

BERLENDIS VENICE ART PRIZE 2027

Second Edition

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Have We Crossed the Threshold? A Journey Beyond Borders, Identities and Languages

Spazio Berlendis, Venice

Application deadline: 24 September 2026

Kosmos Contemporary Venice, in collaboration with Marignana Arte, presents the second edition of the Berlendis Venice Art Prize, open to artists of all ages and nationalities who are able to interpret the theme of crossing as an aesthetic, political and existential practice. A jury of experts in the field will select 20 finalists — 10 finalists for the *Emergent section* and 10 finalists for the *Contemporary section* — who will be given the opportunity to participate in a group exhibition at Spazio Berlendis, a 300-square-metre exhibition space located in the Cannaregio district of Venice. The exhibition, entitled *Have We Crossed the Threshold? A Journey Beyond Borders, Identities and Languages*, will take place **from 20 February to 21 March 2027**.

1. ELIGIBLE ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES

The following contemporary art media are eligible:

- Painting
- Drawing
- Printmaking and graphic arts (intaglio printmaking, lithography, screen printing, woodcut, digital printing)

- Photography
- Collage
- Sculpture and Installation
- Textile Art
- Video Art

Each artist may submit **only one work**. The maximum permitted dimensions are **200x200 cm** for two-dimensional works and **150x150x150 cm** for three-dimensional works. The maximum weight for both types of work is **20 kg**.

Technical supports, such as plinths, pedestals, and similar display elements, must be provided by the artist.

Video Art works must meet the following technical requirements: minimum duration of 1 minute and maximum duration of 15 minutes; submission of files in MP4 or MOV format with a minimum resolution of Full HD (1920 × 1080 px). Any technical equipment required for the projection or installation of the work, including monitors, projectors, headphones, media players, cables or other devices, shall be entirely the responsibility of the artist.

2. ELIGIBILITY

The Berlendis Venice Art Prize is divided into two sections:

- ***Emergent***: artists aged between 18 and 30, who must not have turned 31 by the application deadline;
- ***Contemporary***: artists over 30, with no upper age limit.

The call is open to artists of any nationality.

3. APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND REGISTRATION FEE

Applications must be submitted by **11:59 p.m.** on **24 September 2026** through the dedicated online form available on the Marignana Arte and/or Spazio Berlendis website.

To complete the application, applicants must fill in the online form in full, enter the link to the required materials, and pay the registration fee according to the methods indicated in the online procedure.

A registration fee of **€25.00** applies to applicants in the *Emergent* section, and a registration fee of **€35.00** applies to applicants in the *Contemporary* section. The fee covers the administrative, organisational and secretarial costs connected with the management of applications and the selection procedure. The fee is non-refundable.

Payment of the registration fee shall be made online after the form has been completed in full. Payments will be processed via the Stripe platform, using the payment methods available at the time of registration.

The beneficiary of the registration fees is Kosmos Contemporary Venice APS, tax code 94108780274, the promoting body of the Prize.

The application shall be considered validly completed only upon the correct completion of the online form, the insertion of the link to the required materials, acceptance of the call for applications and of the terms and conditions of registration and payment, and successful payment of the registration fee.

Following successful payment and receipt of the application, the applicant will receive confirmation by email.

The online form must include a link allowing the organisation to view and download the following materials:

- a copy of both sides of a valid identity document;
- a portfolio in PDF format, from 4 to 10 pages, maximum size 10 MB;
- three images of the work to be submitted, each in JPEG or PNG format, 300 dpi, maximum size 2 MB; for video files, please refer to section 2 of this call.

The links may be generated through file transfer or online storage services, including, by way of example: WeTransfer, SwissTransfer, Google Drive, Dropbox, OneDrive, iCloud Drive, Box, MEGA, pCloud, Smash, Filemail or similar services. It is sufficient that all required materials are complete, accessible and downloadable by the organisation by the stated deadline.

The links must remain active, accessible and free of passwords or restrictions until the selection procedure has been completed.

Incomplete applications, applications that do not comply with the procedures indicated above, applications submitted without payment of the registration fee, or applications containing links that are not working, inaccessible, expired or lacking the required materials, will not be taken into consideration.

