Scotland + Venice

La Biennale di Venezia
61. Esposizione Internazionale d'Arte
Eventi Collaterali

Scotland + Venice presents Scotland + Venice: Bugarin + Castle - Shame Parade

A Collateral Event of the 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia curated by Mount Stuart Trust.

For the 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, Scotland + Venice presents the Collateral Event **Scotland + Venice: Bugarin + Castle** curated by **Mount Stuart Trust**. The work - Shame Parade - will be shown from Saturday 9 May to Sunday 22 November 2026 at Olivolo, Castello 59/C 30122, Venice. **Preview: Thursday 7 May from 3pm-5pm.**



Bugarin + Castle, Mr. Mimic [Submit to Sound], 2026, Photo (detail), Courtesy the Artists and Scotland + Venice. © Bugarin + Castle.

From Scottish castles to Filipino cemeteries, Bugarin + Castle explore overlapping geographies and time periods in a contemporary queer and trans reimagining of public shaming rituals. Bugarin + Castle narrative unfolds not in a single scene, but in a carnival-like procession of subversion and defiance. Working across architecture, moving image, sculpture, and performance, their practice draws vibrant connections between queer and trans lives in Scotland and internationally, including diasporic connections to the Philippines. Their work focuses on shared resonances as well as differences, shaped by personal and cultural histories. In selecting them, Scotland + Venice embraces a vision of Scotland that is outward-facing, interconnected, and attuned to the complexities of a shifting world, as well as supporting two artists to make their most significant body of work to date.

Across multiple artworks, the exhibition Scotland + Venice: Bugarin + Castle reimagines centuries-old European shaming rituals, known as *rough music*, *charivari* and *scampanate*, where spectacle, sound, and costume were used to discipline social transgressors. The artists transform these customs into a contemporary language, bringing together fourteenth-century court transcripts, satirical eighteenth-century engravings, karaoke ballads, medieval armour and Filipino vehicle art. Through this process, they construct a layered world where historic voices and contemporary culture loop together in scenes that are both defiant and tender. The sculpture, *At Certayne Tymes* fuses mechanical, anatomical, and vocal elements, while *Submit to Sound*, a moving image work, layers voice feminisation exercises and songs made with Manila-based band Kalye Teresa. Traversing both gallery spaces, the sculptural intervention, *Nocturnal Amusements*, poses the question, “Are You Discreet?” a knowing provocation to the viewer. Shame here is not banished, but stretched to new emotional registers where defiance, play, and intimacy coexist. Bugarin + Castle offer no moral resolution. By mapping shame and transformation across continents and through time, they create a politically charged space where power and identity remain in motion.

Mount Stuart Trust, based on the Isle of Bute, are curating the project, led by Dr Morven Gregor, working with the artists and a series of partners. They have presented a renowned Contemporary Visual Arts Programme since 2001 with artists including Alberta Whittle, Abbas Akhavan, Linder, Martin Boyce, Thomas Abercromby, and Ilana Halperin. **Following Venice, the exhibition will return to Mount Stuart on Bute in Summer 2027, before touring to venues throughout Scotland with details to be announced.** The UK tour has been supported by Art Fund. Forma, a contemporary arts organisation working across the UK and internationally, are Producers of the film element of the project and are working with Mount Stuart as Production Manager of the exhibition in Venice.

The project was chosen to represent Scotland by a panel including Sepake Angiama, Director, Iniva, Norah Campbell, Head of Arts Scotland, British Council, Simon Groom, Director, International & National Partnerships, National Galleries of Scotland, Emma Nicolson, Head of Visual Arts, Creative Scotland and Lucia Pietroiusti, Head of Research & Emergence at Hartwig Art Foundation, Amsterdam.

Bugarin + Castle’s recent interactive film *Sore Throat*, shot in Edinburgh and Manila, explored colonial monsters and sound in queer Filipino spaces, showing in a solo exhibition at Fruitmarket as well as at Tate Modern and international venues. Via custom software, gallery audience voices were unknowingly recorded and replayed within the film, implicating them as antagonists in its narrative. Bugarin + Castle also perform in drag as Hairy Teddy Bear and Pollyfilla, through Pollyanna, a Scottish queer arts company founded by Castle, now in its 10th year. The artists are based in Glasgow.

