

Advertisement Feature

LORENZO QUINN

The hand behind Venice's astonishing new bridges



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Building Bridges, Artist's impression



The artist, Lorenzo Quinn

Venice is a city connected by its network of ancient and beautiful bridges, from the Bridge of Sighs to the Rialto to the Accademia. Today, thanks to artist Lorenzo Quinn and his new monumental installation *Building Bridges*, Venice has six extraordinary new 'bridges' to add to that catalogue.

Spanning a section of waterway alongside the entrance of the Arsenale – home to the Venice Biennale – the artwork consists of six pairs of sculpted hands and forearms, each 15 metres high and 20 metres wide. Every pair of hands is different, sculpted by Quinn to represent six fundamental aspects of human connection; Friendship, Faith, Help, Love, Hope and Wisdom. As the artist says: "Our hands are what connect us, and it is how we connect that makes us human. This is one of my most ambitious pieces ever, and its message is fundamental – a communication of what I think are our universal human values."

Building Bridges has been installed under the patronage of The Mayor of Venice, Mr. Luigi Brugnaro. Alongside the installation, a Hangar space will house an exhibition dedicated to its creation that includes a scaled down version of the work and a curated selection of the highlights of Quinn's career that have prefigured this monumental artwork.

The exhibit also runs in parallel with a Quinn exhibition entitled *Possibilità* at London's Halcyon Gallery that will present new work

by the artist as well as a comprehensive survey of his 20-year journey in the conception and construction of increasingly monumental figurative representations of the human condition.

Halcyon Gallery's director Ehad (Udi) Sheleg said: "Lorenzo has become one of contemporary art's most compelling creators. We are proud to support him in fulfilling his dreams by turning his ideas into reality."

That journey has seen his work publicly installed across the world in cities including Padua (*St Anthony*), Miami (*A Dangerous Game*), Doha (*Rise Through Education*), Shanghai (*The Force of Nature*) and London (*Four Loves*). His work has also been exhibited in conjunction with organisations including the United Nations and The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. Through Halcyon, Quinn has attracted the patronage of a community of collectors whose commissions grace some of the world's most important private estates. Theirs and Halcyon's support has enabled Quinn to build the studio and foundry in Barcelona from which he continues to develop his increasingly expansive body of work in both the private and public spheres.

Paul Green, President of Halcyon, comments: "Lorenzo is an artist who produces thought-provoking pieces of publicly installed art that will stand the test of time. This art is vitally important: it becomes part of the fabric of the public space around it and promotes a message

of positivity, responsibility and inclusion that is there for all to see. Lorenzo's art is democratic, and we are proud to be part of his projects."

Building Bridges follows *Support*, Quinn's installation during 2017's Venice Biennale that saw a pair of hands emerge from the Grand Canal to apparently prevent the Ca' Sagredo Hotel from collapsing into the water. This powerful representation of humanity's responsibility for climate change became one of that year's most talked about pieces. Almost certainly, *Building Bridges* will connect with the public on an equally epic scale.

Possibilità at Halcyon Gallery on New Bond Street, London, is open from 29 April – 30 June. For more information see halcyongallery.com

Building Bridges is open to the public at the Arsenale, Venice, from 10 May. For more information see lorenzoquinnbuildingbridges.com

An exhibition showcasing a selection of Lorenzo Quinn's iconic sculptures will also be open near *Building Bridges* from 11 May at Hangar 99, Arsenale, North Venice.

HALCYON GALLERY