



SUBMERGED VENICE

REsi Girardello

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April-November 2022

Open by appointment

Bottega Cini, Dorsoduro 735

VENEZIA SOMMERSA

In a somewhere unknown (a somewhere that apparently remains invisible to most people), the scientists are counting the time that remains.

Not much, it seems. No more in a space of centuries, but of decades, the cities along the coasts in all the world will be submerged by the inexorable rise of the sea level.

Will Venice also, this prodigy in the human history, with its astonishing delicate wonders, be submerged?

Judging by the crude numbers, not only it seems so, but the span is getting shorter: someone says, 70 years from now; some other, even 30.

The world, unaware, perhaps skeptical, continues its daily flow. Some persons feel the problem, but can't decide anything; others, who could, do not decide, or make bad decisions. Also the heart of Venice, the Basilica of San Marco, is waiting. More fragile than ever, because of the aggravating circumstance of a huge trench that has been dug around it some time ago. It fills up, over the weeks and months, with water that touches the delicate foundations of the structure; an incalculable danger!

Will our age sign the end of this building which has survived for almost a thousand years?

Resi Girardello, a woman artist, wonders. For a few decades now, she devoted herself to an extraordinary task, rewriting the world through copper wire entwined in a traditional woman's technique, the crochet. With that one tiny thread, she throws leaves, fish, flowers, architectures, human figures into the air, in art creations which result at the same time frail and tenacious.

Since the beginning of her career, Resi Girardello questions the world of nature and the great themes of science: the living microstructures of the universe, the infections transmitted by microorganisms (yes, the pandemics), the global warming. She translates all this into striking installations, also valuable because they are capable of involving, with their visual wonder, audiences that otherwise would not be able or willing to digest the ponderous treatises, the tables and formulas of the scientists, but who can find here their point of first access.

In this room for Venice submerged, created on the occasion of the Biennale Arte 2022, Resi Girardello makes of the fragile and threatened city a theme of self-analysis, both of herself as a person, and of her own art: a thin thread capable of drawing the plots of a complex thought, but which risks to succumb to its own delicacy, to a lack of aggressivity which is that of the nature itself.

A recent creation, the copper-wire Basilica of San Marco ('Il mare nel cuore', 2021), reappears here, evanescent like a hologram, this time merging with the natural forms of coral reefs: equally marvelous, and equally condemned to extinction.

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If the underlying message is not new in itself (indeed, it has almost worn out in our ears, apparently to no avail), the great strength of this 'room' is to make us physically feel the

threatened fragility: that of the artist herself, that of the most loved city in the world, and that of the sea of the whole planet, with its silent and harmless inhabitants.

A small space that magically amplifies a symphony otherwise difficult to hear, perhaps destined to stop sooner than we think.

Gloria Vallese

TERRACQUARIO

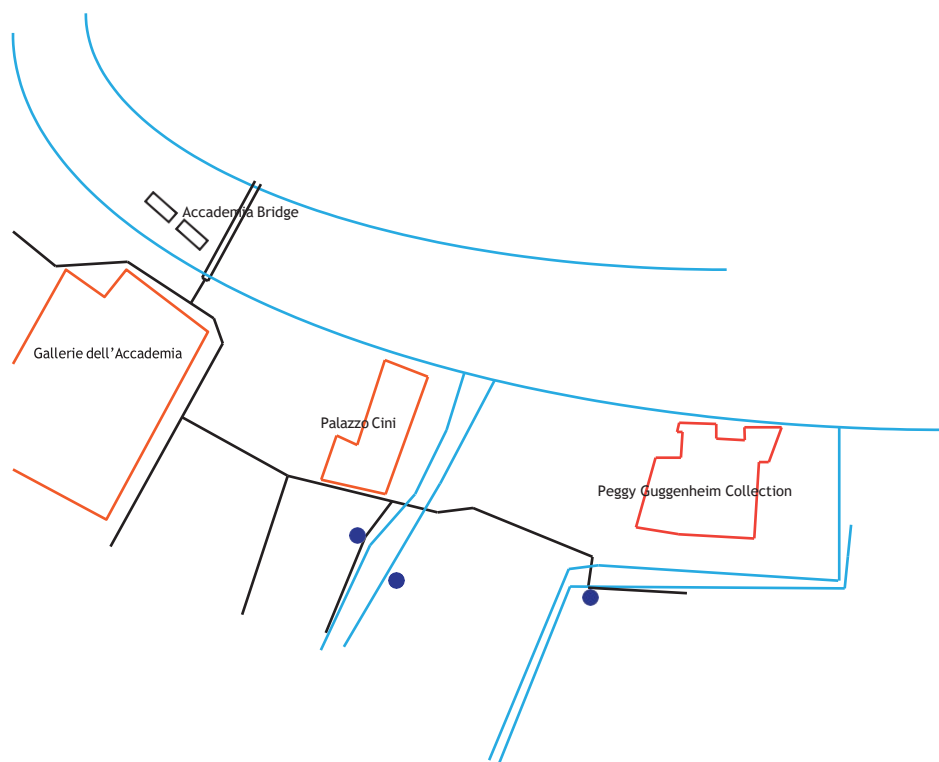
Widespread Exhibition:

Dorsoduro 366 INSEX & FLOWERS

Dorsoduro 652 ANTLARTIDE

Dorsoduro 735 SUBMERGED VENICE

Vaporetto stop: Zattere, Accademia, Spirito Santo



Artist's assistants: **Elena Cenzone** and **Giorgia Zuin**

Sound by **Giovanni di Capua**

Video by **Liviana Vanzetto**

Glass artworks created in collaboration with **El Cocal Glass Studio**

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