4. PRIZES

The prizes shall be as follows:

- a cash prize of €1,000 gross awarded to the winner of the *Emergent* section;
- a cash prize of €2,500 gross awarded to the winner of the *Contemporary* section.

Pursuant to Article 30 of Presidential Decree No. 600/1973, cash prizes awarded to winners who are tax residents in Italy shall be subject to a withholding tax of 25% of the gross amount paid, applied as a final tax.

For winners who are tax residents abroad, a withholding tax of 30% shall apply, unless otherwise provided for by any applicable double taxation treaties.

The awarding of the prize does not entail the acquisition of the works, which shall remain the property of the artists.

In addition to the selection of the two winners of the Emergent and Contemporary sections, this call also includes **5 special prizes**, conceived to broaden the dialogue between the finalist artists and a number of organisations active in contemporary research.

The five special prizes are as follows:

- a solo exhibition at Marignana Project, to be held in 2027, for one of the 10 finalists in the Emergent section; the winner will be selected from among the 10 finalists by Emanuela Fadalti and Matilde Cadenti;
- a solo exhibition at Marignana Project, to be held in 2027, for one of the 10 finalists in the Contemporary section; the winner will be selected from among the 10 finalists by Emanuela Fadalti and Matilde Cadenti;

- a group exhibition to be held in 2027 at Fondazione THE BANK ETS – Istituto per gli Studi sulla Pittura Contemporanea, Bassano del Grappa; the winner or winners will be selected from among the 20 finalists by President Antonio Menon and Paolo Zanatta;
- a solo or group exhibition to be held in 2027 at one of the venues of Galleria Alessandro Casciari (Bolzano–Venice); the winner or winners will be selected from among the 20 finalists by Alessandro Casciari;
- a solo or group exhibition at Spazio Magazzino, to be held in 2027; the winner or winners will be selected from among the 20 finalists by the founders and curator Simone Ceschin.

Marignana Project is one of Marignana Arte’s exhibition spaces, located in a Gothic palazzo next to the main gallery in the Dorsoduro district, between the Guggenheim Collection and the Pinault Foundation. Since its opening in 2013, Marignana Arte has collaborated with more than ninety artists and organised over 80 exhibitions, working with leading institutions in Italy and abroad. Website: www.marignanaarte.it

Fondazione THE BANK ETS – Istituto per gli Studi sulla Pittura Contemporanea, Bassano del Grappa, founded in 2023 by Antonio Menon, is the first Italian institution dedicated exclusively to the research, promotion and enhancement of Italian and international contemporary painting. Originating from The Bank collection, which today comprises more than 1,200 works, the Foundation represents an emerging point of reference on the national cultural scene, with exhibition, publishing and research activities devoted to contemporary painting. Website: <https://www.fondazionethebank.org/>

Galleria Alessandro Casciari, heir to the historic Galleria Goethe founded in Bolzano in 1964, is now active between Bolzano and Venice and is a point of reference within the Italian and Central European contemporary art scene. Through exhibitions, international art fairs and curatorial projects, the gallery has promoted Italian and international artists for decades. Its Venice venue also collaborates with Ncontemporary, founded in London in 2014 and active between Milan and Venice. Through an exhibition programme dedicated to international contemporary art, the gallery promotes emerging and mid-career artists, developing projects focused on research and experimentation in contemporary artistic languages. Website: <https://www.alessandrocasciari.com/>

Spazio Magazzino is a research-based art space, curated by Simone Ceschin, dedicated to new generations of national and international artists. Through site-specific exhibitions and a programme open to the various languages of contemporary art, it supports emerging practices and processes of experimentation. Website: <https://www.instagram.com/magazzinoarte/>

Additional prizes or special mentions may also be awarded.

The prize winners will be announced on the opening day of the final exhibition.

5. FINALISTS' EXHIBITION

The 20 finalists will take part in the group exhibition to be held at **Spazio Berlendis (Cannaregio 6301, Venice)** from **20 February** to **21 March 2027**. The exhibition will be accompanied by a dedicated publication, and one copy of the volume will be provided free of charge to each of the 20 finalist artists.

