



SUMUS, The Forge of the Future

OPENING April 8 2022, SUMUS, vernissage
"From Chaos to Harmony" curated by Sumus
ADDRESS Castello 5063B, 30122 Venice
OPEN Wed – Mon, 10am – 7pm

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The opening of the Venetian headquarters of the cultural foundation **SUMUS** kicks off on **8 April 2022 at the Fucina del Futuro/the Forge of the Future. Created by Hélène Molinari in 2020, SUMUS will forge innovative ideas and projects with the aim of making Venice an ideal city of the future** in the setting of an old blacksmith's workshop that has fallen in disuse over twenty years ago.

The project was born from the visionary mind of Hélène Molinari who sees in Venice a paradigmatic model for the rethinking of all the cities and communities to come: ***"I see in the future a lively, joyful and radiant Venice, bearer of light and conscience for humanity and for the world! A unifying Venice, which will become the world's lighthouse, the witness, the symbol of a new paradigm that we will need to co-build"***.

To make this project of spiritual rebirth tangible it was necessary to find a physical meeting place, one of the many Venetian spaces once active but now abandoned: the **Fucina del Futuro in Castello** was born here, a stone's throw from the Church of San Lorenzo, the headquarters of the Ocean Space.

The Forge of the Future will be at the same time a "think and do tank" and an apolitical and ecumenical place, committed to the service of Living, the awakening of conscience, the emergence of a new economy with a positive, lasting and inclusive impact; a meeting point for exchanges between inspired Venetian and international visionaries and local actors who intend to dedicate themselves to new projects. To achieve these goals, **SUMUS will also host exhibitions during the Biennale**, promoting visual arts as a universal language at the service of a new ideal respectful of all living beings.

The first project to inaugurate the program of the Forge of the Future **is the exhibition curated by SUMUS "From Chaos to Harmony" with the artists VAL - Valérie Goutard, Sébastien Lilli and Brigitte Moreau Serre which will be open from April 8, until July 17, 2022.** In perfect parallel to the transition suggested by the show – from chaos to harmony – the Fucina is now in a state of "chaos" itself and will close after the show to undergo a deep renovation and finally reopen in "harmony" in January 2023.

The exhibition "From Chaos to Harmony" will be followed by a dense and diverse series of vital and cultural activities – on education, health, environment, nutrition, technology, crafts – that SUMUS is developing in a perspective of collaboration and exchange with the actors operating in the Venetian territory.

In a historical moment where humanity seems to be a victim of itself and of the disastrous consequences of its actions – climate change, the decline of biodiversity, pollution, the death of the oceans, and lately war – **the urgency to go from chaos to harmony, from war to peace, from fear to empathy is more pressing than ever.** The need for a new paradigm must meet with actions, this is why **SUMUS will open a symbolic and physical space to enhance our metamorphosis and our minds, and perhaps wisdom.** A tangible opportunity to "to be the change [we] want to see in the world," as Gandhi said.

FOR MORE INFO

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Notes to Editors

Hélène Molinari is an engineer by training and joins the Axa Group. She participated in the creation of the asset management subsidiary Axa Asset Managers. She took over the marketing and e-business direction, then joined the Management Committee as Brand and Communication Director at the global level. She joins Laurence Parisot at MEDEF as Deputy Managing Director, member of the Executive Council. In 2013, she joined several boards of directors. She is also a founding member of Asia Now, an Asian contemporary art fair. She is involved in many associations: "Our Neighborhoods have talents", "Entrepreneurship to learn", "Everyone sings against cancer". In May 2020, she founded Sumus and became its president.

SUMUS

For an environmentally sustainable, socially equitable and economically viable society, SUMus endorses Gandhi's motto: " Be the change you want to see in the world ".

SUMus means "we are" in Latin and wishes to replace individualism with the collective and Having with Being.

"Become who you are" said Picasso. By becoming aware of their uniqueness and their potential, each individual will freely express their talents to achieve personal fulfillment and to bring them to the world.

Each individual will also become aware that all human beings are connected to each other and to the world around them, the fauna, flora, the planet, the cosmos ...

SUMus will thus promote the emergence of a Human Consciousness enlightened by Knowledge for a respectful and sustainable future.

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