



Guest Artists Space (G.A.S.) Foundation Announces Participation in the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia By Koyo Kouoh

Preview days: 6-8 May 2026

Public opening: 9 May - 22 Nov 2026

Venue: Main Exhibition, Arsenale, Venice

Guest Artists Space (G.A.S.) Foundation is pleased to announce its participation in the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia curated by Koyo Kouoh.

Since its inception in 2019 by Yinka Shonibare CBE, G.A.S. has been dedicated to facilitating international cultural exchange and supporting creative practices through residencies, collaboration and educational initiatives. Its programmes operate across two sites in Nigeria; a purpose-built creative space in Lagos and another on a sustainability-focused farm with an onsite artist studio in Ikise, Ogun state. Together these spaces offer distinct yet interconnected contexts for research, critical thinking, experimentation, and sustained artistic development.

Committed to expanding access and opportunity within the arts, G.A.S. supports the creation of new work while fostering dialogue across various cultures and disciplines. Rooted in the hyper-local ecosystems in which it operates, the Foundation functions as an agile, non-hierarchical platform for experimentation which invites artists and thinkers to test ideas, build meaningful local and international networks, and engage urgent social and cultural questions. Its programme encompasses research on food and ecological systems, alternative models of education and institution building, and creative and social infrastructure.

The Foundation's inclusion in the Biennale Arte 2026, titled In Minor Keys, reflects its ongoing commitment to bringing together artists and thinkers, fostering cultural dialogue, care, and exchange across local and international contexts. Kouoh's invitation to be part of the Main Exhibition recognises the residency not simply as a support structure, but as a practice in its own right, and a site of research, and sustained engagement that generates meaning through dialogue and shared inquiry.

The presentation is led by Ann Marie Peña, with architectural installation design by MOE+ Art Architecture (Papa Omotayo, Oyinade Adegbite). It is realised with the generous support of Yinka Shonibare CBE, The Osahon Okunbo Foundation (TOOF), Olufemi A. Akinsanya, and Triangle Network .

Among the many contributors represented are Alberta Whittle, Ayomide Fasedu, Belinda Holden, Bisila Noha, Catherine Bardi, Daniel Minter, Emma Prempeh, E.N. Mirembe, Funmilola Ogunshina, Gideon Gomo, Jonn Gale, Julie Buckland, Kwadwo Asiedu, Moni Aisida, Ofem Ubi, Olayinka Eno Babalola, Olufela Omokeko, Portia Zvavahera, Randall Wright, Raqs Media Collective, Raymond Pinto, Roland Heap, Samantha Russell, Sola Olulode, Tobi Onabolu, and Umar Rashid.

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questartistspace.com

About G.A.S. Foundation

Guest Artists Space Foundation was established in 2019 by the eminent British-Nigerian Artist Yinka Shonibare CBE. Guest Artists Space (G.A.S.) Foundation is a non-profit that delivers residencies and public programmes across two sites; one in the heart of the dynamic city of Lagos and the second on a rural working farm in Ikise in Ogun State.

About La Biennale di Venezia

Established in 1895, La Biennale di Venezia is considered one of the most famous and prestigious cultural institutions in the world. At the forefront of research and the dissemination of new contemporary artistic trends, La Biennale di Venezia organises exhibitions, performances, research, and training activities in all its Sectors: Art (1895), Architecture (1980), Cinema (1932), Dance (1999), Theatre (1934), and Music (1930). Its International Art and Architecture Exhibitions introduce hundreds of thousands of visitors to new architecture every two years. The 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia – In Minor Keys by Koyo Kouoh – will run from Saturday 9 May to Sunday 22 November 2026 (preview 6, 7, 8 May) at the Giardini della Biennale and the Arsenale venues, and in various locations around Venice.

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