

Oolite Arts

*A TRIP TO THE*

# **61<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION**



The Venice Biennale  
*In Minor Keys*



**5–10 October 2026**

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# Introduction.



This October, Oolite Arts invites you to join us in Venice for an immersive journey to the La Biennale di Venezia – one of the most influential cultural gatherings in the world. Dating back to 1895, the Biennale has, year after year, shaped the canon of visual arts, catapulted artists to stardom, and secured their place in art history.

This curated journey offers an insider perspective on both the Biennale and the wider artistic life of Venice through private access, expert guidance, and experiences rarely available to individual visitors. Over five days, participants will engage with the Biennale's principal exhibitions, encounter significant institutional presentations across the city, and experience Venice through the eyes of those actively shaping its contemporary cultural landscape.

At the heart of this journey is a moment of collective pride: a visit to the Giardini at the epicenter of the Biennale to see the work of Edouard Duval-Carrié, an Oolite Arts alumnus,

the first recipient of Oolite Arts' Michael Richards Award, and current Artist Board Member, invited to the Biennale by Koyo Kouoh. This rare opportunity invites participants to celebrate Miami's artistic talent as it reaches an international audience, showcasing the city's vibrant artistic ecosystem on the world stage.

Developed in collaboration with Art Travel Design, a London and Venice based cultural specialist, the program opens doors to private palazzi, foundations, and artistic networks that define the true rhythm of Venice. Balancing guided exploration with time for independent discovery, this journey prioritizes depth, access, and meaningful engagement – offering a rare, insider perspective on one of the art world's most significant international gatherings.

# Programme Overview.



# The itinerary combines:

**01.** The Biennale's principal venues:  
/ Giardini and Arsenale

**02.** Selected national pavilions  
/ and temporary exhibitions across Venice

**03.** Visits to leading institutions  
/ including private residences

**04.** Jewish Ghetto  
/ Encounters with Venice's layered cultural history, including the Jewish Ghetto

**05.** Shared convivial moments  
/ designed to encourage dialogue, exchange, and collective discovery



## Participation Cost

\$6,500 per person  
(includes a \$1,150 tax-deductible donation to Oolite Arts)

## What the Programme Includes

- Access to all scheduled visits and curated exclusive experiences
- Guided visits to the Biennale's principal venues and selected exhibitions
- Private water-taxi transportation throughout the programme
- Lunches and dinners as indicated in the program, including drinks
- Programme coordination and accompaniment by a member of Oolite Arts' senior staff and an Art Travel Design local coordinator
- Gratuities for meals and scheduled services

## What it does Not Include

- International or domestic travel to/from Venice
- Accommodation in Venice (see preferred group hotel on the following page)
- Personal travel insurance
- Independent transport outside scheduled programme activities
- Personal expenses or services not listed above
- Airport transfers
- 2 dinners

## Please note

Please note the itinerary is subject to slight changes. The final program will be sent to all participants two weeks before the start of the tour.



Please reserve your spot by 1 July 2026 through this link:  
<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/collectivecirclevenice/>  
Please note: the trip will take place with a minimum of 10 participants

Accommodation

## Preferred Group Hotel

For the duration of the programme, participants are invited to stay at **Splendid Venice – Starhotels Collezione**.

Located in the historic Mercerie district, the hotel sits on a quiet canal between Piazza San Marco and the Rialto Bridge. Housed in a historic building dating back to the 16th century, the property combines traditional Venetian character with contemporary comfort while placing guests at the very heart of the city. **Rooms have been pre-reserved for Oolite Arts programme participants at a preferential rate for the stay:**

### 5–10 October 2026

The preferential rates are available until until **July 1st**, after which the rooms and negotiated rates can no longer be guaranteed.

For accommodation reservations and further information, please contact **Megan Braasch** Chief Development of Oolite Arts at [mbrasch@oolitearts.org](mailto:mbrasch@oolitearts.org) at +1 917572 0045

### Room Rates

(per room, per night)

#### Deluxe Canal View

Single use: **€570**

Double occupancy: **€620**

*(preferred group rate – reduced from €820)*

#### Superior Room

Single use: **€470**

Double occupancy: **€520**

The above rates include breakfast and taxes, apart from the city tax (€5 per person per day), which is payable locally.

