



Press Release

Invito al viaggio,
a conversation with famous travel writers,
makes a comeback at Palazzo Vendramin Grimani

22-23-24 November 2024
Second edition

After the success of the first edition, Palazzo Vendramin Grimani hosts a new series of conversations among travel writers from around the globe

Venice, 2 October 2024 - For the last few days of the exhibition *Per non perdere il filo. Karine N'guyen Van Tham - Parul Thacker*, a Collateral Event of the 60th International Art Exhibition - Venice Biennale, from Friday 22 to Sunday 24 November, Fondazione dell'Albero d'Oro will be hosting the second *Invito al viaggio. Scrittori viaggiatori in conversazione nel salotto di Palazzo Vendramin Grimani* (Travel invitation. A conversation with famous travel writers). After the success of 2023, this series of conversations, followed by a convivial moment, aims to highlight not only the choice of travel as the subject of a story, but also to reveal the trigger that drives authors to follow particular itineraries, whether real, imaginary or historical.

From 22 to 24 November 2024, Palazzo Vendramin Grimani will host **Elena Dak, Kattel Faria, Erika Fatland, Loïc Finaz, Olivier Frébourg, Guido Fuga, Emilienne Malfatto, Karina Sainz Borgo, Sylvain Tesson, Ingrid Thobois, Catherine Von Offelen, Lele Vianello, Guillaume Villeneuve, Olivier Weber and Matthias Zschokke.**

The literary meetings, which will be held in Italian, French, English and Spanish (with simultaneous translation into Italian), will focus on the themes of travel and the discovery of others, with authors sharing their experiences of exploring distant cultures.

Invito al viaggio will be held in collaboration with the **Ca' Foscari University of Venice** and the **Alliance Française de Venise**, with the support of **Fondazione Etrillard**. Sept.info will be the media partner of the event.

The conversations and aperitifs with the authors of *Invito al viaggio* are open exclusively to members of the *Amici d'Oro* program. To this end, the 'Foglie d'Oro' card can be obtained online and is sent by e-mail within a few minutes of registration. Priced between €20 and €45, registration gives free, unlimited, one-year access to all the exhibitions at Palazzo

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Vendramin Grimani.

For more information on how to get your membership card, please visit www.fondazionealberodoro.org/it/membership-card-2024/. You will be able to confirm your attendance at the meetings as from October.

The meetings

On **Friday, November 22**, at **11 am**, the programme will begin with *La traduzione. Sulle tracce di Patrick Leigh Fermor* (Translation. On the trail of Patrick Leigh Fermor). Guillaume Villeneuve and Béatrice de Reyniès will highlight the works of the great British traveller, emphasising the crucial role of translation as a harbinger of stories and cultures beyond borders.

At **3 pm**, the event will continue with *Donne impegnate nella difesa dei popoli sfollati* (Women engaged in protecting displaced peoples), which will see Emilienne Malfatto and Karina Sainz Borgo chat with Adrián J. Sáez to discuss stories of life and death, alternating between fiction and reality, in Colombia and Venezuela.

The meeting *Quali sono i rischi di un viaggio nei Paesi in guerra?* (The risks of a trip to countries at war), held at **6 pm**, will bring the day to a close. During the talk, Katell Faria and Loïc Finaz will chat to Marie-Christine Jamet about the dangers and challenges faced by war witnesses, and how they adapt to and narrate conflicts.

On **Saturday, 23 November**, at **11 am**, with *Bisogno di solitudine per trovare la bellezza del mondo* (The need for solitude to find beauty in this world), Olivier Frébourg, Sylvain Tesson and Ingrid Thobois will kick off the day with a conversation with Patrick Vallélian. The invited writers will share their thoughts on how withdrawing from the world can offer a source of profound inspiration and pursuit of beauty.

The meeting will be followed, at **3 pm**, by *Esplorazione antropologica, un viaggio verso l'alterità* (Anthropological exploration, a journey to otherness), during which Julien Zanetta will be chatting with Elena Dak and Erika Fatland. For Nicolas Bouvier, travel is an experience that forces us to question our vision of others. Whether we seek it out or try to escape from it, otherness forms an integral part of the travel adventure. In addition to reflecting our image, what importance should we give to a meeting with 'others'?

Scrittura di viaggio come frammento autobiografico (Travel writing as an autobiographical fragment), held at **6 pm**, will be the last appointment of the day. Olivier Weber and Matthias Zschokke will talk to Patrick Vallélian about this early literary form which, from the time of Herodotus to that of Ella Maillart or Joseph Kessel, continues to be a means of narrating the world through the filter of encounters and places experienced.

On **Sunday, 24 November**, at **11 am**, the Venice-born Guido Fuga and Lele Vianello will kick off the day with *Destinazione Venezia* (Destination Venice), a conversation moderated by Luisa Ballin, offering a unique perspective on the city, dreamed, imagined, exploited and chosen as the ultimate travel destination.

