



Universe Pavilion at the 19th Biennale d'Architettura Venezia

01.5.- 31.07.2025



Venice, Italy

© **Claudia Kessler**
Space engineer and founder

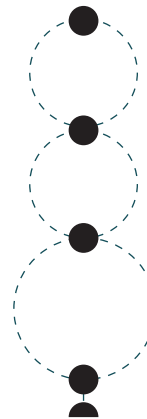
© **Janine Thüngen-Reichenbach**
Artist and co-founder

© **Claudia Schnugg**
Curator

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Consultant



What is the Biennale di Venezia?



La Biennale di Venezia - is the largest and most important contemporary visual art exhibition in the world.

The **Biennale** has been for over 120 years one of the most prestigious cultural institutions in the world.

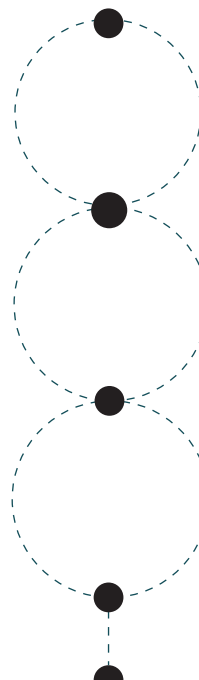
The **Biennale** has an average attendance of over 800,000 visitors, with over 75 countries represented in the collective exhibition spaces as well as in the national pavilions.

The history of the **Biennale di Venezia** dates back to 1895, when the first International Art Exhibition was organized.





Artists meet the Universe



The ***Biennale di Venezia*** is the representation of various exhibitions proudly presented by their respective countries. However, the overarching home of all these nations cannot be forgotten.

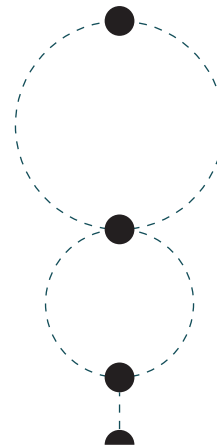
The “Universe Pavilion” 2025 is therefore dedicated to an exhibition that opens up a discourse that goes beyond the representation of one nation – it will be the first ever of its kind.

Artists and architects will have the ability to find and portray various perspectives of space and time, aided by the scientific knowledge brought forth by those who roam the very edges of our universe, the astronauts.

We want to create inspiring and participatory moments for the visitors while simultaneously pushing them to explore the far reaches of the universe, as well as their minds.



The reason behind the "Universe"



We are currently experiencing the "renaissance" of space travel. In times of climate change and of political turmoil, introducing astronauts' view of the earth from outside its orbit, **is central in founding a sense of preservation and importance into the people who inhabit our fragile home.**

Space travel allows for the creation of new cultural dimensions, from Earth to orbit and back again, for the performing arts, music, literature, etc.

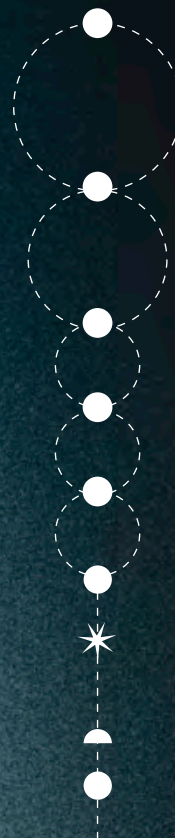
By allowing space travel to take on a pivotal role in the formation and interchangeability of cultural dimensions, **we are giving way to a new form of art in itself.**



Roadmap



Venice, Italy



2025

Launch Universe Pavilion
during the 19th Biennale d'Architettura

2026

Boost Universe Pavilion
to the the 61st Biennale d'Arte

2027

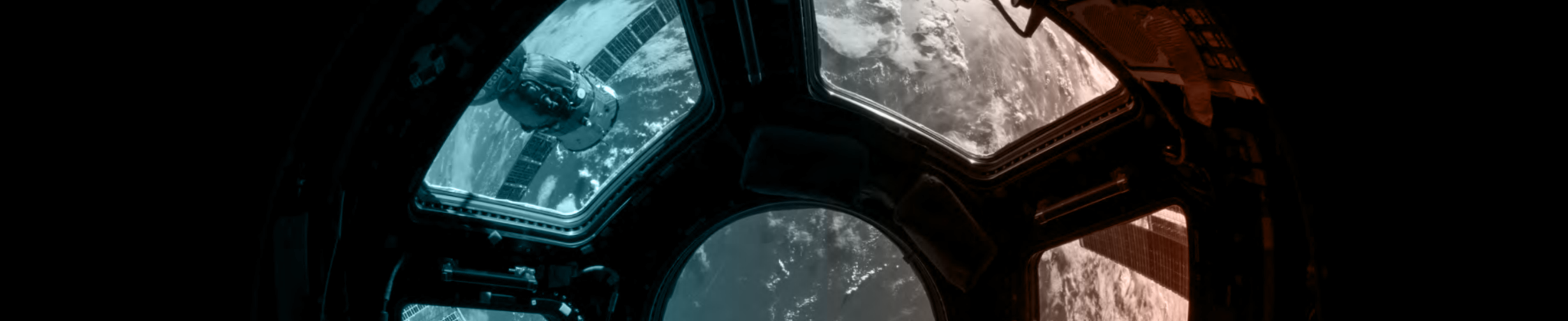
2028

2029

2030

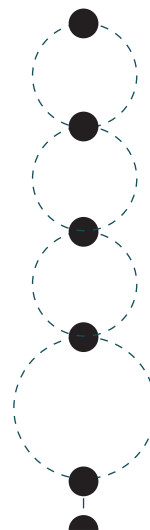
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The Exhibition 2025

Set against the backdrop of the Biennale d'Architettura 2025, the first exhibition of the Universe Pavilion will explore space travel, inclusive space dwellings, and (non-)human investigation of space:



How to explore circular and self-sustaining systems to enable space travel or to support life in extreme environments?

