Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice

Department of Asian
and North African Studies

ACROSS WORDS



Across Words, Timor-Leste Pavilion. Curtesy: Cristiano Corte.

A Southeast Asian Case: *Across Words* — The Timor-Leste Pavilion at the 61st Venice Biennale

La Biennale di Venezia remains among the most influential platforms in the art world, and its national pavilion structure carries complex historical legacies. How can a young Southeast Asian nation enter this stage without losing sight of its own cultural fabric?
This talk explores this question through *Across Words*, Timor-Leste's national pavilion at the 2026 Biennale. Following a single-artist off-site presentation in 2024, Timor-Leste presents a group exhibition in the historic Arsenale, integrating sound, video, and textile works by three generations of artists: Veronica Pereira Maia, Etson Caminha, and Juventino Madeira. Timor-Leste gained independence in 2002 and joined ASEAN as a full member state in 2025. Its multilayered history unfolds alongside enduring animist and ancestral traditions as well as multiple local languages.
Curator Loredana Pazzini Paracciani and artists Etson Caminha and Juventino Madeira address the curatorial and artistic decisions required to communicate with international audiences while remaining anchored in Timorese heritage.

The session also features a short live sound performance by Etson Caminha titled "Verhana," invoking the blessings of the ancestors.

Chair:
Prof. **Edoardo Siani**

Guest speakers:
Loredana Pazzini Paracciani
Etson Caminha
Juventino Madeira

20 November 2026, 16.00-17.30
Sala Trifore, San Sebastiano