At **4 pm**, *Navigare nell'incertezza* (Navigating through uncertainty) grants the floor to Catherine Van Offelen and Béatrice de Reyniès, who will delve into a philosophical reflection on the Greek concept of *phronèsis*, as opposed to modern-day precautionism.

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The second edition of *Invito al viaggio* will end at **5 pm** with *La ricerca dell'ignoto* (The search for the unknown): Sylvain Tesson and Olivier Weber, in conversation with Patrick Vallélian, will talk about the thirst for discovery that, from Marco Polo to the present day, drives writers to explore unknown spaces, wondering what there is out there that awaits to be discovered.

The author's biographies

Elena Dak

Elena Dak (Venice, 1970) is an anthropologist, Saharan guide and writer. Elena (née Dacome) worked for many years as a guide and anthropologist in Africa and Asia. She graduated in Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Venice and in Anthropology in Milan. Two of her books have been chosen for a literature course at the Ca' Foscari University of Venice. For several years now, she has been participating in research projects on nomadic pastoral populations. She has published *La carovana del sale* (Corbaccio, 2007), *Io cammino con i nomadi* (Corbaccio, 2016), *Sana'a e la notte* (Poiesis Editrice 2019), *Ancora in Cammino* (Crowdbooks, 2020) and *Brina e il Buio* (ML, 2023).

Kattel Faria

Katell Faria (Poissy, 1989) is a young writer with a passion for adventure and literature. With an educational background in commerce and communication, she embraced her true vocation at a young age, and now devotes her life to writing and the pursuit of adventure, driven by the desire to link her existence to the experience of the world. In love with distant horizons and passionate about defence issues, she has been engaged with the Kurds in Syria since the summer of 2018 and has been a member of *Écrivains de Marine* since June 2023. Katell Faria is the author of *Les aventurières du ciel* (Points Aventure, 2021) and *Aux vents des mers australes* (Stock, 2024).

Erika Fatland

Erika Fatland (Haugesund, 1983) made her international début with *Sovietistan* (2014), for which she received the Norwegian Booksellers' Prize. She holds a master's degree in Social Anthropology from the University of Oslo and the University of Copenhagen. Her books include *The Village of Angels. Stories from Beslan* (2011) and *The Year Without Summer* (2012), as well as, more recently, *The Border. A Journey around Russia* (2017) and *A Journey across the Himalaya* (2019), both nominated for the Terzani Prize and the Edward Stanford Travel Book of the Year. In 2021 she received the Ryszard Kapuscinski Award for Literary Reportage.

Loïc Finaz

Loïc Finaz (Jallieu dans l'Isère, 1961) is a novelist and poet, and above all a specialist in operations and 'fighting under the sea'. As an admiral, he has served on numerous warships. He was also director of the Service de Recrutement de la Marine, the Centre d'Études Stratégiques de la Marine, the Commandement de la Marine in Paris, the Musée Nationale de la Marine and the École de Guerre. He founded the Fondation de la Mer, co-directs the Centre Géopolitique, Défense & Leadership of the ESSEC Business School, and chairs the consultancy *Esprit d'Équipage et d'Entreprise* (3E).

Olivier Frébourg

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Olivier Frébourg (Dieppe, 1965) is a writer, editor and journalist. For many years he worked as a travel journalist. Initially an editor at La Table Ronde, he later founded Éditions des Équateurs, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2024. Among his books are *Roger Nimier, trafiquant d'insolence* (Prix des Deux Magots, 1990), *Un homme à la mer*, *Souviens-toi de Lisbonne*, *Gaston et Gustave* (Prix Décembre, 2011) and, more recently, *Un si beau siècle*. He has been a member of Écrivains de Marine since 2004.

Guido Fuga

Guido Fuga (Venice, 1947) is an illustrator and traveller. In 1968, he studied architecture and met Hugo Pratt, with whom he went on to collaborate. Between 1970 and 1973, he made two trips to India with his legendary Volkswagen. In 1997, with Lele Vianello, he produced *Corto Sconto. Itinerari fantastici e nascosti di Venezia* for Lizard and in French for Castermann, followed by *Navigar in laguna fra isole, fiabe e ricordi* for Mare di Carta and *Marco Polo, testimonianze di un viaggio straordinario* for Linea d'Acqua. In 2023, Guido Fuga produced the watercolours illustrating the young Venetian's journey for the exhibition *Nicolò Manucci, the Marco Polo of India* at Palazzo Vendramin Grimani.

Émilienne Malfatto

Émilienne Malfatto (Le-Puy-en-Velay, 1989) is a photographer, writer and journalist, and a former war correspondent. Her photographic work has been exhibited in France and abroad, and published by newspapers such as The New York Times and The Washington Post. She has won the Goncourt Prize for a First Novel for *Que sur toi se lamente le Tigre* and the Albert-Londres Prize for *Les serpents viendront pour toi : une histoire colombienne*. She recently completed a non-fiction work on Argentina's latest dictatorship, *L'absence est une femme aux cheveux noirs*, published in April 2024. Émilienne Malfatto is the first winner of the Giovani Incroci - Albero d'Oro Award and the first writer-in-residence at Palazzo Vendramin Grimani.

