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Glasstress 2017: “HumanRightStress” chapter

On the occasion of the **57th Biennale di Venezia**, [Fondazione Berengo](#) presents “**Glasstress 2017**”, a group exhibition curated by **Dimitry Ozerkov**, **Herwig Kempinger** and **Adriano Berengo**, with the consultancy of **Clare Phyllis Davies**. The show brings together over 25 leading contemporary artists from Europe, the United States, the Middle East and China, and takes place in the historic locations of Palazzo Franchetti in Venice and a converted furnace in Murano.

Fondazione Berengo and The European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights ([EIUC/Global Campus of Human Rights](#)) signed a Joint Agreement on 11 April 2017 to Co-organise the 5th edition of the exhibition GLASSTRESS 2017 - (HUMANRIGHTSTRESS Chapter) - based on the strong belief shared by both institutions that embraces the arts as an instrument for raising awareness among the wider public around the world on themes related to human rights and democracy.

The arts and human rights are closely related and need each other. The arts – music, literature, theatre, dance, cinema, fine arts, sculpture, architecture, design and glass arts – can only flourish in an atmosphere of freedom from fear, violence and repression. Democratic societies based on human rights provide the best institutional framework in which arts can flourish and artists are protected against repression and persecution. At the same time, the universal language of the arts, which attracts and empowers human beings around the globe more than any other means of communication, is the most powerful and joyful medium to promote the universal values of human rights.

This is the time when we need to stand up and defend human rights and democracy in Europe and worldwide. “We” means civil society, above all academics, intellectuals and artists. The European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC), based in Venice as the hub of the

“Global Campus of Human Rights” representing more than 100 universities in all world regions, is the biggest institution of human rights education in the world, initiated and supported by the European Union. Our vision is a world in which human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, as shared values of the European Union and the United Nations and as internationally binding legal standards, are fully realised. Based in Venice, we wish to connect arts, culture and human rights.

The aim of the “GLASSTRESS 2017” event, which is being held in Venice **from 10 May until 26 November 2017**, is to promote an intense arts and human rights debate among some of the world’s most renowned artists, including **Ai Weiwei, Vik Muniz and Koen Vanmechelen**.

Our joint “HumanRightStress” calendar starts with the opening of the “GLASSTRESS 2017” exhibition at the Palazzo Franchetti in May and includes the installation of the “Collective Memory” marble sculpture by Koen Vanmechelen at the EIUC premises of the Monastery of San Nicolò in June, a dialogue with the Sakharov Prize awardee Lamya Aji Bashar at the opening of the “Venice School of Human Rights”, visits of students and human rights experts to the glass furnace of Berengo Studio in Murano, a dialogue between artists and European human rights diplomats at Palazzo Franchetti during the 2017 Diplomatic Conference in July and cooperation with the renowned artist and human rights defender Ai Weiwei during the festivities celebrating 20 years of the European Master programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA) at the Scuola Grande del Rocco in September.

This calendar of activities will also provide a setup for preparation of a **future fundraising project** between the two institutions called “HumanRightsStress Pavilion” to be proposed for the next 16th International Architecture Exhibition in 2018 and 58th International Art Exhibition of Contemporary Arts in 2019.

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#Glasstress2017 #SupportEIUC4HumanRights #SupportGCHumanRights #SupportHumanRightStress

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