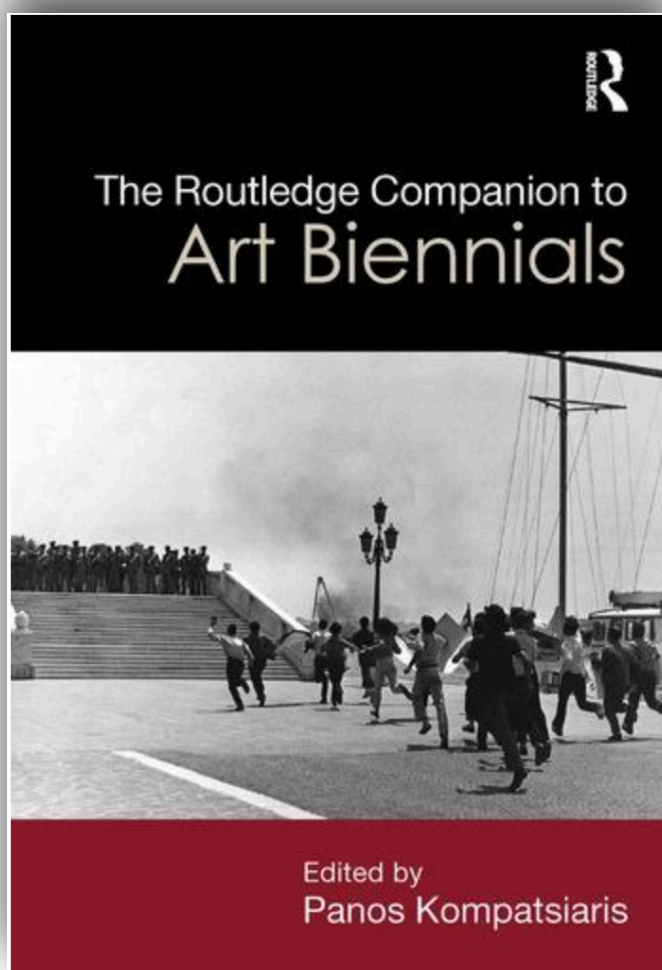


ART BIENNIALS

Symposium and presentation of
The Routledge Companion to Art Biennials
edited by Panos Kompatsiaris, Taylor & Francis, 2026

event coordinated by Clarissa Ricci and Angela Vettese

25 May 2026- h. 17.00
Università Iuav di Venezia
AULA 2 - Terese



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Dorsoduro 2206, Venezia

PROGRAM

17.00 Welcome by Angela Vettese (Università Iuav di Venezia)

17.15 Panos Kompatsiaris (HSE University) – *Art Biennials: an Introduction*

17.30 Matteo Bertelé (Ca' Foscari University) – *Defining Geographies through International Art Exhibitions in Cold War divided Europe*

Riccardo Legena (University of Bern) - *Biennials of the Arab World: Trans-Arabism as an Attempt at Emancipation from Nationalist Hegemony*

Clarissa Ricci (University of Bologna) – *Biennials as Administrative Hubs of Contemporaneity*

18.30 Q&A

18.50 Closing remarks

The event is coordinated by Clarissa Ricci and Angela Vettese and organised in collaboration with *OBOE Journal* and “Bites – Biennale di Venezia. Teorie e storie” with the support the Scuola di Dottorato (Arti visive, performative e moda) as part of the courses “Laboratorio Arti Visive 3” and “Teoria e critica arte contemporanea” of Università Iuav di Venezia

Participants profiles

Matteo Bertelé is associate professor in Contemporary Art History at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. He was Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at University of California Santa Barbara and Universität Hamburg. He is executive director of the Summer School "Contemporary art and curatorship: from documenta to the Biennale" (Ca' Foscari and Universität Kassel) and co-director of the academic journal "Venezia Arti". Along with articles and essays in international journals and books, he authored *Arte sovietica alla Biennale di Venezia (1924-1962)* (2020) and *Enrico Crispolti e l'arte russa e sovietica contemporanea in Italia (1956-1990)* (2025).

Riccardo Legena is a researcher and art historian at the University of Bern, Switzerland. In 2025, he completed his PhD thesis "Politik des Pavillons - Der Nahe Osten an der Biennale Venedig im Spannungsfeld zwischen Aktivismus und Propaganda", which examines the interaction between art and politics in biennial participations of and in the MENA region.

Panos Kompatsiaris is an associate professor of media cultures at HSE University. He holds a PhD from the University of Edinburgh (2015) and has guest-lectured at IULM University, Franklin University and the Athens School of Fine Arts, among others. His latest monograph is *Curation in the Age of Platform Capitalism* (2024) and served as editor of *The Routledge Companion to Art Biennials* (2026).

Clarissa Ricci is adjunct professor at the University of Bologna. Her research focuses on the history and networks of exhibitions, biennials and fairs. She was a recipient of the Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellowship in the History of Art (2019–2020) and was editor of *Starting from Venice. Studies on the Biennale* (2011). Her latest monograph is *Mercanti a Venezia: la Biennale e il suo Ufficio Vendite* (2025). Moreover she is co-founder and deputy editor of *OBOE Journal, On Biennials and Other Exhibitions*.

Angela Vettese is professor at the Università Iuav di Venezia, where she co-founded and directs the Master's Degree Course in Visual Arts, alongside coordinating the doctoral school in Visual, Performing and Fashion Arts. She has co-curated several exhibitions at the Venice Biennale and in 2000 she served as president of the jury. She is a member of various committees, including the Guarantors' Committee at Villa Panza in Biumo, the Scientific Committee at the Madre Museum in Naples and the Board of Directors at the AGO Foundation for Contemporary Arts in Modena. Since 1986, she has contributed to the "Domenica" supplement of the newspaper "Il Sole 24 Ore". Her latest books are *El Arte contemporaneo entre el negocio e lenguaje* (second revised edition, 2023) and *La rivolta del corpo* (2024). She is director of *OBOE Journal, On Biennials and Other Exhibitions*.