

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; not all speakers are listed):

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

17:30 - 17:40 **Welcome Remarks**

17:45 - 18:05 **Opening Keynote**

- Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director, Equal Justice Initiative

18:10 - 18:45 **Opening Panel: Arts as the Ultimate Mediator**

In a time of extreme division and intractable conflicts, it often seems impossible to imagine opposing sides ever seeing eye to eye. And yet... many practitioners claim that creativity is a proven method for breaking out of an impasse. When all else seems to be failing, can the arts help us overcome political and cultural divides?

- Ronen Berger, Author, Drama Therapist and Founder of Nature Therapy
- Adama Sanneh, CEO, Moleskine Foundation

18:50 - 18:55 **Poetry Performance: “My Pain”**

- Dana Dajani, Actress and Poet

19:00 - 19:30 **Conversation**

- Anish Kapoor, Artist

19:35 - 20:10 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, ecological 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?

- Magnus Resch, Art Market Economist
- Thaddaeus Ropac, Gallerist
- Victoria Siddall, Frieze and Gallery Climate Coalition

20:15 Cocktail Dinatoire

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

9:30 - 9:40 Welcome Remarks

9:45 - 10:25 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, and what lessons can be learned from cities with similar concerns? Can Venice be saved?

- Toto Bergamo Rossi, Director, Venetian Heritage
- Olga Kefalogianni, Minister of Tourism, Greece
- Hermann Parzinger, President, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

10:30 - 10:45 Provocation

- Thijs Biersteker, Ecological Artist

10:45 - 11:15 Coffee Break

11:20 - 11:35 Lightning Talk

- Giulia Andreani, Artist

11:40 - 12:20 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?

- Melissa Chiu, Director, Hirschhorn Museum
- Sandra Jackson-Dumont, Director and CEO, Lucas Museum of Narrative Art

- Wim Pjibes, Director, Droom en Draad Foundation
- Mariët Westermann, Director and CEO, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation

12:25 - 13:00 Conversation

- John Akomfrah, Artist and Filmmaker

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 14:30 Short Film Screening and Director's Notes

- Amos Gitai, Filmmaker

14:35 - 15:15 Panel: Visions in Filmmaking

The film world has undergone much shapeshifting in recent decades, partly due to the advent of streaming services, limited attention spans, and now the rise of artificial intelligence. Meanwhile there is no lack of talented filmmakers eager to share their visions. Has the path from idea to realization become easier or more fraught? What are the avenues for original voices to be heard – and are there enough of them?

- Ashitey Akomfrah, Producer, Smoking Dog Films
- Majid Al-Remaihi, Filmmaker
- Gabrielle Tana, Film Producer

15:20 - 15:50 Conversation

- Karim Ainouz, Film Director and Artist

16:00 - 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

**19:00 Dinner and Entertainment
Preceded by Panel: Art for the People**

If the goal of public art – whether stated or inferred – is to bring art to the masses, then the Biennale dell’Arte is a grand success. But there are other public art projects that reach even more diverse crowds, bringing thousands face-to-face with the works of local and international artists day in and day out. This session will discuss both the value and the risks of public art, and how it might break down social and economic barriers.

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 group of experts to explore how AI is reshaping the creative landscape, and the threats and opportunities it poses to creators.

- Marcello Dantas, Director, SFER-IK Museum
- Daniel Birnbaum, Curator
- Victoria Bousis, Filmmaker and AI Expert
- Freya Salway, Head, Google Arts and Culture

11:00 - 11:30 Conversation

- Sean Scully, Artist

11:30 - 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 - 12:35 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 prize, as well as with practitioners who are finding new purpose in this world.

- Manuela Lucá-Dazio, Executive Director, Pritzker Prize
- Lina Ghotmeh, Architect (TBC)
- Joep van Lieshout, Visual Artist and Sculptor

12:40 - 12:55 Lightning Talk: Repurposing Architecture, in Virtual Worlds

- Julien Barbier, Co-Founder and CEO, NADK
- Vincent Barué, Co-Founder and Chief Creative Officer, NADK

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch Roundtables

14:30 - 15:00 Conversation

- Philippe Starck, Industrial Designer and Architect

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 on both June 6 & 7. Registration options will be available closer to the actual date.**

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