

ISLAND'S RARITIES

MAY 7-8TH, 2026

VENICE

Island Rarities is organized by curator-researcher Elena Posokhova (MARLANDS), in collaboration with Venice-based artist Alessandra Craba and project manager Giulia Saya, with support from the CREA Contemporary Art Center.

The 2026 Biennale unfolds under the theme *In Minor Keys*, a call to explore quieter, more intimate artistic frequencies, modes of expression that resist spectacle in favour of subtlety, vulnerability, and poetic persistence. It is precisely in this register that Island's Rarities exists, not as a competitor to the loud machinery of the international art world, but as something working alongside it, in a different key. Where the Biennale speaks of minor tonalities as an artistic gesture, we speak of them as a lived reality : the reality of artists who live and work in Venice yet remain invisible behind the façade of the main event.

Venetian artists face pressures that rarely enter international discourse: mass tourism displaces affordable studios and erodes the conditions needed for a sustained practice. Artist Alessandra Craba speaks to this directly: " [...] not possible in Venice due to the lack of affordable studios caused by the economic and social impact of overtourism. This condition is fundamental for the continuity and qualitative growth of my painting practice." This is not an abstract problem, it is the concrete life of a real person in a city the world considers a home for art.

This event is an opportunity to explore the connections among island territories. The objective is to create a place where we can rethink the context of the Venetian archipelago at a local level, and at the same time consider it alongside other distant islands in the European landscape. Islands are places of extraordinary concentration: culture, memory and resistance.

It is about creating the conditions for a conversation that would otherwise not happen. There is also a further resonance with the current moment: the growing interest in craft, in techniques rooted in nature and material, in what is made by hand and grounded in territories. Island Rarities takes place at CREA, in the famous district of Dorsoduro, a historic space tied to the tradition of gondola building. The place will become the setting for an open encounter between artists, professionals, and the public.

Participating artists include Alessandra Craba, Andrea Tagliapietra, Ariele Bacchetti, Bianca Francesca Serafin, Camilla Dalmazio, Carlos Lopez Sanchez, Giulia Casula, Kishor Fiorin, Costanza Nani, Luca Spano, Rob Van Der Berg, Elena Callegari, Yann Toma, as well as Klitsa Antoniou from Cyprus. Their presence signals one of the event's most essential ambitions: to open a dialogue not only within Venice, but across other island territories.

The program across the two days is designed as a dynamic and living encounter. Visitors will find a curated showcase of materials, objects, and editions brought by participating artists, each piece tied to a distinct project and practice. Artists will be present throughout, inviting dialogue and engaging directly with the public in an interactive dedicated space. A networking session will also bring together professionals to share knowledge, introduce their artists, and strengthen the collaborative ties. This program is designed so that each and every participant can discover what islands carry : depth, rootedness and memory. But it's also the chance to understand the quiet persistence of the artists who have chosen, time and again, to call them home.