Spazio Berlendis is a 300-square-metre exhibition space located in the Cannaregio district of Venice, inaugurated in 2021 following a long restoration. It is a setting rich in tradition, as the building was formerly the carpentry workshop of Squero Fassi, the oldest boatyard in Venice. Since its opening, Spazio Berlendis has hosted major exhibitions, including the Gwangju Biennale and Ydessa Hendeles: Grand Hotel, an official collateral event of the 60th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. It also currently hosts two National Pavilions, Grenada and Guatemala, of the 2026 Biennale Arte. An open and international dialogue-oriented approach is the guiding thread running through the space's entire programme, which brings together cultural events across various disciplines and maintains a close connection with the institutions and artistic life of the city. In continuity with this vision, Berlendis Residency was also launched in 2026 — an artist residency programme dedicated to contemporary research and production, welcoming international artists to Venice and offering them a space for exchange, experimentation and dialogue with the city's cultural context. Website: www.spazioberlendis.it

Opening hours: the finalists' exhibition will be open from 20 February to 21 March 2027, every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

6. SHIPMENT OF WORKS

The transport of the works, both to and from the exhibition venue, including any customs costs, duties, import/export procedures and customs clearance relating to the exhibition venue, shall be entirely at the artist's expense and must take place between 26 and 29 January 2027.

Any insurance of the works shall be the responsibility of the individual artists.

The dismantling, packing and collection of the work shall be the responsibility of the artist and must take place between 23 and 26 March 2027. Should the artist be unable to collect the work in person, Kosmos Contemporary Venice APS may take care exclusively of the packing of the work, while remaining exempt from any liability relating to the packing and the subsequent stages of transport, shipment or collection.

In the event that the work is not collected within the established deadline, Kosmos Contemporary Venice APS reserves the right to apply a storage penalty of €10 for each additional day after 26 March 2027, and declines any liability for the work.

7. CONCEPT

To cross does not simply mean to move through space, nor can it be reduced to a neutral displacement without consequences. Crossing is, rather, an incisive and transformative gesture: an act that marks space, brings it into relation, and redefines its symbolic coordinates. To cross a threshold, to pass beyond a border, means to question the very nature of the limit being crossed, challenging its stability and apparent self-evidence. Every act of crossing entails exposure to change. One does not cross a boundary without one's position — physical, identitarian, perceptual — being altered in relation both to what is left behind and to what is encountered. Whether geographical, inner, linguistic or mental, crossings always imply a redefinition of systems of meaning, a reworking of memories, and a transformation of identities and narratives. From this perspective, the border cannot be understood as a static line intended to separate and organise differences, nor as an unambiguous device of belonging. Rather, it takes shape as a space of tension, a place where differences themselves emerge and come into conflict, where frictions, exchanges and possibilities for mutual redefinition are produced.

The act of crossing beyond is, however, characterised by a dual significance. On the one hand, it represents an opening: the construction of bridges, the activation of dialogues, the very condition for practices of coexistence and processes of transformation. On the other hand, it may take on the traits of violation: the crossing of ethical frontiers, access to forms of abuse, domination or destruction. In this sense, the limit is not only that which obstructs, but also that which protects, preserves and makes possible a non-predatory relationship with otherness. Art is the instrument

through which we may attempt to understand and orient ourselves within this dichotomy, between the positive impulse to overcome boundaries and the awareness of the risks that such a gesture may, at times, inevitably entail. The 2027 edition of the Berlendis Venice Art Prize invites artists to engage critically with these tensions, exploring the theme of crossing in its multiple aesthetic, political and existential dimensions, and questioning its implications within the contemporary context.

Conceptual areas:

The theme of crossing may be interpreted in multiple directions: as an inner journey and a process of transformation of the self; as a crossing of memory between past and present; and as a geographical experience of displacement, migration and encounter between different cultural, social and political contexts. It may also concern the ways in which art overcomes the boundaries between techniques, materials and disciplines, opening up hybrid and experimental forms of expression, and may question the ethical dimension of the limit: a threshold of passage, openness and relation, but also a boundary that requires awareness, measure and responsibility.

