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Acclaimed sculptor Lorenzo Quinn unveils latest masterpiece at the 58th Venice Biennale



Contemporary artist Lorenzo Quinn will unveil his monumental Building Bridges sculpture during the Venice Biennale

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When acclaimed sculptor Lorenzo Quinn unveils his latest masterpiece at the 58th Venice Biennale this week, he intends to do more than pay homage to La Serenissima's artistic heritage.

Quinn's spectacular installation, "Building Bridges", is certain to get people talking. It features six monumental human hands that will rise nearly 50 feet above the basin in the old shipyards of the Arsenale district.

The 52-year-old artist wants his eye-catching sculpture to remind political leaders about climate change and to take more action to stop it. "We have to join hands and do something about it," Quinn told The Telegraph.

"It is about the future of our children and future generations. It is about humanity.

"I think it's people who change things and politicians will eventually listen to people. We hope to affect at least one person."

The sculpture, made of resin fibre, has been assembled over several weeks under Quinn's supervision and will be launched at a glittering event featuring Italian opera singer, Andrea Bocelli, next week.



Building Bridges is composed of six pairs of monumental 'stone' hands ranging from 10 to 12 metres in height and 20 to 30 metres in width

Quinn says each pair of hands in the sculpture is designed to highlight values including love, hope and faith.

"Venice is the city of bridges. It is the perfect location to spread a message of world unity and peace so that more of us around the world build bridges with others rather than walls and barriers."

Quinn, son of the Oscar-winning actor Anthony Quinn and his second wife Jolanda Addolori, was born in Rome.

He grew up in the US and Italy where he fell in love with art and architecture. "Italy is an open air museum, you can't help but be affected by that," he said. "I was brought up with Michelangelo and Gian Lorenzo Bernini whom I love."

Inspired by his father who he describes as "a force of nature, a force of life", Quinn first tried acting before moving into art. "If your father is a dentist, you try dentistry, if your father is an actor, you try acting. But I didn't love it."



Support by Lorenzo Quinn was debuted during the 2017 Biennale CREDIT: AWAKENING/GETTY IMAGES

After studying at the American Academy of Fine Arts in New York, Quinn turned to sculpture.

He later moved to Spain where he now lives with his wife and three sons and works from his foundry in Barcelona. He is known for producing a range of delicate pieces and monumental public art sculptures seen around the world in Doha, Shanghai, St Petersburg, New York and London.

Quinn caused a stir at the biennale two years ago with his sculpture, Support, which featured large hands reaching out of the Grand Canal. That too was designed to draw global attention to human existence and the need to save it from the looming threat of climate change.

"The job is not done yet. We all need to work together for the greater good." Quinn is also exhibiting his work in London at the Halcyon Gallery from April 29 to June 30.