



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 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 sustainable and regenerative-focused farm with an artist's house and 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 artwork is led by **Ann Marie Peña**, with support of founder **Yinka Shonibare CBE, Belinda Holden** CEO Yinka Shonibare Foundation (Y.S.F.) and **Moni Aisida** Executive Director of G.A.S. Foundation. This project is managed by **Samantha Russell**, with architectural installation design by **MOE+ Art Architecture (Papa Omotayo, Oyinade Adegbite)**. Film production by **Filmwrights (Randall Wright)** and **Julie Buckland**, while sound design by **Sound Disposition (Roland Heap, Simon Haupt)** and **Funmilola Ogushina**.

It is realised with the generous support of **The Osahon Okunbo Foundation (TOOF), Olufemi A. Akinsanya, Triangle Network, Yinka Shonibare CBE, Annette Anthony, Kayode Adegbola, Bimpe Nkontchou, Denise Bradley-Tyson, Wally Bakare, Yemi Adunola, Adeniyi Adenubi, Oba Nsugbe, and Tokini Peterside-Schwebig**.

Among the many contributors represented are: **Alberta Whittle, Ayomide Fasedu, Bisila Noha, Catherine Bardi, Damilola Akin-Olasupo, Emma Prempeh, E.N. Mirembe, Gideon Gomo, Jonn Gale, Ofem Ubi, Olayinka Eno Babalola, Olufela Omokeko, Portia Zvavahera, Raqs Media Collective, Raymond Pinto, Şolá Olúlòde, Tobi Onabolu and Umar Rashid**.

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Press enquires, interviews or attendance requests:

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About G.A.S. Foundation

Guest Artists Space (G.A.S.) Foundation is a Nigerian non-profit organisation founded in 2019 by Yinka Shonibare CBE. Across its sites in Lagos and Ikise, Ogun State, G.A.S. delivers residencies, public programmes, and research initiatives that support artistic production, critical inquiry, and interdisciplinary exchange. Since becoming operational, it has supported over 100 residents from more than 20 countries over three years, working both locally and internationally to foster dialogue, collaboration, and new forms of cultural exchange. Rooted in the specific social, cultural, and ecological contexts of its two sites, G.A.S. provides a platform for experimentation and sustained engagement across contemporary art, design, architecture, ecology, agriculture, and the environment. G.A.S. works in close partnership with, and with the support of, the UK-registered charity Yinka Shonibare Foundation (Y.S.F.).

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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