



RICCARDO RIZZETTO IN MEDIO LAGUNAE

CO-CURATED BY NIKOLAOS AKRITIDIS AND YASMINE HELOU

20.11.2025 - 21.12.2025

PREVIEW: 19.11.2025, 6.30 - 9PM

OPENING HOURS: TUESDAY - SUNDAY, 11-6PM

CASTELLO 2432, FONDAMENTA DEI PENINI, VENEZIA 30122

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In Medio Lagunae marks the first solo exhibition of Italian artist, researcher, and architect Riccardo Rizzetto in Venice. Deeply rooted in the history and geography of the Venetian Lagoon, the exhibition unfolds as a poetic and critical exploration of landscape, memory, and ecological fragility. Taking the Purple artichoke of Sant'Erasmo as both metaphor and medium, Rizzetto transforms this emblematic vegetable into a transmitter of layered voices, invoking the echoes of agricultural labour, the residues of colonial trade, and the spectres of environmental precarity. Treated as a “quasi-object” in Michel Serres’ sense, the artichoke becomes an entry point for dialogues between the human and the non-human, the local and the global, the past and the emergent present.

A site-specific installation titled *Synthetic Campi* grounds the show on synthetic grass (a tangible innuendo of the artificial flirting with the natural) which is dotted with wooden crates that were used to transport produce during the 1980’s, setting the scene for a constellation of sculptures, ready-mades, paintings, and soil chromatographies. The works presented in the exhibition extend Rizzetto’s ongoing research project *Eroded Ecologies*, which was initiated at the Centre for Research Architecture (Goldsmiths, University of London). It investigates anthropic impact on bodies of water and situates the Venetian Lagoon within a wider network of haunted ecologies; spaces where infrastructure, extraction, and colonial circulation leave traces that are at times invisible, yet always enduring.

This research forms the basis for the creation of new works, such as *Souvenir Lagunae* which presents a set of postcards addressed to Venice, to be sent back in time to the 20th century, an era that brought major shifts to the city’s industry and demographics. They are accompanied by *Extractive Icons*, a series of paintings on metal plates which emulate traces found in the lagoon, as well as *Haunting Ecologies*, a written tale about the artichoke of Sant'Erasmo, its emergence, and evocative presence. The work mirrors the lagoon’s own instability, suspended between exposure and concealment, visibility and opacity.

The exhibition also features a series of *Soil Chromatographies* which unfold as geological portraits. They are slow images of transformation that register the invisible chemistries of displacement, tracing how Sant'Erasmo’s fertile grounds and Porto Marghera’s industrial residues converge, together with the traces of overtourism in Venice, within the sedimented memory of the lagoon. *Hydraulic Mythologies* revisits the entanglement of extraction and circulation that underpinned Venice’s construction. Transported from Bassano del Grappa along the river routes that once carried timber to the lagoon, the reclaimed trunk becomes a material echo of the hydraulic systems and forested origins that sustained the city’s foundations.

Through poetic narration, atmospheric imagery, and spatial interventions, Rizzetto presents a counter mapping of the Venetian lagoon, tracing its factual histories and contemporary myths. His work disturbs still waters, inviting the audience to sense how the past continues to inhabit the present, and how landscapes themselves may speak back through haunting. With a gaze that is at once analytical and lyrical, Riccardo Rizzetto offers a meditation on the Lagoon as a living archive, a site where ecological, historical, and affective dimensions converge. *In Medio Lagunae* invites the audience to listen differently: to perceive the landscape not as backdrop or as a resource, but as a resonant body, alive with memory, tension, and possibility.

Exhibition co-curated by Nikolaos Akritidis and Yasmine Helou

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Artist Biography

Riccardo Rizzetto is an Italian architect, artist, and curator whose post-disciplinary practice operates across installation, writing, and collective research. His work investigates the frictions between physical and conceptual territories, exploring how spatial and material gestures can articulate ecological, cultural, and political transformations.

Educated in Architecture at IUAV University of Venice and later at the Royal College of Art in London, he recently completed an MA in Research Architecture at the Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths, University of London, where he also worked as a Research Assistant at Forensic Architecture on Cartography of Genocide and The Architecture of Genocidal Starvation.

Rizzetto's research is anchored in the Venetian Lagoon—particularly on the island of Sant'Erasmo—examining how environmental, infrastructural, and agricultural interventions shape cultural identity and ecological resilience. His broader practice intertwines fieldwork, soil studies, sound recordings, and curatorial experiments to reveal how environments think, remember, and act collectively. Recent exhibitions include Eroded Ecologies (Reverberations, Goldsmiths, London, 2025), BRINT (Villa Angaran San Giuseppe, Bassano del Grappa, 2025), and The Menu (LAS Gallery, London, 2025). His upcoming solo project In Medio Lagunae (Venice, 2025) further develops his long-term research into the lagoon's residual ecologies.

His writing and editorial projects include the essay Canals of Resistance published in Folly 02 (Architectural Association, London, 2025) and contributions to Echoes (Goldsmiths, University of London, 2025).

He is co-founder of Communal Matters, a research platform exploring human and more-than-human communities through spatial and material practices.

Rizzetto has presented his work and research in talks and public programs including the Venice Architecture Biennale 2025 (Gens Public Programme, curated by Carlo Ratti), Milan Arch Week 2025, a listening session on Montez Press Radio (New York/London, 2025), and several symposia and workshops in collaboration with IUAV Venice, Goldsmiths, and the Politecnico di Milano, among others.

For more information and high resolution images email hey@yasminehelou.com

Preview: 19.11.2025 | 6.30 - 9pm

Listening Session- Radio Alhara: 23.11.2025 | 10 - 10.30 am

Exhibition dates: 20.11 - 21.12.2025

Opening hours: Tuesday - Sunday | 11am - 6pm

Location: Castello 2432, Fondamenta dei Penini, Venezia 30122

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