

## Programme for the morning

*The conference link will be open from 08:30 onwards, UK time: please check in by 08.45.*

Introductory notices from **Simon Seligman**, Communications Officer, Ruskin's Guild of St George.

### 09:00 Conference opening

Welcome by **Rachel Dickinson**, Master of the Guild of St George.

Introduction by the Conference Chair, **Peter Burman**, Guild Director with responsibility for International Relationships.

Presentation by **Kathleen Ann Gonzalez**, editor of *Venice Rising – Aqua Granda, Pandemic, Rebirth* (Ca' Spechio, San Jose, 2020).

### 09:30 Topic 1: The vital importance of the Venetian Lagoon

Lead speaker: **Jane Da Mosto**, ecological scientist, Co-Founder and Director of the NGO *We are here Venice (WahV)*.

**Maria Laura Picchio Forlati**: *Will Venice, or What Venice, survive the rising level of the lagoon by the end of this century?* A discussion of the appeal from the *Istituto Veneto di scienze lettere ed arti* to Prime Minister Draghi (*Il giornale dell'arte*, November 2021, No. 422, pp. 19-26).

Comments, questions and discussion.

— Coffee break —

### 11:15 Topic 2: Breaking the mould: new directions for tourism

Lead speaker: **Jan van der Borg**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

Two supporting *Voices from Venice*:

- **Monica Cesarato**, *How to visit Venice – or – We need to educate visitors.*
- **Luisella Romeo**, *When a door closes, a window opens: live tours in Venice during the pandemic lockdowns.*

Comments, questions and discussion

### 12:30 Topic 3: Keynote speaker

**Salvatore Settis**, art historian and commentator on Venice's future, will reflect on the impact of his ground-breaking book *If Venice Dies* (2016) and on what could lie ahead.

Comments and discussion.

— Lunch break —

# Programme for the afternoon

## 13:30 Topic 4: Encouraging Venice's creative communities

Lead speaker: **Rosella Mamoli Zorzi**.

Three *Voices of Venice* talking about their own creative work:

- **Graziella Giusto**, artist (Graziella will be speaking in Italian – a translation will be available in advance of the Conference).
- **Déirdre Kelly**, artist/curator, Scuola Internazionale di Grafica, Venezia.
- **Gregory Dowling**, author, translator, literary critic and Professor of Anglo-American Literature.

There will then be a showing of **Emanuele Confortin's** outstanding film *Paradiso*.

Opportunity for comments, questions and discussion.

— Tea break —

## 15:30 Topic 5: The politics of Venice and how to harness them

Two contrasting *Voices from Venice*:

- **Neal E. Robbins**, Moving beyond the political quagmire – politics in Venice, origins and dynamics, how historic Venice is up against the terraferma/island divide, populism, depopulation and a corrosive political culture.
- **Tommaso Cacciari**, principal spokesman for *No Grandi Navi*.

Comments and discussion.

— Tea break —

## 16:45 Topic 6: Protecting and sharing Venice's cultural heritage

A final inspirational talk by **Francesco Bandarin**, former Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Office.

Concluding opportunity for comments and discussion – what have we achieved by weaving together these *Voices from Venice*? Where do we go from here?

## 17:45 Closing act of the Conference

Including invitation for feedback and further ideas.

*Please note that while we will endeavour to follow the timings as closely as possible, out of consideration for delegates joining from different countries or wishing to catch particular contributions, the nature of Zoom meetings is that sometimes the unexpected occurs. We have very competent technical support but it is just possible that slight problems may arise beyond our control.*



**GUILD of St GEORGE**

The charity for arts, crafts and the rural economy,  
founded by John Ruskin in 1871