since 2011 Venice Agendas has also included live art presentations.

The first edition of Agendas held at the Venice Biennale was in 1999, created by the sound artist Bill Furlong and the writer Mel Gooding. Since 2011 workinprogress, Clare Fitzpatrick and Terry Smith, have continued the project working closely with Vittorio Urbani, director of Nuova Icona who has supported Venice Agendas since 1999.

The Biennale reinforces nation building and territorial borders when even now maps are being rewritten and the concept of free speech is under attack. The idea of national pavilions at the Venice Biennale representing the essence of an identity has been increasingly questioned in the context of today's globalized world, however where there are boundaries there are crossings. The emphasis of these agendas is on the cross over and exchange between artists, writers, filmmakers and critics whilst reflecting on the cross border reality of the present time.

VENICE AGENDAS AT CZ95 Discussions curated by: Terry Smith

CZ95, Giudecca 95, 30133 Venezia, Vaporetto: Zitelle on lines 2, 4.1 and 4.2

OPEN BORDERS: Where are you from? Wednesday 6 May 2015 10.00 – 11.00h: breakfast from 9.30h

Moderators: **JW Stella and Mark Waugh**

Participants include: **Marita Isobel Solberg, Richard Demarco, Tony Heaton and Ala Younis, Angela Vettese**

Considers identity - do artists belong to one culture through their Nationality, or are they citizens of the world? This debate asks questions about statehood, effects of global migration on cultural boundaries, and if it matters where you are from.

CLOSED BORDERS: Whose boycott is it anyway? Thursday 7 May 2015 10.00 – 11.00h: breakfast from 9.30h

Moderator: **Gilane Tawadros**

Participants include: **Anna Bitkina and Maria Veits, Sacha Craddock, Vassiliki Tzanakou, David A Bailey and Sue Williamson**

The recent questioning of geographical boundaries, both democratically and by force, and the withdrawal of support by some European countries for various International artists and institutions act effectively as a boycott with cultural events being altered by political agendas. Is this a genuine support for civil rights or a convenient way for governments to play politics with culture?

CROSSING BOUNDARIES: Speed Date Friday 8 May 2015 10.00 – 11.00h: breakfast from 9.30h

Moderator: **Tim Rawlins**

Piloted at VA13, Speed Dating gets people talking, involved and networking. With 60 questions relating to the idea of identity and crossing boundaries, each deals specifically with how we connect to 'local' culture and how that interfaces with the wider international agenda.

BORDER LINE: Rights of Passage Wednesday 6 May - Friday 8 May 2015 11.00 – 12.00h

Curated by: **Jean Wainwright**

A unique publication where 100 individual art books will be assembled and constructed on site from work by 24 international artists who have produced signed photographic art works as a 'one off'. Each book with the 24 signed prints is made to order and available to purchase. The selected artists address complex issues of individual identity, territorial borders, society, economics, and immigration. The artists include: Martina Bacigalupo, Roger Ballan, Behrnd Behr, Valerie Belin, Adam Chodzko, Shez Dawood, Ori Gersht, Shaun Gladwell, Glenna Gordon, Mishka Henner, Nina Katchadourian, Steffi Klentz, Martin Kollar, Karen Knorr, Sohei Nishino, Max Pinckers, Charlie Shoemaker, Laurie Simmons, Heidi Specker, Terry Smith, Julian Stallabrass, Daniel Traub, Sue Williamson and Catherine Yass. <https://rightsofpassage2015.wordpress.com>

VENICE AGENDAS AT IMAGINA CAFÉ Artist performances curated by Mark Segal

Imagina Café, Rio Terà Canal, 3126 Dorsoduro, Venezia (Near Campo Santa Margherita) Vaporetto: Ca' Rezzonico

Three artists have been selected to realise or represent the theme of Crossing Boundaries for Venice Agendas 2015. Each addresses, considers, celebrates and/or challenges single or multiple boundaries, be they neurological, physical, sculptural, geographic, fictional or actual.

