



School for Curatorial Studies Venice

PRESS RELEASE
for immediate release:

COMMAND-ALTERNATIVE- ESCAPE

curated by the 24th edition of The
School for Curatorial Studies Venice

From 6 to 13 May 2017
Spazio Thetis Gardens, Venezia
Opening Saturday 6th May 2017
6pm
Press preview 5pm

From 6th to 13th May 2017, the
School for Curatorial Studies Venice
is pleased to reveal the secret loca-
tion of “COMMAND-ALTERNATIVE-
ESCAPE”, a site specific group exhi-
bition coinciding the 57th Venice Art
Biennale, will be set in the Gardens
of Spazio Thetis in the Arsenale.

Curated by the School’s 24th edition,
“COMMAND-ALTERNATIVE-
ESCAPE” will offer the exclusive and
limited opportunity to reconnect and
rediscover the historical Spazio The-
tis Gardens with new artworks reflec-
tive of constructed communities
emerging from current modes of
connectivity by international and lo-
cal contemporary artists.

Strategically located in Spazio Thetis
Gardens — an uniquely gated and
guarded Venetian green space en-
closed by historical industrial archi-
tecture — “COMMAND-
ALTERNATIVE-ESCAPE” welcomes
visitors to intimately assess their
personal truths by confronting per-
manent land art works by Joseph
Beuys, Jan Fabre and Michelangelo
Pistoletto, in dialogue with new
works by Allora&Calzadilla, Carolina
Antich, Jesse Darling, Peter De
Cupere, Enej Gala, Patrizia Giambi,
Mihai Iepure, Kensuke Koike, Tania
Kovats, Paul Kneale, Sahra
Motalebi, Tao G. Vrhovec Sambolec,
and Kristian Sturi.

Inspired by Venice’s public and pri-
vate community dynamics amongst
the large influx of foreign individuals
filtering through the city daily:
“COMMAND-ALTERNATIVE-
ESCAPE” calls to a critical shift in
perspective towards the archetypal
dichotomy between liberty and secu-
rity. “Security [specifically] in the
sense of knowing where you are,
who you are, on what kind of future
you can count [on], what will happen,
whether you will preserve your posi-
tion in society or whether you will be
degraded and humiliated... this sort
of security [which for] a rising num-
ber of people — looks at the moment



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more attractive than more freedom” (Zygmunt Bauman).

In a context burdened by manipulative collective ideology of the present: skepticism of mass media, controversies instigated by fake news, and filter bubbles and echo chambers calling into question the democratizing potential offered by connectivity—even so in a time parallel to virtually limitless geographical and cultural confines—“COMMAND-ALTERNATIVE-ESCAPE” will confront how individuals default to their own bubble of security.

By recalling invented nostalgia, which trace collective narratives of a time that may never have existed; or reconstructing a sense of identity and belonging, which has dissolved in an age of swift global interchange of people, information, and culture; “COMMAND-ALTERNATIVE-ESCAPE” will expose works by artists that assert, and realize their individual modes of expression amongst the polarization between liberty and security. Exhibiting “glimpses” of real cultural, religious, economic and social practices currently at stake in society, visitors are invited to discover inherent conflicts, ironies, faults, and opportunities lying in the exhibited personal *truths*.

The site-specific installation “All the Canals” by Tania Kovats, is one of the artworks that will be displayed in the garden. This work is the Venetian chapter of “Oceans”: realized between 2012 and 2014 thanks to a global net of collaborators, she collected water from all the oceans of the world, while in this case water will be collected from 167 canals of Venice.

Paul Kneale focuses on how the world is permanently translated in a simplified digital language, able to trivialize and depersonalize the contents and the people to whom it is addressed. The artist explores how digital aspects of our existence can occur and be reconfigured in a physical object. He identifies a state of bewilderment in the cognition of time and space, caused by our intangible leaving of new technologies. For COMMAND-ALTERNATIVE-ESCAPE he will be displaying an installation of three satellite dishes, part of the series “Event Horizon” presented at Palazzo Capris in Turin, at the Moscow Biennial and currently at Cassina Projects in New York.

Jesse Darling has designed an army of modular structures created with everyday materials: it consists in a group made up by single units which



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reflects on the phenomenon of the diffusion of radical ideologies.

Enel Gala will create three cages, similar to aviaries, with amorphous shapes and with no entry. The cage is now the symbol of a trap, of a binding safety in which we often unconsciously decide to lock down.

Thetis Spa (Spazio Thetis) is the world's leading centre for marine technology occupying the Arsenale Novissimo space since 1996. Located adjacently to the official Biennale Arsenale exhibition grounds, Spazio Thetis' mission is to create a union between contemporary art and technological research and development. With the creation of the contemporary art sculpture garden by architect Antonietta Grandesso, Spazio Thetis is a place of experimentation between art, research, innovation and circulation of knowledge, providing young and established artists a fertile ground for creating.

The School for Curatorial Studies Venice is an institution active since 2004 with A plus A Gallery. Leading intensive courses for students from all over Italy and the world, in each edition students create and execute a curatorial project reflective of the city and traditions of Venice through a contemporary lens.

24th Edition School of Curatorial Studies Curators: Venetia Baker, Giovanni Barbera, Jaspal Birdi, Marta Braggio, Matilde Cesareo, Elena Coco, Roberta Diamantis, Anna Laura Dolcetto, Virginia Dordei, Giada Frigerio, Marco Galvan, Valeria Lello, Daniela Lumastro, Alessandra Maccari, Marcella Malerba, Marilina Maraviglia, Diana Murray Watts, Miriam Pascale, Lucia Poli, Natasha Pradhan, Valentina Serafin, Gloria Sfoggia, and Alessia Zanato.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Wigwam Club Giardini Storici Venezia: an association protecting Venetian gardens through promoting and sharing knowledge of their historical, environmental and artistic qualities.

ARTUNER: Founded by Eugenio Re Rebaudengo in 2013, ARTUNER mounts curated exhibitions of contemporary art. ARTUNER has distinguished itself through its hybrid approach, exhibiting works both online and via pop-up shows throughout Europe. ARTUNER provides guidance and expertise for collectors through educational contents on the site and a rigorous approach towards the selection of artists and projects.



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EXHIBITION LOCATION:

Spazio Thetis Gardens at Arsenale
Vaporetto stop: Bacini
Castello 2737, 30122 Venice

Opening hours:

Sunday 7th May: 2pm -7pm
Monday 8th - Friday 12th May:
10am-7.30 pm
Saturday 13th May: 2pm-7pm

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