

# VENICE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

## *30th Anniversary Celebrations*



November 27-29, 2025

*The celebrations mark three decades of academic innovation, cultural dialogue and international cooperation on the island of San Servolo, a unique place where knowledge meets creativity and sustainability.*

### Program

1. Inauguration of the 30th Anniversary of *Venice International University*
2. Guiding Transitions International Conference
3. VIU Alumni & Friends Dinner
4. *Navigating the Venice Archipelago. Lagoon Stories for Sustainable Futures*
5. Conversations on Energy, Environment and the Sea
6. Meetings of the Academic Council & Staff
7. *Special Concert of the Choir of the Cardinal Bartolucci Foundation*
8. Plenary Meeting of the VIU Governing Bodies
9. *The Third Paradise* by Michelangelo Pistoletto: 20th Anniversary
10. Signing Ceremony for the Lease of Facilities on the Island of San Servolo in favor of *Venice International University*
11. Institutional Welcome Address by Ambassador Riccardo Guariglia, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
12. "Thirty Years of VIU and the Extraordinary Venetian Renaissance", by Prof. Renato Brunetta
13. *Special Anniversary Concert by Maestro Filippo Gorini*
14. *Thirtieth Anniversary Gala Dinner*

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

*Venice International University, San Servolo Island*

# Inauguration of the 30th Anniversary Celebrations

*Aula Magna*

### 14.00 Institutional Greetings and Introductory Remarks

Ambassador **Umberto Vattani**, President of Venice International University

Prof. Avv. **Anna Maria Bernini**, Italian Minister of University and Research [video contribution]

Hon. **Raffaele Fitto**, European Commission, Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms [video contribution]

Former Deans of VIU: Prof. **Paolo Costa**, Prof. **Ignazio Musu**, Prof. **Stefano Micelli**, Prof. **Agar Brugiavini**, Prof. **Carlo Giupponi**.

## Guiding Transitions International Conference

*Aula Magna 1-E, San Servolo*

Human history alternates between gradual progress and sudden transformations driven by wars, epidemics, and innovation. Today, change unfolds with unprecedented speed and complexity, challenging our ability to guide it toward positive outcomes. The VIU International Conference “*Guiding Transitions*” offers a forum for reflection and case-based analysis, exploring how Higher Education Institutions can prepare students to navigate and shape these transitions.

### 14.30 Introduction by the Steering Committee:

**Carmelo Marabello**, Dean, Venice International University

**Eileen Sweeney**, Boston College

**Sara De Vido**, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice

**Mario Martina**, IUSS Pavia

**Cem Guneri**, Sabanci University

**Laurent Servant**, University of Bordeaux

**Maji Rhee**, Waseda University

### Session 1: Transition in Higher Education and Artificial Intelligence

Chair: **Riccardo Pietrabissa**, IUSS Pavia

### 15.00 Keynote: The Dilemmas of AI in Higher Education

**Luc Steels**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Emeritus)

### 15.15 Keynote: Navigating the AI Horizon: Promises, Perils, and the Power of Collaboration

**Ece Kamar**, Sabanci University (online)

### 15.30 Open Discussion

### 16.15 *Coffee Break*

Session 2: Structural Inequalities Within and Across Societies

Chair: **Marina Calloni**, University of Milano Bicocca

- 16.45 Keynote: Children's Rights  
**Manfred Nowak**, Global Campus of Human Rights
- 17.00 Keynote: Social Justice  
**C. Shawn McGuffey**, Boston College
- 17.15 Open Discussion

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***VIU Alumni & Friends Dinner***

*Grecale building, San Servolo*

- 19.30 with the participation of the students and faculty of the Globalization Program and the Deans of VIU, with music performed by UNIPD Big Band, the Jazz Orchestra of the University of Padova

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28**

Venice International University, San Servolo Island

**Guiding Transitions International Conference**

*Aula Magna 1-E, San Servolo*

Session 3: Ecology and the Environment

Chair: **Shuming Liu**, Tsinghua University

- 09.15 Keynote: Environmental Transition in the European Union  
**Simone Borghesi**, University of Siena
- 09.30 Keynote: A Relational Agenda for Just Social-Ecological Transitions  
**Rika Preiser**, Stellenbosch University
- 09.45 Open Discussion
- 10.30 *Coffee Break*

Session 4: Cities in Transition

Chair: **Laurent Servant**, University of Bordeaux

- 11.00 Keynote: Urban Transition and Resilience  
**Nicola Tollin**, UNESCO Chair on Urban Resilience, University of Southern Denmark
- 11.15 Keynote: Rising Seas, Fading Plans? Rethinking Transition in Coastal Cities  
**Francesco Musco**, Università Iuav di Venezia and CORILA
- 11.30 Open Discussion

12.15 Closing Remarks:

**Bernd Huber**, Ludwig Maximilians Universität; **Caroline Levander**, Rice University; **Antonio Marcomini**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice; **Norimasa Morita**, Waseda University; **Lucia Visconti Parisio**, University of Milano Bicocca; **Giovanni Zanalda**, Duke University. Moderated by **Riccardo Pietrabissa**, IUSS Pavia

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## ***Navigating the Venice Archipelago. Lagoon Stories for Sustainable Futures***

*Grecale building, San Servolo*

- 13.00 An interactive multimedia exhibit developed by Venice International University in collaboration with the University of Padua, and exhibited in the Italian Pavilion at Osaka Expo 2025 and part of the Intelligent Venice Exhibition, a special project of the Venice Sustainability Foundation at the Architecture Biennale in 2025.

