

Promoted by FAI - Fondo Ambiente Italiano, Delegazione di Venezia (The National Trust of Italy, Venice delegation) in collaboration with Associazione Piazza San Marco and Venice IUAV Architecture University  
Curated by We are here Venice

**Exhibitions, publications and discussions to explore the life of Piazza San Marco, within the project 'Aqua Granda 1966 - 2016' of the City of Venice**

Given its commitment to environmental issues, the FAI in collaboration with Associazione Piazza San Marco and the NGO We Are Here Venice, is part of a set of initiatives coordinated by the City of Venice to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the great flood of 4th November 1966, with the project "**L'acqua e la Piazza**", dedicated to Francesco Valcanover. The project has been developed and curated by We Are Here Venice.

Instead of revisiting the dramatic days of the great flood, "L'acqua e la Piazza" tells a story with many voices about the relationship between Venetians, the water and the heart of the city, Piazza San Marco. The Piazza is presented as a place for the people, full of values and meanings, combining the life that goes on in the area with its primary elements, water and stone, and with the memory that runs through its monumental heritage.

An analysis of the Piazza's daily life also highlights a place that suffers from more and more flooding, prompting reflections about its future. The project revolves around the Olivetti Showroom, managed by FAI, and also involves several other locations in the area surrounding Piazza San Marco.

**Return to the Piazza**

Photography exhibition by Anna Zemella

The exhibition in the FAI Olivetti Showroom is an emotional journey of re-appropriation of the Piazza as an integral part of the city, rather than a specific descriptive exercise. Piazza San Marco is presented through an intimate conversation with the stones, the stories of the ancient statues, the spread of the tide, where water is an element linked to the life of Venice and a relationship of harmonious coexistence. The exhibition is split into two sections: Water and Stone; Ancient Figures.

**Acqua in Piazza**

Exhibition curated by We are here Venice and Eleonora Sovrani

This multi-site exhibition brings together experiences and impressions, images and other materials that reveal the on-going, difficult relationship with water levels among the businesses that make up the Associazione Piazza San Marco (APSM). The exhibition locations around the Piazza and in the immediate surroundings (also shown on the map/postcards distributed via shops and hotels throughout Venice) are identifiable by the water line marking the level reached on 4th November 1966 in the square and across their windows.

## Interdisciplinary discussions

Three public meetings are planned involving experts from different fields to consider the Piazza's future.

## Collection of experiences and impressions at the Olivetti showroom

curated by IUAV

During the exhibition at the Olivetti shop, a public campaign will be run to collect thoughts about Venice and water: experiences and impressions. This initiative is central to the Venice IUAV Architecture University (Dipartimento di Culture del Progetto) special workshop on *spacial design and video editing*, run by Prof. Monica Centanni in collaboration with FAI national headquarters.

## The publications

**Ritorno in Piazza**, catalogue of the exhibition of photographs by Anna Zemella, with texts by Monica Centanni and Paul Coltro.

**Acqua in Piazza** by Jane da Mosto with Giannandrea Mencini on trends and adaptations to water levels and flooding, to further our understanding of the phenomenon of the tides in Venice as well as future prospects for the life of the Piazza.

Both books are published by **lineadacqua**

**4th November 2016 - 8th January 2017**  
**Olivetti Showroom and Piazza San Marco area**  
**Venice**

Open from 10.30 to 17.30

Closed on Mondays

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## Press Office

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## RITORNO IN PIAZZA

### Exhibition of Photographs by Anna Zemella

Negozio Olivetti, Piazza San Marco 101 Venice

4th November 2016 - 8th January 2017

The exhibition in the Olivetti Showroom features over 30 images divided into two sections: Water and Stones, Ancient Statues.

"With this exhibition and this text, to use her words, Anna Zemella proposes an 'emotional journey' with the aim of returning to her 'interrupted relationship' with the heart of the city. Interrupted because there are moments in which it is unrecognisable, assaulted by a form of mass tourism that has become unmanageable, rendered barbaric by a rudeness and disrespect that seem beyond remedy. Yet, the gaze of this Venetian photographer will not be put out; it remains poetic and suggests new, perceptive and original points of view. With the support of the FAI Fondo Ambiente Italiano, on the 50th anniversary of the aquagrande (the big flood), Zemella shares her intimate reinterpretation of one of the most photographed cities and, in particular, one of the most photographed piazzas in the world."

From the introduction to the catalogue by Emanuela Carpani

*Superintendent of Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape for Venice Municipality and its Lagoon*

## ACQUA IN PIAZZA

### Multi-site installation in and around Piazza San Marco

4th November 2016 – 8th January 2017

Fourteen boutiques, galleries, shops, bars, restaurants and hotels, showing a line along their windows to indicate the water level reached on 4th November 1966, host installations to illustrate the relationship between Venice and its waters.

The thematic installations, created specially by the artist Eleonora Sovrani, to investigate water levels range from networks of tide gauges in the lagoon to describing practical measures adopted by the different businesses, such as placing equipment and furnishings on leg extensions or permanent interventions to raise ground levels. The artist's work is based on evidence collected "in the field" and structured in a grid of technical and scientific references by Jane da Mosto from the association We are here Venice.

"...the anniversary of the tragic 'Aqua Granda' of 1966 holds two meanings for us: reflection and commemoration, and an ideal occasion on which to revive the topic of a future Piazza San Marco without water.

This book is a vital tool for beginning this discussion. Let's hope that sound reflection will be quickly followed by firm decisions."

From the introduction to the book by Alberto Nardi (*President of Associazione Piazza San Marco*)