# Splendid Venice





## 5 October | Arrivals – Palazzo Grassi – Welcome dinner

Guests arrive in Venice throughout the day and settle into the hotel, beginning to experience the atmosphere of the Biennale period and the city at its most vibrant cultural moment.

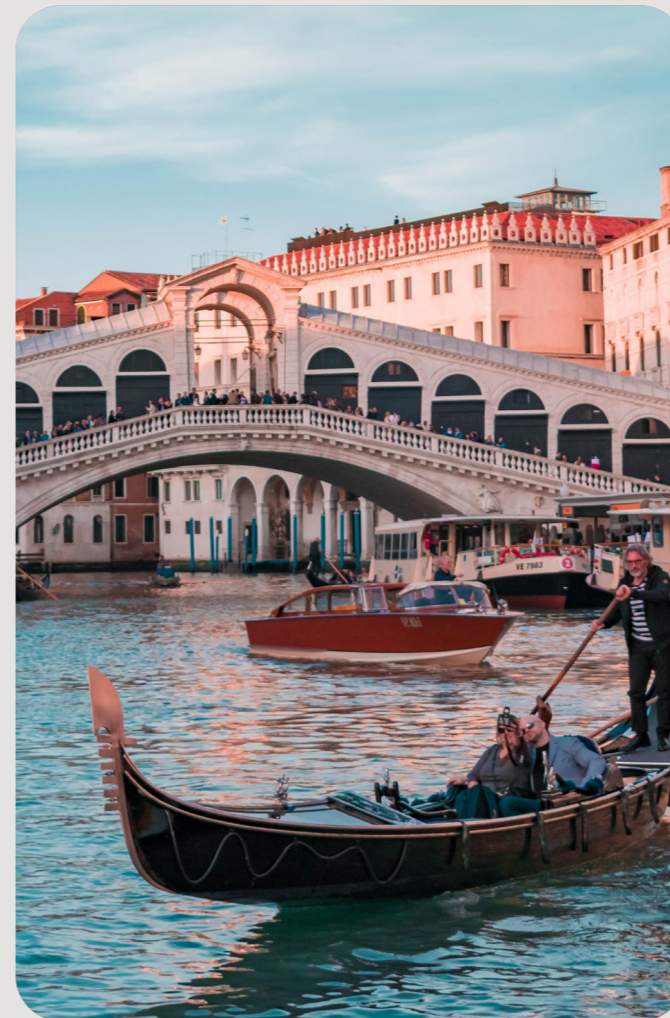
### Afternoon (starting at 4pm)

Visit **Michael Armitage** and **Amar Kanwar** exhibitions at Palazzo Grassi. Armitage's **The Promise of Change**, features over 145 paintings on Ugandan bark cloth, blending East African politics with Western art history. Kanwar's **Co-Travellers** showcases multimedia installations on resistance and justice. These exhibitions offer an in-depth exploration of contemporary African art and global political narratives.

*Aperitivo at a contemporary art space (to be confirmed)*

### Evening

Welcome dinner introducing the themes and conversations that will shape the journey over the coming days.



## 6 October | The Biennale: Giardini and Amoako Bofo

### Morning

Guided visit to **In Minor Keys** and **National pavilions** at the **Giardini**, the historic heart of the Venice Biennale. Moving away from grand, capital-driven narratives, the exhibition emphasizes underrepresented, subaltern, and terrestrial knowledges. It challenges the dominance of visual consumption by centering poetry, spoken word, and performance.