How can we artistically explore food in space, grow food and move from sustaining basic bodily functions to enjoying food as part of life?

What role do biological entities take up as agents of transformation for materials, living environments, or even developing new (bio)spheres?

How can green energy solutions, ways to deal with water and nutrients, contribute to overcoming the challenges of securing a climate proof future?

How to navigate space on unfamiliar ground and engage different with our senses?

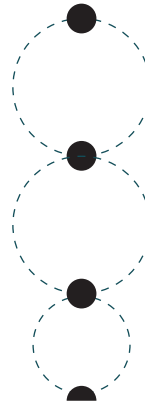


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Universe Pavilion Think Tank



In the ***Universe Pavilion***, scientific disciplines, art and culture, societies, perspectives, technology, visions, and dreams will be in dialogue.

To open up the discussion beyond the discourse as represented in the exhibition, the exhibition will be accompanied by a monthly think tank event.

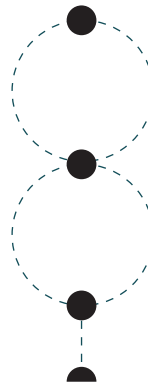
The ***Think Tanks*** will include panel discussions -- inspired by the narrative of the exhibition and its works -- between artists, astronauts, philosophers, space lawyers, scientists, engineers, researchers, and the audience.



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Visitors' involvement



The international art community as well as collectors, press and influencers will take part in this interactive exhibition open to the general public.

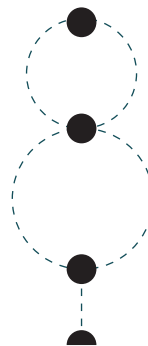
Through a specially designed interface, visitors will be able to interact with digital artworks, as well as connect and send data to space.

There will also be a ***Universe Pavilion Corner***, where visitors can dive into space-related topics and explore books related to the exhibition.



Universe Pavilion

events



An events programme will run in advance of and throughout the exhibition.

These will include dinners with live performances, artist talks, and Space Cafés – all of which will be live streamed to the global community.

The space events will encourage interaction with and participation of all visitors, both those physically present and those attending online.



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Space Engineer and Founder **Claudia Kessler**

My dream of flying into space was born when I was 4 years old, and the first humans landed on the moon in 1969. And I have been following this dream until today!

As an entrepreneur and visionary, I founded "Astronautin" in April 2017 to fly the first German woman into space and organized an astronaut selection and training program for women.

For me spaceflight was never a question of courage and braveness. I just wanted to see the Earth from outside, from the universe. I wanted to feel part of this endless universe and look down on our home planet from the moon!

Having been a CEO of a space engineering services company for 14 years built my management and leadership skills.

The idea to create a pavilion of the universe is for a me a symbol to unite art with the universe and thus a philosophical and even evolutionary development of humankind.

www.linkedin.com/in/claudia-kessler-8233751/



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Artist and co-founder **Janine Thüngen-Reichenbach**

Being an artist is like being the voice and color behind the questions that humanity, as well as I personally, am unable to answer. By giving form to questions I may not even fully understand, I find meaning in the unknown.

I am an all-encompassing artist working with various materials, inspired by the contrasts and juxtapositions found in humans, nature and space: the interactions between these elements are at the heart of my work. Time and space lie at the origin of much of my work, which, always in constant search of new cues, evolves through the viewer's participation. The work thrives off of this interaction, speaks with its materials and reflects the innumerable impressions that the interpreter of the work, that is, the viewer, makes of it.

www.jt-r.it



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Curator

Claudia Schnugg

I am a curator and an artsience scholar based in Austria. My ongoing practice in the field of art and science is twofold: as curator I am developing exhibitions, residencies, and projects that bring together artists and cutting-edge science; as scholar, I am researching artsience collaborations and the impact of such exchanges on actors, organizations, audience, and the relevance of the outcome for the field.

The work of contemporary artists in the realm of space art, space science, astronomy, and astrophysics has become one of the main pillars of my curatorial work in the past decade. Main scientific partners are the European Space Agency ESTEC, the European Southern Observatory, as well as several research groups at leading observatories. Previously, I was also commissioned to curate an exhibition for Chinese National Astronomy, and invited as guest curator of artistic positions at the EPFL's Laboratory for Experimental Museology and Laboratory of Astrophysics (LASTRO) exhibition "Cosmos Archaeology". Other artsience project partners include the acib Austrian Center for Industrial Biotechnology, Helmholtz Zentrum Munich, TU Berlin, and the European Commission's Joint Research Center.

For more information about my projects please look at:

www.claudiaschnugg.com/projects



Thank you.



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design by **Isabella Manciola**



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