

Genius Loci – Spirit of Place

Co-produced by Lisson Gallery and Berengo Studio

7 June – 23 November 2014

Press & VIP preview with panel discussion: Friday 6 June 2014 10am – 12pm

Palazzo Cavalli Franchetti, Venice, Italy

On the occasion of the 14th International Architecture Biennale in Venice, curated by Rem Koolhaas, Lisson Gallery and Berengo Studio present an exhibition of sculpture and installation that addresses the complex spheres of the public realm and the built environment.

The Latin term *genius loci*, originally referring to the presiding or guardian deity of a land, is now used to describe the particular essence and unique qualities of a place. Beyond the museum and gallery walls, public art can help define the character of its location by functioning harmoniously or in active dialogue with the architecture or landscape it inhabits.

As an experienced commissioner of large-scale contemporary art, Lisson Gallery is exhibiting major art works by 15 internationally renowned artists, both inside and outside the historic Venetian Palazzo Cavalli Franchetti. The exhibition includes models, sculptures, drawings and projects by artists including Ai Weiwei, Daniel Buren, Dan Graham, Shirazeh Houshiary, Anish Kapoor, and Lee Ufan, all of whom have made significant contributions to art in the public domain through works that complement or challenge their surroundings.

The exhibition, *Genius Loci* – Spirit of Place will also include a specially designed zone by critically acclaimed architects Carmody Groarke, documenting some of the most ground-breaking public art commissions of the late 20th and early 21st century. Also on display will be significant works in glass fabricated by Berengo Studio.

The exhibition is curated by Greg Hilty, Curatorial Director, Lisson Gallery. The initiative is conceived by Patrizia Spadafora, Director of Berengo Foundation.

Exhibition facts:

Opening hours: Tuesday-Sunday 10am – 6pm (closed Mondays)

Location: Palazzo Cavalli Franchetti, S. Marco, 2842, 30124 Venice

Two panel discussions including artists, architects and public art commissioners, chaired by Greg Hilty, will take place on:

Saturday 31 May, 10am – 12pm at Lisson Gallery, London

Friday 6 June, 10am – 12pm at Palazzo Cavalli Franchetti, Venice

The exhibition will open to the press at 10am on Friday 6 June before opening to the public on Saturday 7 June.

Notes to editors

About Lisson Gallery

Lisson Gallery is one of the most influential and longest-running international contemporary art galleries in the world. Since being founded in 1967 by Nicholas Logsdail, Lisson champions the careers of artists who have transformed the way art is made and presented. It continues to support the future of its artists, the legacy of historical figures and the evolving practice of established and emerging artists.

This collaboration is part of the Lisson Presents programme, a series off-site exhibitions that extends Lisson's legacy of curatorial innovation beyond its gallery spaces, working with institutions and artists to present new initiatives around the world. Recent projects include two celebrated Collateral Events of the 55th International Venice Art Biennale in 2013; Shirazeh Houshiary's *Breath*, a unique, site-specific installation in the Torre di Porta Nuova adjacent to the Arsenale; and Ai Weiwei's *Disposition*, an exhibition of two major works by Ai Weiwei addressing his arrest by the Chinese Government and the 81-day period subsequently spent in captivity.

About Berengo Studio

The Berengo Studio: innovators in the use of glass as a material for the expression and dissemination of contemporary art. During the 1980s and '90s, the studio's founder, Adriano Berengo, invited artists to experiment with glass and collaborate with master glassmakers to translate their – generally pictorial – works into glass sculptures. Berengo Studio strives to free glass from its perception as a functional material and to update the highly decorative traditions of Murano glass. For almost 20 years, more than 140 international artists have come to the Berengo furnace to create glass works and have contributed to making this ambitious project real. With galleries in Venice, Murano and Tokyo, Berengo Studio works are found in numerous public and private collections throughout the world.

For more information and images please contact:

UK and mainland Europe - Gair Burton at Rhiannon Pickles PR

Contact +44 (0)7402 784 470, gair@picklespr.com or caroline@picklespr.com

Italy - Paola Manfredi

Contact +39 02 87 23 80, press@paolamanfredi.com

USA - Adam Abdalla and Andrea Walsh at Nadine Johnson & Associates

Contact +1 212 228 5555, adam@nadinejohnson.com or andrea@nadinejohnson.com

www.lissongallery.com | www.berengo.com | www.palazzofranchetti.it