Karina Sainz Borgo

Karina Sainz Borgo (Caracas, 1982) has dedicated her life to cultural reportage. She has collaborated with the Spanish and Latin American newspapers Gatopardo and Quimera. She currently writes for the digital newspaper Vozpópuli and collaborates with the literary magazine Zenda. She has written two narrative non-fiction books, *Tráfico y guaire. El país y sus intelectuales* (2007) and *Caracas hip-hop* (2007). Her first novel, *La hija de la española* (2019), won the Grand Prix de l'Héroïne Madame Figaro and the Prix Littéraire International. Her short story *Scissors* was included in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's edition of *The Best Short Stories 2021: The O. Henry Prize Winner*.

Sylvain Tesson

Sylvain Tesson (born 1972 in Paris) is a writer, journalist and traveller. After touring the world by bicycle, he developed a passion for Central Asia, where he has travelled regularly since 1997. As an author, he made his début in 2004 with the travel diary *L'Axe du loup*. In 2009, he published *Une vie à coucher dehors* with Gallimard. The year 2011 saw the great success of *Dans les forêts de Sibérie* (2012), which won the Prix Médicis in 2011. With the same publisher he also published the collection of short stories *S'abandonner à vivre* (2015), *Berezina. En side-car avec Napoléon* (2016), *Sur les chemins noirs* (2018), *La panthère des neiges* (2020), made into a documentary film in 2021, *Blanc* (2023), and *Avec les fées* (2024).

Ingrid Thobois

Ingrid Thobois (Rouen, 1980) has written ten or so novels and short stories and about fifteen

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children's books. Her first novel, *Le Roi d'Afghanistan ne nous a pas mariés*, won the Prix du Premier Roman in 2007.

Ever passionate about Nicolas Bouvier's work, having retraced his travels in *L'Usage du monde* at the age of 20 and written the afterword to the latest edition of his collection of poems *Le Dehors et le Dedans*, Ingrid Thobois is currently writing a dissertation on his poetry

Moreover, she holds writing workshops for a variety of audiences and offers individual support in the writing of manuscripts.

Catherine von Offelen

As a literary commentator specialising in security issues in West Africa, Catherine Van Offelen (Villajoyosa, 1990) publishes her research in European literary and geopolitical journals. Her next book, on ancient Greek prudence (*phronèsis*), will be published in 2025.

Lele Vianello

Lele Vianello (Venice, 1951) is a cartoonist and illustrator who worked for many years with Hugo Pratt, following in his footsteps and becoming imbued with his style and drawing technique. After Pratt's untimely death, Lele and Guido Fuga fulfilled one of the great master's dreams by publishing *Corto Sconto. Itinerari fantastici e nascosti di Corto Maltese a Venezia* (1997). There were so many stories to tell that *Cubana* was born out of the collaboration between the two, to give Pratt's sailor Svend the opportunity to live another adventure. Other doors will open for this adventurer in Argentina, but both authors have another great epic to tell, that of the world's most famous traveller, Marco Polo.

Guillaume Villeneuve

Guillaume Villeneuve (Neuilly-sur-Seine, 1960) has origins in Poitou, Périgord and Martinique, and grew up close to the Parc de Sceaux and the Sénart Forest, near Paris, two green areas that were of great importance in his formative years. He studied classical literature at Louis-le-Grand and at the Sorbonne. Ever passionate about the great British classical authors, he has made their literary translation his main lifework since 1989. He has studied gardening in England and has settled near Vézelay, where he has created a garden, 'Saint-Jérôme', and strives to understand the mysteries of the plant kingdom.

Olivier Weber

Olivier Weber (Montluçon, 1958), travel writer, great reporter and winner of the Albert Londres Prize, the Prix de l'Aventure and the Joseph Kessel Prize, is the author of *Le faucon afghan*, *La Bataille des anges*, *Le Barbaresque*, *L'Enchantement du monde* and *Frontières* (published by Paulsen). A long-time war correspondent for the French and British press, and later ambassador of France for five years, he has worked alongside around fifteen guerrilla movements and covered about twenty conflicts, including in Eritrea, Afghanistan, the Sahara and Iraq. His novels and travel journals have been translated into a dozen languages.

Mathias Zschokke

Matthias Zschokke (Bern, 1954) has been living in Berlin since 1979, where he works as a writer and film director. He won the Robert Walser Prize for his first novel, *Max* (1982), and numerous other literary awards, including the Femina Étranger Prize in France, as well as several major cinema and theatrical awards. One of his novels, *Die strengen Frauen von Rosa Salva* (2014), is set in Venice. *Der graue Peter* (2023), nominated for the Swiss Book Prize, and the film *Z wie Zschokke* (2023) are his most recent works.

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