

Borders do not exist but are *dispositifs* – to use a Foucaultian concept – politically conceived and geographically predetermined but also psychologically experienced or socially and culturally constructed. Borders do not have to divide; they can also connect. The border can be a place as well as a non-place of encounter and/or separation. Borders are fluid: they change through observation, movement and construction. Borders can both disappear and be broken.

People are constantly crossing borders, be it out of protest, a desire for power or because they are on the run. Sometimes we cross our inner boundaries and discuss the limits of what can be said. However, borders are also patterns of order, such as the delineation of epochs or metric measurements. Ideological borders change based on experience. Once established, borders also remain constant in our imagination and change through dreams. Artistic projects are just as often concerned with these transgressions.

Which borders do artists, curators and scholars come up against? How do they define and negotiate them? In line with these questions, the two-day conference deals with the topic

of borders, especially from the perspective of photography and the moving image. During the first day workshop, scholars and curators will exchange views on different ways of understanding borders, starting from their personal experience as cultural professionals. In doing so, participants will adopt theoretical-philosophical, technological-media and even ecological perspectives to explore the limits of photography and the moving image, and to highlight future challenges and trends. The second day will be dedicated to individual presentations of art projects and film screenings. The programme will focus on one hand on the political and social perceptions of borders and on the other, on rivers as liminal spaces from multiple perspectives.

At the end of the two days the book *Venice, an Archipelago of Art and Ecologies* (transcript, 2025), which delves into the fragile but resilient Venetian cultural ecosystem at the time of the climate crisis, will be presented and discussed by the editors and selected authors. The book stems from a collaboration between the research centres Zwischenräume (University for Continuing Education Krems) and NICHE (Ca' Foscari University of Venice).



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia
Dipartimento di Filosofia
e Beni Culturali

THE NEW
INSTITUTE
Centre for Environmental
Humanities (NICHE)
at Ca' Foscari
University of Venice

University for
Continuing
Education Krems



Organizers

Cristina Baldacci is associate professor of Contemporary Art History in the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage (DFBC) at Ca' Foscari University of Venice and principal investigator of the Ecological Art Practices research cluster at THE NEW INSTITUTE Centre for Environmental Humanities (NICHE). She is also an affiliated researcher at the Platform for Sustainable Development (SDGs), University for Continuing Education Krems.

Christina Hainzl is head of the transdisciplinary Research Lab Society in Transition at the University for Continuing Education Krems. She is also principal investigator in the research cluster Conflicts and Visualisations in Contemporary Art and affiliated researcher in the Ecological Art Practices research cluster at NICHE (Ca' Foscari University of Venice). Christina studied art history and political communication.

Partners



Palazzo Grassi
Punta della Dogana
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FLUID GEOGRAPHIES

Reconsidering the Notion of Border in Contemporary Art

International Conference

18-19 June 2025, **Venice**

German Center for Venetian Studies
(Palazzo Barbarigo della Terrazza)

Teatrino di Palazzo Grassi

Organized by

Cristina Baldacci
Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Christina Hainzl
University for Continuing
Education Krems

DAY 1 > 18 June 2025, 3.00-7.00 PM

German Center for Venetian Studies, Palazzo Barbarigo della Terrazza, San Polo 2765/A, Calle Corner

3.00-6.00 PM **WORKSHOP**

(Un)Defining Borders

Welcome

Director PD Dr. **Richard Erkens** (German Center for Venetian Studies)

Opening remarks

Cristina Baldacci (Ca' Foscari University of Venice–DFBC, NICHE), **Christina Hainzl** (University for Continuing Education Krems)

Roundtable presentations

Marco Baravalle (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), **Angelika Burtcher** and **Daniele Lupo** (Lungomare, Bozen-Bolzano), **Noemi Quagliati** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice–DFBC, NICHE), **Jeanette Pacher**

(Curator Secession, Vienna), **Adrian Praschl-Bichler** (University for Continuing Education Krems), **Viola Rühse** (University for Continuing Education Krems), **Petra Schaefer** (German Center for Venetian Studies)

Followed by group discussion

6.00-7.00 PM *Vin d'honneur on the Terrace*

Please reserve your seat as space is limited: rsvp@dszv.it

DAY 2 > 19 June 2025, 1.00-7.00 PM

Teatrino di Palazzo Grassi, San Marco 3260

1.00-1.15 PM **Welcome**

Francesca Colasante (Palazzo Grassi – Pinault Collection Venezia)

Opening remarks

Cristina Baldacci (Ca' Foscari University of Venice–DFBC, NICHE), **Christina Hainzl** (University for Continuing Education Krems)

1.15-4.00 PM **Photo project presentations and film screenings**

SESSION 1

Social Perceptions of Borders

1.15-2.00 PM **An Inventory of Recurring Power Structures and Remains**

Randa Mirza (artist) in conversation with **Christina Hainzl** (University for Continuing Education Krems)

2.00-2.45 PM **Linea di confine: A Reflection on the Concept of Borders within the Landscape**

Presentation by **Ilaria Campioli** (Musei Civici Reggio Emilia). Followed by a conversation with **Cristina Baldacci** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice–DFBC, NICHE)

2.45-3.20 PM **Travels in No Man's Land. From Lübeck to Trieste: Photographs Along the Former Iron Curtain.**

Presentation by **Kurt Kaindl** (photographer and co-founder Fotohof Salzburg)

3.20-4.00 PM **Film screening**

The Answer is Out There (2025, 20 min, commissioned by Lungomare as part of the B-Shapes project) **ZimmerFrei (Anna de Manincor)** (artist) in conversation with **Angelika Burtcher** (Lungomare, Bozen-Bolzano)

4.00-4.20 PM break

4.20-5.40 PM **Photo project presentations and film screenings**

SESSION 2

Rivers as Liminal Spaces

4.20-4.30 PM **Introduction by Lungomare**

4.30-4.45 PM **Film screening**

The Water's Tale (2020, 6 min)

Presented by **Virginia Eleuteri Serpieri** (artist)

4.45-5.00 PM *Nel vedere, lungo il fiume* (2025) Presented by **Amedeo Sartori** (filmmaker)

5.00-5.40 PM **Rivers as Liminal Spaces**

Roundtable discussion with **Virginia Eleuteri Serpieri** (artist), **Amedeo Sartori** (filmmaker), **Angelika Burtcher** and **Elisa Del Prete** (Lungomare, Bozen-Bolzano), and **Giacomo Covacich** (bruno books)

5.40-6.00 PM break

6.00-7.00 PM **Book launch and discussion**

Venice, an Archipelago of Art and Ecologies, with the editors **Cristina Baldacci**, **Christina Hainzl** and **Adrian Praschl-Bichler**, and the authors **Giorgio Andreotta Calò** (artist), **Barbara Nardacchione** (Ocean Space - TBA21-Academy), **Alice Ongaro Sartori** (researcher and curator), **Matteo Stocco** (artist)

