

SCHOOL FOR CURATORIAL STUDIES VENICE

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
Press preview Saturday May 6th 2017, 5pm
Vernissage 6pm

In partnership with ARTUNER and
Wigwam Club Giardini Storici Venezia

Artists:
Carolina Antich, Allora & Calzadilla, Jesse
Darling, Peter De Cupere, Enej Gala, Patri-
zia Giambi, Mihai Iepure Gorksi, Kensuke
Koike, Tania Kovats, Paul Kneale, Sahra
Motalebi Tao G. Vrhovec Sambolec, Kris-
tian Sturi

From 6th to 13th May 2017, the School for
Curatorial Studies Venice is pleased to re-
veal the secret location of “COMMAND-AL-
TERNATIVE-ESCAPE”, a site specific group
exhibition coinciding the 57th Venice Art Bi-
ennale, will be set in the Gardens of Spazio
Thetis in the Arsenale.

Curated by the School’s 24th edition, “COM-
MAND-ALTERNATIVE-ESCAPE” will offer
the exclusive and limited opportunity to re-
connect and rediscover the historical Spazio
Thetis Gardens with new artworks reflec-
tive of constructed communities emerging
from current modes of connectivity by inter-
national and local contemporary artists.

Strategically located in Spazio Thetis Gar-
dens — an uniquely gated and guarded
Venetian green space enclosed by historical
industrial architecture — “COMMAND-AL-
TERNATIVE-ESCAPE” welcomes visitors to
intimately assess their personal truths by
confronting permanent 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, Patri-
zia Giambi, Mihai Iepure Gorksi, Kensuke

Koike, Tania Kovats, Paul Kneale, Sahra
Motalebi, Tao G. Vrhovec Sambolec, and
Kristian Sturi.

Inspired by Venice’s public and private
community dynamics amongst the large
influx of foreign individuals filtering
through the city daily: “COMMAND-ALTER-
NATIVE-ESCAPE” calls to a critical shift in
perspective towards the archetypal dichoto-
my between liberty and security. “Security
(specifically) in the sense of knowing where
you are, who you are, on what kind of fu-
ture you can count (on), what will happen,
whether you will preserve your position in
society or whether you will be degraded and
humiliated... this sort of security (which for)
a rising number of people — looks at the
moment more attractive than more free-
dom” (Zygmunt Bauman).

In a context burdened by manipulative
collective ideology of the present: skepti-
cism of mass media, controversies insti-
gated by fake news, and filter bubbles and
echo chambers calling into question the
democratizing potential offered by connec-
tivity—even so in a time parallel to virtu-
ally limitless geographical and cultural
confines—“COMMAND-ALTERNATIVE-ES-
CAPE” will confront how individuals de-
fault 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 inter-
change 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 liber-
ty and security. Exhibiting “glimpses” of
real cultural, religious, economic and so-
cial 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 recently 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 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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Partner della School for Curatorial Studies Venezia:

- L'azienda vinicola Drusian di Valdobbiadene

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 – 7.3 pm
- Saturday 13th May
2pm – 7pm



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