The work of the artists has been exhibited at leading UK institutions including Tate Modern, ICA: Institute of Contemporary Art, Fruitmarket and City Art Centre. Internationally, their work has been shown at WHYNoT Space (Philippines), Microscope Gallery (USA), and Krittinen Gallery (Finland), and will be in upcoming exhibitions at Tromsø Centre for Contemporary Art

(Norway), Photographic Centre Peri (Finland), and Cypher (Greece). WHYNoT Space (Philippines), and upcoming at Powerhouse Arts (USA). Individually, they have a wide international practice. Davide Bugarin's work has been featured at the Malta Biennale (2024) and the Italian Pavilion at the Biennale Architettura 2025 in Venice. He has also participated in a residency at the Biennale Architettura 2023, selected by the curator of the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. He was part of the New Architecture Writers programme, contributing to *The Architectural Review* and *The Architects' Journal*. He has received awards and scholarships from Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), Worshipful Company of Architects and Burberry. Bugarin recently completed a research fellowship at The Warburg Institute, who have supported the initial research for this Scotland + Venice project. Angel Cohn Castle's work has been commissioned by BBC Scotland, LUX Scotland and Talbot Rice Gallery, and exhibited at galleries including Kunstmuseum Bonn (Germany) and BALTIC (UK). As founder of Pollyanna, she has produced exhibitions at Royal Scottish Academy, Stirling Castle and international galleries including KINDL Centre for Contemporary Art (Germany). She is currently Lecturer in Fine Art at Newcastle University, and was previously Teaching Fellow in Fine Art at The University of Edinburgh.

Bugarin + Castle said, *"For the uneasy and passionate, from an uneasy and passionate duo. The unruly woman, the cuckold, the prostitute, the sodomiser, and other social transgressors were publicly mocked in historic shaming parades. We are interested in how both sound and cross-dressing were used not for expression but as tools of control. These raucous events are the genesis of our exhibition that traverses the historic and contemporary, Scotland and the Philippines. We make the work in a context today where the lives of those such as trans people and sex workers are being debated and impacted in courts and parliaments, often without those people being heard. The work does not tidy shame away, nor does it cling to it. Instead, we lean into the complexity, stickiness and collision of sound, voice and shame."*

Dr Morven Gregor, Curator, Mount Stuart Trust and Sophie Crichton Stuart, Chair of Mount Stuart Trust, who founded the Mount Stuart contemporary visual arts programme in 2001, said, *"We are excited to curate the work of Bugarin + Castle for Scotland + Venice in 2026.* Scotland + Venice: Bugarin + Castle *will be the artists' most ambitious presentation to date, reflecting their global outlook and practices across performance, film, architecture, sculpture and design. Their skill in animating historical research to foreground contemporary questions exemplifies the approach of Mount Stuart's Contemporary Visual Arts Programme. As the Programme celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2026 by presenting Bugarin + Castle in Venice, we look forward to bringing* Scotland + Venice: Bugarin + Castle *to Bute in 2027."*



Image: Davide Bugarin, Angel Cohn Castle and Morven Gregor at Mount Stuart. Photo by Charlotte Cullen, courtesy Scotland + Venice.

Alastair Evans, Chair, Scotland + Venice Partnership, said *"Scotland+Venice was created to give artists the opportunity to develop ambitious new work within one of the world's most dynamic cultural contexts, and to champion Scotland as an international centre of excellence for the visual arts."*

Emma Nicolson, Head of Visual Arts, Creative Scotland, added, *"Bugarin + Castle are creating work that is visually striking, conceptually rich, and politically resonant. It promises to be a powerful and provocative encounter, and we're proud to support its journey to be shown in Venice and then to audiences back home in 2027."*

Norah Campbell, Head of Arts, British Council Scotland, "*Venice is one of the world's most significant stages for contemporary art, and Scotland + Venice gives Scotland based artists an invaluable opportunity to share their work with international audiences. The British Council is delighted to support this project alongside our presentation of the British Pavilion, which together showcase the breadth of creative talent across the UK."*