*Lunch at a local trattoria*

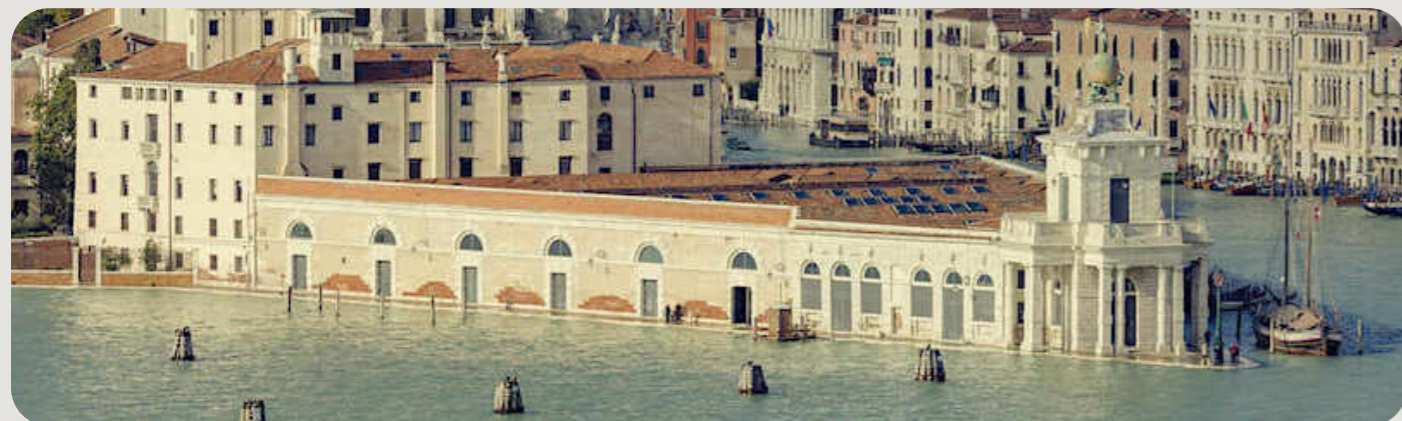
### Afternoon

Visit to **Amoako Bofo: It doesn't always have to make sense** exhibition. Set within the remarkable Renaissance Palazzo Grimani, Bofo's celebrated portraits enter into dialogue with one of Venice's most atmospheric historic interiors, renowned for its frescoes, classical collections and extraordinary Tribuna.

Visit to **Canicula**. Through eight site-specific video installations commissioned from an international roster of acclaimed artists, Canicula explores how societies and individuals respond to states of saturation—from information overload to environmental pressure. Taking its name from the summer “dog days”, the exhibition uses heat and relentless light as metaphors for a world in which stability gives way to transformation.

### Evening

*Free evening for independent exploration.*



## 7 October | Fortuny, Guggenheim and Pinault Punta della Dogana

### Morning

Breakfast and private visit to a contemporary gallery, offering insight into Venice's year-round artistic ecosystem beyond the Biennale.

Visit to **Erwin Wurm: Dreamers** at the stunning Palazzo Fortuny. Wurm, in his first monographic exhibition in Italy, has radically expanded the concept of sculpture, questioning notions of time, mass and surface, abstraction and representation.

*Lunch nearby.*

### Afternoon

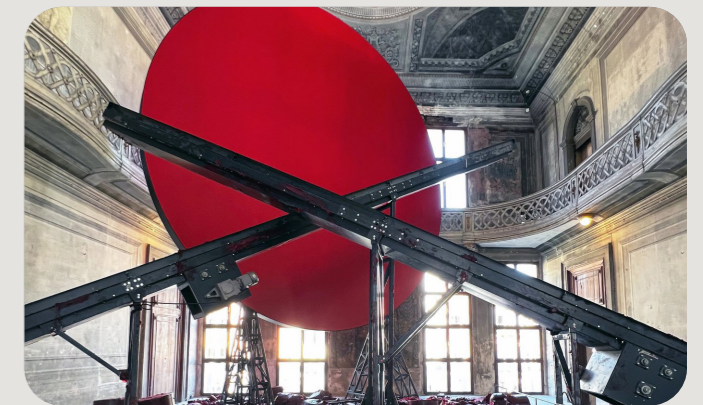
Visit to **Paulo Nazareth: Algebra** and **Lorna Simpson: Third Person** exhibitions at Punta della Dogana, presented within Tadao Ando's transformation of the former Venetian customs house.

Visit to the Peggy Guggenheim Collection and the exhibition **Peggy Guggenheim in London: The Making of a Collector** reflecting on the life and legacy of one of the great patrons of twentieth-century art.

### Evening

Intimate visit to the home and private glass collection of a celebrated Venetian glass artist, followed by drinks and traditional cicchetti.