Jon Adams: 18.00h Wednesday 6 May 2015

Jon performs *Games with the Water Horse*, a performance/installation piece that he has learnt as a memory journey. Starting from a time on the 12 hour clock face (provided on request by an audience member), then following Fibonacci numbers, he will describe events connected to time, but liberated from an easily digested narrative, informed by his synaesthesia.

Katrina Palmer: 18.00h Thursday 7 May 2015*

Katrina will read from a selection of her books on a one-to-one basis with one individual for up to ten minutes, along with a further 12 audience members as observers. The one-to-one listener can select from one of Katrina's publications which will be available on the table while the observers view the reading in close proximity. Four one-to-one readings will take place from 6pm, in twelve minute slots. Places are very limited. Courtesy of the artist and MOT International, London and Brussels.

***To book for a one-to-one reading, or as an observer at one of the four readings please visit:** [EventbriteKatrinaPalmer](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/katrina-palmer-venue-agendas-2015-tickets-14444444444)

Marita Isobel Solberg: 18.00h Friday 8 May 2015

Marita will perform: *There exists love, will, sounds and movements in this vast room. We are deeply connected.* The performance concerns reflections on the challenges, conflicts, potentials, aspirations, importance and impact of being both a citizen of the world while remaining close to our roots. A spoken word session which includes poetry, movement, singing, making sounds and rhythm.

Venice Agendas 2015 presented in partnership with Turner Contemporary, SHAPE London, and University for the Creative Arts with additional support from Sámi Dáiddačehpiid Searvi, Arts University Bournemouth, DACS, Nuova Icona, Clocktower Productions, Audio Arts; CZ95 and Municipalità di Venezia. Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Events are free but availability is limited: see www.veniceagendas.eu

Tickets: [eventbriteVA15](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/venice-agendas-2015-tickets-14444444444)

For further information contact: press@veniceagendas.eu

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Turner Contemporary



Notes to editors

workinprogress was established in 2007 as a collaboration between Terry Smith and Clare Fitzpatrick bringing together their creative and curatorial practice, and project management skills to support innovative activity in contemporary art. They have become recognised in the national and international community as innovators in the field of discussion and artists' commissions in contemporary art practice. WIP has delivered education projects, exhibitions, performances and events at national and international venues including Wordplay, 2008 (ICA, London); Speakeasy, Richard Wilson, Kenneth Anger (BFI, London); Venice Agendas: Soundings, 2011 (Venice); Venice Agendas, 2013 (Venice). www.workinprogressuk.com

Nuova Icona was founded in 1993, and was the first Venetian no-profit organisation for contemporary art. It has mounted over 200 exhibitions, most of which were of national and international importance and opened to partnerships and intercultural exchanges. Since 2001 Nuova Icona has been commissioner for several National Pavilions at the Venice Biennale. nuovaicona.org

Turner Contemporary is one of the UK's leading art galleries. Situated on Margate seafront, on the same site where the artist JMW Turner stayed when visiting the town, Turner Contemporary presents a rolling programme of temporary exhibitions, events and learning opportunities, which make intriguing links between historic and contemporary art. The gallery offers a space for everyone to discover different ways of seeing, thinking and learning. Turner Contemporary has welcomed over 1.5million visits since opening in April 2011. Admission to the gallery is free. www.turnercontemporary.org

SHAPE LONDON is a disability-led arts organisation working to improve access to culture for disabled people by developing opportunities for disabled artists, training cultural institutions to be more open to disabled people, and running participatory arts and development programmes. www.shapearts.org.uk

THE UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS (UCA) is delighted to be a partner for Venice Agendas.