8. SELECTION AND JURY

A committee composed of professionals from the art world will select **20 finalists**, who will take part in the exhibition to be held at Spazio Berlendis from 20 February to 21 March 2027.

In addition to **Emanuela Fadalti** and **Matilde Cadenti**, founders and directors of Marignana Arte and Spazio Berlendis, the members of the jury will be as follows:

- **Luca Berta** – curator and artistic director active within the Venetian and international contemporary art scene, and co-founder of Venice Art Factory, an organisation engaged in the production and curation of exhibition projects for artists, foundations and cultural institutions. Over the years, he has curated exhibitions, events and collaborations with major contemporary art organisations, developing an international network between Venice and the global art system.
- **Alessandro Casciaro** – director of Galleria Alessandro Casciaro, with venues in Bolzano and Venice. Having grown up within the historic Galleria Goethe, founded in 1964 by Ennio and Ivana Casciaro, he took up its legacy in 2015, transforming it into a project dedicated to modern and contemporary art. His work promotes Italian and European artists, with a focus on dialogue between generations, artistic languages and international contexts.

- **Simone Ceschin** – curator, co-founder of Spazio Magazzino, Conegliano (TV), and teacher at H-Farm International School. In recent years, he has collaborated on exhibition projects, cultural initiatives and curatorial activities connected with the promotion of contemporary art and visual languages, combining these activities with ongoing scouting and research into new artists within the Academy circuit and independent contexts.
- **Fabrizio Panozzo** – lecturer at Ca' Foscari University of Venice and scientific director of the AIKU – Art Enterprise Culture research centre. He is one of Italy's leading scholars in the field of cultural policies and the relationships between art, enterprise and contemporary creative processes. His academic and curatorial work focuses on the dialogue between artistic production, cultural innovation and territory; over the years, he has collaborated with institutions, companies and cultural organisations at national and international level.
- **Pier Paolo Scelsi** – art historian and independent curator, member of the international association of curators IKT, founder and director of CREA Cantieri del Contemporaneo, spaces and projects dedicated to cultural and artistic production, curation, and the promotion of contemporary artists and institutions in Venice and internationally. Over the years, he has curated numerous exhibitions and exhibition projects, collaborating with Italian and international institutions, museums, universities and cultural organisations, and consolidating an active presence within the contemporary curatorial scene.
- **Saverio Simi de Burgis** – art critic and art historian, Associate Professor of Contemporary Art History and of the History and Methodology of Art Criticism at the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice since 1985, as well as a former lecturer at Ca' Foscari University. Throughout his career, he has curated numerous exhibitions and artistic projects in Italy and abroad, collaborating with international cultural institutions and establishing himself as a leading figure in the field of criticism and research on contemporary art.
- **Paolo Zanatta** – collector, active in the field of curation and the promotion of contemporary art, and curator of the collections of Fondazione THE BANK ETS – Istituto per gli Studi sulla Pittura Contemporanea, Bassano del Grappa. Today, the Foundation is one of the most significant emerging organisations in Italy for the study, promotion and support of Italian and international contemporary painting.

The selection of the 20 finalists will be announced **by 10 December 2026** by email and through the official channels to all participants. The finalists will then also be required to provide the organisers with a portrait photograph of themselves and three further images of other works for the communication of the event.

9. FINAL TERMS

- Participation implies full acceptance of this call for applications.
- The rights to the works shall remain with the artists; the organisers reserve the right to use images for promotional and documentary purposes.
- The organisation declines all liability for any delays, damage or loss of the works during transport.
- By submitting this application, participants authorise Kosmos Contemporary Venice APS and Marignana Arte S.r.l. to process the personal data provided in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679 — GDPR —, Italian Legislative Decree No. 196/2003, as amended and supplemented, and the applicable legislation on the protection of personal data.
- Applicants also grant Kosmos Contemporary Venice APS and Marignana Arte S.r.l. the right to reproduce images and texts relating to the submitted works for promotional and institutional purposes.

10. CONTACTS

Email: premio@spazioberlendis.it

Tel.: +39 041 2436356 (Wednesday to Saturday, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Communications will take place exclusively by email and/or telephone, not through social media channels.