Lucia Pietroiusti, Head of Research & Emergence at Hartwig Art Foundation, Amsterdam, and selection panel member commented, *"A presentation at Venice by a country is a meeting point of local and international. It brings situated practices rooted in their environment in dialogue with the wider existential, philosophical, cultural and social questions of our time. This work was selected for the artist's vision, their energetic approach, their collaborative nature and for the way in which it connects the realities of Scotland and the wider world."*

Simon Groom, Director of National and International Partnerships at the National Galleries of Scotland, said, "*The artistic collaboration of Bugarin + Castle exemplifies the*

spirit of partnership that underpins this ambitious project, that has forged new creative networks and innovative alliances and which will enable the work to be enjoyed by audiences in Venice, as well as on tour both in Scotland and internationally."

Chris Rawcliffe, Artistic Director of Forma said: "*Scotland + Venice: Bugarin + Castle is reflective of Forma's longstanding support of projects that are both career-defining and that seek to push the boundaries of the artists' practice. As an organisation invested in developing strong and sustained relationships with our partners, we are honoured to be returning to the Biennale once more in this expanded role following our previous support of Alberta Whittle's Scotland + Venice presentation in 2022"*

The Professional Development Programme also returns as Scotland + Venice returns to Venice. This is a paid opportunity for 17 students and early career visual arts professionals the chance to spend time in Venice during the Biennale period. Participants engage with the curatorial team in the run up to the Biennale opening and receive training around the work and venue. When in Venice, the Associates will look after and advocate for the exhibition, have the opportunity to expand their professional networks and access the wealth of international exhibitions on display. The participants are also given time to dedicate to academic or practice-based research. In the past, participation has led to jobs, placements and delivered many collaborations and research. For the first time, Scotland + Venice are partnering with Outer Spaces to offer three early career visual arts professionals a 10-week paid residency as Senior Exhibition Associates. The opportunity was open to Outer Spaces studioholders across Scotland who met the eligibility. Outer Spaces support the creative and professional development of artists through studio and project spaces, awards, commissioning and partnership across Scotland. Partners in full for this programme: a-n, City of Glasgow College, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, Edinburgh College, Edinburgh College of Art, Glasgow School of Art, Grays School of Art, Outer Spaces and The Bute Family Trust with Mount Stuart Trust.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

For media enquiry

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Listings
10 am - 6 pm Tuesday - Sunday
Olivolo, Castello 59/C 30122
9 May - 22 November 2026

List of works in the exhibition:
- *Nocturnal Amusements*, 2026, wood, aluminium, glass, paint, rubber, vinyl wrap, headlights, nail press-ons, miniatures
- *At Certayne Tymes*, 2026, Capiz shell, metal, resin, 3D printing
- *Set Upon*, 2026, print on metal
- *Submit to Sound*, 2026, Moving Image, running time: 20 mins

About Scotland + Venice
Scotland + Venice is a major international project designed to promote the best of contemporary art and architecture from Scotland on the world stage. Founded in 2003, the project supports the development of new work, fosters international connections and exchange, and positions Scotland as a vibrant place for creative and cultural production.

Scotland + Venice's Collateral Event exhibition at the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia is led and funded by Creative Scotland, British Council Scotland, and the National Galleries of Scotland, with Creative Scotland awarding funds from The National Lottery.

Scotland + Venice is a partnership between Creative Scotland, British Council Scotland, the National Galleries of Scotland, Architecture and Design Scotland, V&A Dundee and the Scottish Government.

The aim of the 2024 Scotland + Venice Review was to deliver research and conclusions that enable the Scotland + Venice Partnership to determine the future viability of the project, the effectiveness of its approach, and consider alternative options for the future.

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Mount Stuart is an extraordinary Neo-Gothic mansion on the Isle of Bute. Since 2001, this unorthodox building has provided both the inspiration and location for an acclaimed Contemporary Visual Arts Programme. The Programme enables the Trust to promote and facilitate interest in the contemporary visual arts and bring exhibitions of international standard to Bute and Argyll. Each exhibition is complemented by a programme of events, publications and educational activities. Exhibiting artists have included Martin Boyce, Ilana Halperin, Sekai Machache, Monster Chetwynd, Martin Boyce, Abbas Akhavan and Christine Borland. Mount Stuart's Contemporary Visual Arts Programme is supported by Creative Scotland.

