

PERSONAL STRUCTURES

European Cultural Centre Italy unveils participants for *Personal Structures – Confluences 2026*

Title	<i>Personal Structures – Confluences</i>
Venues	Palazzo Bembo, Palazzo Mora & Marinaressa Gardens
Location	Venice, Italy
Organiser	European Cultural Centre Italy
Co-organiser	Open Space Venice
Curators	Elisa Dallanoce, Sara Danieli, Rachele De Stefano, Lucia Pedrana, Claudia Piovan, Sara Serpilli, Micaela Skerl, Lucia Trevisan, Elena Volpato
Period	9 May – 22 November 2026
Previews	7 – 8 May 2026
Website	personalstructures.com

The **European Cultural Centre Italy** presents *Personal Structures – Confluences 2026*, the eighth edition of its internationally renowned contemporary art exhibition, open from **9 May to 22 November 2026** in **Venice** at the historical venues of **Palazzo Bembo, Palazzo Mora, and the Marinaressa Gardens**.

The theme *Confluences* defines this edition, marking the exhibition's return with a renewed visual identity that reflects its curatorial vision. The concept of Confluence invites visitors to explore intersections between artistic practices, cultural dialogues, and creative expressions, highlighting how diverse voices and perspectives meet and transform within the global contemporary art landscape.

The **European Cultural Centre Italy** is pleased to announce the **protagonists of this edition: 175 established artists and emerging voices** from more than **40 countries**. In a dialogue that reflects the complexity of contemporary art, the exhibited works challenge traditional boundaries and frameworks, intertwining into new perspectives. Through the encounter between historic

figures such as **Keith Haring, ORLAN, and Hirohiko Araki** and a new generation of artists, the exhibition emerges as a dynamic space for experimentation and dialogue among contemporary visions and languages. As **Sara Danieli**, Head of Art at ECC Italy, notes, "*Confluence is where differences meet and transform, generating new currents and energies.*"

Unfolding across ECC Italy's venues, *Personal Structures* spans a wide range of artistic practices and cultural contexts, from intimate works to monumental interventions. The exhibition engages visitors in a dynamic experience of artistic inquiry, material experimentation, and shared reflection.

The exhibition catalogue, available in both print and digital formats, enriches the group show by offering further insights into the works of artists, highlighting the rich intersections of perspectives, identities, and artistic practices explored throughout *Personal Structures – Confluences 2026*.

Exhibition Highlights

DTR Modern Galleries brings to Venice, at **Palazzo Mora**, two extraordinary artists: **Kozo (Eden Karo)** and **Keith Haring**. **Haring** is renowned for his iconic subway drawings, mostly realised between 1980 and 1985, while **Kozo** has gained recognition for works that blend classical draftsmanship with pop culture. Presented in this exhibition with **nine works**, Kozo stands among the most significant emerging artists of his generation. His practice bridges the precision of classical draftsmanship with the immediacy of pop culture, bringing together centuries-old artistic discipline and the visual language of today. In dialogue with the **three artworks by Haring** on view, these creations establish a compelling exchange between historical significance and contemporary influence, bridging generations and artistic forms, and revealing a visual language that continues to evolve.

ECC Italy is pleased to present *We Are Inconsolable (2025-2026)*, the latest series by **ORLAN**, a pioneering contemporary artist known for using her own body as artistic material. Her works are held in major collections including the **Centre Pompidou, Tate Modern and MoMA**. In the exhibited series of **5 artworks**, ORLAN transforms AI-

CONFLUENCES

PERSONAL STRUCTURES

generated imagery into painterly interventions where human and algorithmic gestures converge. Painting serves as a tool of emotional and political assertion, culminating in a nearly fully painted canvas that reclaims body, voice, and image.

At **Palazzo Bembo** stage a special collaboration with Japanese publisher **Shueisha** featuring *JoJo's Bizarre Adventure* by renowned manga artist **Hirohiko Araki**.

Araki is celebrated for his distinctive art style, imaginative storytelling, and inventive use of fashion, anatomy, and poses, which have become iconic within manga and pop culture worldwide. The exhibition presents **27 artworks**, including **lithographs, lenticular works** revealing three-dimensional images in their worldwide debut, colour prints made with archival inkjet printing, and monochrome pieces produced on a flatbed letterpress. The project takes place in a stone-floored room that offers views of the Rialto Bridge through its canal-facing windows.

At **Marinaressa Garden**, internationally renowned Indian artist **Paresh Maity** presents *Equilibrium*, a monumental sculpture composed of linear planes and vertical axes that suggest a geometric framework. Cast in brass, a luminous and earthy medium, this work is made to reflect light while being deeply connected to the ground. In the same venue, **Rashid Al Khalifa** presents *Inhabited Crate*, an installation that exists also as an active element of its environment. Composed of modular metal cubes, the interactive work transforms rigid modular structures into porous space.

ECC Awards and the Jury

The **ECC Awards**, established by the European Cultural Centre Italy, celebrate the richness and complexity of contemporary art in line with the curatorial vision of *Personal Structures – Confluences*. For the 2026 edition, the ECC Italy team, together with an international jury, will award projects across the following categories: **Artistic Interpretation of the Theme: Confluences, Research & Curatorial Project, Space & Context Project, Cross-Disciplinary Project, Emerging Practice**, and the **Artist as Activist Special Award, selected directly by the ECC Italy team**.

The awards recognise and celebrate artistic approaches that turn diversity into opportunities for connection, exchange, and growth, emphasising research, social impact, site awareness, and interdisciplinarity, core values of ECC Italy within the extraordinary Venetian context.

The European Cultural Centre Italy is proud to announce this year's **distinguished jury: Nargess Banks**, writer and editorial director on art, design, and visual culture; **Jesús Alberto Flores**, cultural strategist supporting emerging artists globally; **Rahul Gudipudi**, researcher, storyteller and curator, Senior Curator at CARA, Center for Art, Research and Alliances; **Euijung McGillis**, Assistant Curator at the National Gallery of Canada, championing modern and diaspora Asian art and **Anouska Phizacklea**, Director of the Museum of Australian Photography and co-President of the Melbourne Queer Film Festival.

The winners will be unveiled at the close of the exhibition, honouring innovation, creativity, and the transformative power of art.

Media Partners

Supported by a distinguished network of **media partners**, including **ArtReview, Ocula, Exhibart, Venezia News and Pigment International**, *Personal Structures* reaches audiences worldwide. These collaborations represent a shared commitment to promoting contemporary art across borders and platforms. The biennial exhibition will also be highlighted on **Dezeen Events Guide**.

ArtReview

OCULA

exibart

NEWS

de
zeen
guide



CONFLUENCES

ECC Italy Press Office:
press@ecc-italy.eu

More resources:
Press Kit

personalstructures.com
Instagram | LinkedIn | Youtube | Facebook