*Dinner at one of Venice's most charming traditional restaurants.*





## 8 October | Ca' Pesaro, Prada, Berggruen, and AMA

### Morning

Visit to Ca' Pesaro, including **Jenny Saville** and Miami based **Hernan Bas: The Visitors** exhibitions.

Visit to **Helter Skelter: Arthur Jafa and Richard Prince** at Fondazione Prada. An exhibition curated by Nancy Spector at Ca' Corner della Regina in Venice, which reveals a creative conversation between the work of two prominent American artists, Arthur Jafa and Richard Prince, that has never been examined before. Fondazione Prada is known for presenting ambitious exhibitions within a striking architectural setting.

*Lunch at a traditional Venetian trattoria.*

### Afternoon

Guided exploration of the historic **Jewish Ghetto**, Europe's first "ghetto," the ancient Jewish quarter in the center of the city.

Visit to the exhibition **Strange Rules** at Berggruen Foundation. Co-curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist, Holly Herndon, and Mat Dryhurst, this exhibition explores how protocols and algorithms influence contemporary art, spanning artists, technologists, and scientists.

Visit to **AMA Venezia**, an independent exhibition space housed within a former Venetian soap factory, supporting emerging and experimental contemporary practices.

### Evening

*Free evening for independent exploration.*



## 9 October | Vatican Pavilion and the Arsenale

### Morning

Visit to the Holy See Pavilion, **The Ear is the Eye of the Soul**. Curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Ben Vickers, the pavilion takes inspiration from the writings and music of Saint Hildegard of Bingen and unfolds as a contemplative "sonic prayer", bringing together contributions by Patti Smith, Brian Eno, FKA twigs, Dev Hynes, Jim Jarmusch, Precious Okoyomon and Soundwalk Collective.

Guided visit to the **Arsenale**, exploring the curator's overarching vision and key artistic positions across one of the Biennale's principal venues.

*Lunch nearby.*

### Afternoon

Free afternoon for independent exploration, with the possibility of an optional visit to a local NGO engaged with Venice's social and cultural landscape.

### Evening

*Farewell dinner concluding the programme.*





## 10 October | Departures

### Departures throughout the day.

*Please note that the itinerary is subject to slight changes / The final programme will be sent to all participants 2 weeks before the trip*

### Accommodation

We will be staying at the Splendid Venice – Starhotels Collezione, ideally located between Piazza San Marco and the Rialto Bridge, in the heart of Venice.

For accommodation reservations and further information, please contact **Megan Braasch** (mbraasch@oolitearts.org) at Oolite Arts.

We are pleased to offer rooms at a discounted special rate (rates follow).

Please book by **1 July 2026** in order to benefit from the preferential rates and room availability.

*Please note that upon booking, a non-refundable deposit of USD 1,500 is required. The remaining balance is due by 1 September 2026.*

# About Edouard Duval-Carrié



Edouard Duval-Carrié is a contemporary artist and curator based in Miami, Florida. Born and raised in Haiti, Duval-Carrié fled the regime of “Papa Doc” Duvalier as a teenager and subsequently resided in locales as diverse as Puerto Rico, New York, Montreal, Paris and Miami. Parallels thus emerge between the artist’s cosmopolitan lifestyle and his artistic sensitivity toward the multifaceted identities that form his native Haiti. At heart, Duval-Carrié is an educator: he challenges the viewer to make meaning of dense iconography derived from Caribbean history, politics, and religion. His mixed media works and installations present migrations and transformations, often human and spiritual. Recently the conceptual

layering of Duval-Carrié’s works has been further emphasized in his materials and through consistent attention to translucent and reflective mediums, such as glitter, glass, and resin. The introspective effects of these mediums transform his works into spatial interventions that implicate the viewer in their historicity. At their most fundamental, Duval-Carrié’s works ask the viewer to complicate the Western Canon, to consider how Africa has shaped the Americas, and how the Caribbean has shaped the modern world.

## About the Programme



This journey has been developed by a Venice-based cultural specialist with long-standing relationships across the city's artistic institutions, foundations, and private networks. The programme reflects an insider understanding of how Venice truly operates during the Biennale – combining intellectual depth, privileged access, and the pleasure of experiencing the city at its most vibrant cultural moment.

### **Oolite Arts**

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## Contacts

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