Dr Morven Gregor is the Curator of Contemporary and Learning for Mount Stuart Trust, on

the Isle of Bute, where she has lived since 2016. She has worked on exhibitions by Christine Borland, Martin Boyce, Ilana Halperin, Alberta Whittle, Steven Claydon and Abbas Akhavan. As well as performances and exhibitions by Monster Chetwynd, Sekai Machache, Rhona Warwick Paterson & Eve Mutso and Linder. Since its inception in 2018, she has overseen Mount Stuart's Emerging Artist Residency in Socially Engaged Practice. In 2023, she completed her PhD at Glasgow School of Art, examining social collecting practices. Her published work includes papers, essays and photography and co-editing Mount Stuart Trust publications for Martin Boyce, Abbas Akhavan, Christine Borland and Arrange Whatever Pieces Come Your Way. In 2024, she was one of the cohort of Scottish curators receiving a travel grant from British Council Scotland and Creative Scotland to make a research trip to the Biennale Arte 2024.

BUZZCUT is a Glasgow-based organisation dedicated to creating exciting, supportive environments for artists and audiences to experiment with live performance. We open up new spaces for performance, bring new audiences to Live Art, and generate opportunities for artists to make and share work.

Founded in 2012 as a free, DIY five-day festival with over 60 artists performing in unconventional spaces across the city, BUZZCUT has grown into an internationally recognised platform for radical performance. Our work is rooted in grassroots community support and a belief in building welcoming, inclusive spaces for creative risk-taking and collective exchange. Their year-round programme includes an annual Live Art festival, regular artist development opportunities, and a monthly performance night, Double Thrills. Across all activity, they prioritise generosity, curiosity, and care through the sharing of food, ideas, homes, and experiences as they foster bold, boundary-pushing art.

Forma is a leading contemporary arts organisation that supports artists to realise ambitious, career-defining projects delivered in collaboration with partners across the UK and beyond. As a commissioner and producer since 2001, we have championed experimental and socially conscious approaches, supporting artists to develop bold new work that stretches the boundaries of their practice. From our close and ongoing partnership with the Frieze Artist Award - producing and presenting works by Sung Tieu and Sophia al Maria - to a major public sculpture commission with Jala Wahid at FormaHQ or new moving-image commissions with Sin Wai Kin and R.I.P. Germain for Artist Film International, a programme we curate and present worldwide with a network of fifteen partners. Across all of Forma's activities, we work with our partners to create the conditions in which artists can thrive, practices can grow and ideas can become art.

Art Fund is the national charity for museums and galleries. For over 120 years, it has helped institutions across the UK to develop and share their collections, invest in people and expertise, grow their audiences and inspire the next generation. Art Fund connects museums and people with great art and culture through funding, advocacy and initiatives, because access to art is vital for a healthy society. It champions the sector through the prestigious Art Fund Museum of the Year award - the world's largest museum prize - and supports museum professionals through dedicated training and grant programmes. Independent and people-powered, Art Fund is supported by 142,000 members who buy a National Art Pass, as well as generous contributions from individuals, trusts and foundations. The National Art Pass offers free or discounted entry to over 1,000 museums, galleries and historic places in the UK, 50% off major exhibitions, a subscription to Art Quarterly magazine and Art In Your Inbox newsletter.

About La Biennale di Venezia
La Biennale di Venezia is one of the most significant international institutions within the global art world, celebrating visual art, architecture, cinema, dance, music and theatre. Founded in 1895, and despite the significant growth of similar events around the world, the

International Art Exhibition is still promoted as the most influential and prestigious contemporary art event, attracting an audience of over 700,000 in 2024. Future editions of the International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia will take place in 2026, 2028 and 2030.

The International Art and Architecture Exhibitions take place in 29 country pavilions housed in the Giardini and more pavilions at the Arsenale sites and across the city. Collateral Events take place in venues and spaces across Venice.

Scotland + Venice Partnership

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