UCA is one of the UK's leading specialist creative universities, with a focus on the key themes of extraordinary people, extraordinary experiences and extraordinary creativity, backed by over 160 years of supporting creative arts education. Its campus communities in Farnham, Epsom, Rochester and Canterbury combine artists, designers, practitioners and scholars with an internationally diverse student population from across all areas of the creative arts. UCA has helped to propel its alumni into rewarding careers at the heart of the global creative industries, with its courses internationally recognised for their world-class development of specialist creative skills. www.ucreative.ac.uk

Sámi Dáiddačehpiid Searvi - SÁMI ARTIST ASSOCIATION (SDS) founded in 1979, is intended to be a professional organization for Sami artists, crafts people and artistic photographers from the entire Sami area (Norway, Finland and Russia). SDS safeguard members' skills, economic, social and moral rights and interests. www.samidaiddar.no

TheGallery, Arts University Bournemouth are delighted to sponsor Venice Agenda's 2015. Originally established in 1998, TheGallery at Arts University Bournemouth offers a unique space in the South West and South East for the Arts including design, media and performance. www.aub.ac.uk/campus/thegallery

Clocktower Productions is a non-profit art institution working in the visual arts, performance, music, and radio. Founded in 1972 in Lower Manhattan by MoMA PS1 Founder Alanna Heiss, Clocktower is the oldest alternative art project in New York, and its radio station, Clocktower Radio, was founded in 2003 as one of the first all-art online museum radio stations in the world. www.clocktower.org

The **ICF International Curators Forum** is a world leading arts agency working towards improved professional development opportunities for curators and artists. www.internationalcuratorsforum.org

Established by artists for artists, **DACS** is a not-for-profit visual artists' rights management organisation. Passionate about transforming the financial landscape for visual artists through innovative new products and services, DACS acts as trusted broker for 80,000 artists worldwide. Founded over 30 years ago, DACS is a flagship organisation that has and continues to campaign for artists' rights, championing their sustained and vital contribution to the creative economy. In its support of artists and their work, DACS collects and distributes royalties to visual artists and their estates through **Payback, Artist's Resale Right, Copyright Licensing and Artimage**. In 2014, DACS paid £16 million in royalties to 25,000 visual artists and estates. www.dacs.org.uk

Artists Biographies

Katrina Palmer works through a range of media including published stories, live reading/performances and installations which include recordings. Palmer locates the sculptural object in fictional narratives. These stories typically feature artist-protagonists negotiating aspects of materiality and the dynamics of fictional spaces. *End Matter*, an Artangel commission launches on 26 April 2015 in Portland, Devon with a new publication *End Matter*, available from Book Works. In May 2015 her work will be included in the group show *The Weight of Data* at Tate Britain, and she will have a solo show at the Henry Moore Institute Leeds later in the year. Katrina's work was recently included in the exhibition *Mirror City* at Hayward Gallery, London. Courtesy MOT International.

www.motinternational.org/Katrina_palmer.html

http://www.artangel.org.uk/projects/2015/end_matter/about_the_project/end_matter

Jon Adams works in a variety of mediums, is a trained geologist and considers himself to be an 'Outsider Artist'. His work references his neurodiversity including Asperger's (an autism spectrum condition), dyslexia and synaesthesia, a neurological condition in which stimulation of one sense leads to automatic, involuntary responses in a second sense, for example, 'seeing or tasting sounds'. Jon has recently been awarded the first digital commission by the Speakers Art Fund for *Democracy Streets* celebrating *Parliament in the making* throughout 2015 (with Mozilla, National Portrait Gallery, Arts Council England and Local Trust). Jon Adams is currently an Associate Artist of the New Theatre Royal, Portsmouth and Research Fellow in Disability Arts within the Faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries at the University of Portsmouth.

www.democracystreet.com

http://www.artspace.co.uk/artist.php?artist=71&page_id=21

www.port.ac.uk/school-of-art-and-design/staff/ion-adams.html

Marita Isobel Solberg is a musician, a visual artist and poet. A nomad of the world. A multifaced crossover artist, she experiments and engages many different media in her work such as spoken words, sound/music, performance art, photography, video, clay/ceramics and sculpture. Interweaving elements from Sámi, Northern and Japanese Culture and subculture she embodies personas or characters of varied but particular properties; The seer, the witch, the sage or the jester. Her nomadic practice has taken in a wide range of residencies and professional performances around the world, from Arkhangelsk, Russia to Melbourne, Australia, including the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park in Japan, 2007; The Watermill Center in New York (Robert Wilson), 2008 and The Performance Centre, London (David Thorp), 2013. http://maritaisobelsolberg.virb.com_virb.com