13.30 *Lunch*

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## **Conversations on Energy, Environment and the Sea**

*Auditorium, San Servolo*

[in Italian with English translation]

- 14.30 Prof. Dott. **Gilberto Pichetto Fratin**, Italian Minister for the Environment and Energy Security  
Prof. **David Burigana**, University of Padua

Sen. **Nello Musumeci**, Italian Minister for Civil Protection and Marine Policies

Prof. **Andrea Rinaldo**, President, Veneto Institute of Sciences, Letters and Arts

Prof. **Fabrizio Marrella**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Moderated by Ambassador **Umberto Vattani**, VIU President

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## **Meetings of the VIU Governing Bodies & Staff – by invitation only**

*Room 1-G, San Servolo*

- 15.30 Academic Council

- 17.30 VIU-wide staff meeting

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## ***Special Concert of the Choir of the Cardinal Bartolucci Foundation***

*Church of San Salvador, Venice*

### **21.00 *Concert of the Choir of the Cardinal Bartolucci Foundation***

In 2004, the Domenico Bartolucci Foundation created its own polyphonic choir to promote the classical and contemporary sacred repertoire of the Roman School—particularly the works of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina and Domenico Bartolucci, but also those of the most renowned composers of sacred music from the Renaissance to the present day

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## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

Venice International University, San Servolo Island

### **Meetings of the VIU Governing Bodies – by invitation only**

*Room 1-G, San Servolo*

09.00 Welcome Coffee

09.30 Joint Meeting of the Assembly, Board of Directors and Academic Council

### ***The Third Paradise by Michelangelo Pistoletto: 20th Anniversary***

*Auditorium, San Servolo*

Project conceived by Ambassador Umberto Vattani

[in Italian with English translation]

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the *Third Paradise*, Michelangelo Pistoletto returns to San Servolo to celebrate the work symbolizing his artistic and social commitment, which was first created here. The Island, once again, becomes a meeting place for art, nature, and collective responsibility, the very heart of the Pistoletto's vision.

11.00 Presentation of the book *“From The Third Paradise to the Formula of Creation”*

Published by Treccani

**Welcome Remarks**, Simone Cason, CEO San Servolo - Servizi Metropolitani di Venezia

**Ambassador Riccardo Guariglia**, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

**Michelangelo Pistoletto**, Artist, Creator of the Third Paradise

**Antonio Spadaro**, Undersecretary of the Vatican Dicastery for Culture and Education

**Achille Bonito Oliva**, Co-curator of the Volume (tbc)

**Valentino Catricalà**, Co-curator of the Volume (tbc)

**Paolo Naldini**, Director of Cittadellarte – Fondazione Pistoletto

**Francesco Monico**, Head of the Spirituality Office at Cittadellarte

**Saverio Teruzzi**, Coordinator of the Third Paradise – Rebirth Embassies

**Laura Salas Redondo**, Curator and Founder of the Third Paradise – Rebirth Embassies

Moderated by **Fortunato D’Amico**, Editorial Coordination

12.00 TRIKÂLA: “Towards the Tuning of the Third Paradise”

*Grecale building, San Servolo*

Sound composition by **Nicola Cisternino**

Artistic workshop curated by **Stefania Guerra Lisi**

Environmental project conceived by **Giovanni Leone**

In collaboration with the Guggenheim Art High School and the Marco Polo Music High School of Venice.

12.45 Unveiling of the Commemorative Plaque of the Third Paradise

*Sculpture Park of San Servolo*

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## Celebratory Evening at Ca' Vendramin Calergi

[by invitation only]

- 17.30 ***Signing Ceremony for the Lease of Facilities on the Island of San Servolo in favor of Venice International University***  
Mayor of Venice, Arch. **Luigi Brugnaro**  
Ambassador **Umberto Vattani**
- 18.00 **Institutional Welcome Address**, Ambassador Riccardo Guariglia  
Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

### PROLUSIONE

#### ***“Thirty Years of VIU and the Extraordinary Venetian Renaissance”***

**by Prof. Renato Brunetta**

President of the Venice Sustainability Foundation  
and President of the Italian National Council for Economics and Labour

- 19.00 **Anniversary Concert by Maestro Filippo Gorini**

Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)  
Seven Fantasies op. 116

Franz Schubert (1797 - 1838)  
Sonata in G Major op. 78 "Fantasia" D 894

- 20.00 **Thirtieth Anniversary Gala Dinner**