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**PLATFORM EARTH PRESENTS *THE SKYWALK*
AN OFFICIAL COLLATERAL EVENT OF THE BIENNALE
ARCHITETTURA 2025**

Exhibition Venue: La Fucina del Futuro, Calle San Lorenzo 5063B, 30122 Venezia
Exhibition Dates: May 8th – September 11th
VIP Opening: May 7, 9:30 AM



Concept Model Water Table

May 5, 2025 - Venice, Italy - Platform Earth, the environmental arts charity founded by Italian-British artist **Petroc Sesti**, presents ***THE SKYWALK***, a landmark **Collateral Event** of the **Venice Biennale Architettura 2025**. **Curated by Nadja Romain** and supported by **TBA21–Academy’s Ocean Space**, ***THE SKYWALK*** will be exhibited at **La Fucina del Futuro**, a cultural laboratory for environmental and scientific inquiry just steps from **Ocean Space** in the historic **Castello district**. ***THE SKYWALK*** is made possible through the support of **Xerjoff**, the Turin-based perfume house founded by Sergio Momo and Dominique Salvo.

At La Fucina del Futuro, the exhibition explores ***THE SKYWALK***'s design process, ecological imperatives, and artistic origins. Models, projections, and research underscore the vital role of the salt marsh as one of Europe’s most efficient carbon sinks, sequestering carbon at a rate 40 times greater than that of temperate forests. The project unveils a bold architectural vision aimed at reconnecting Venice with its fragile salt marshes, which are Europe’s biodiverse and largely inaccessible ecological treasures.

A centerpiece of ***THE SKYWALK*** is a striking six-meter-long architectural model of the Venetian Lagoon, designed by Sesti in collaboration with Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners (RSHP). The model includes floating wetlands, seagrass observation points, bird blinds, and a cultural science gallery, all developed in close partnership with Venice’s scientific community. In addition

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to the model, the exhibition showcases artworks in carbon-negative ink by prominent international artists from the Platform Earth Collective, whose practices examine the intersection of art, nature, and science: **Marina Abramović, Es Devlin, Conrad Shawcross, Rachel Whiteread, Jonathan Yeo, Emilie Pugh, and Petroc Sesti**. As a multi-sensory exhibition, the space will be filled with mist and infused with scents from Xerjoff's Shooting Star collection perfumes.



Installation view of Petroc Sesti, *Tree Beacon*, 2025. Photo courtesy of Elis Tafraj.

The *SKYWALK* exhibition also features Sesti's **Tree Beacon**, a 29-foot-tall sculpture near La Fucina del Futuro and Ocean Space. This artwork symbolises the urgent need for a permanent connection between culture and conservation, emphasising how creative visions can unite public attention with scientific efforts to restore and protect the natural world. Crafted from hand-poured sheet metal, each component is hand-welded and polished, offering a lightweight, low-carbon alternative to traditional casting. After its presentation in Venice, *Tree Beacon* will travel to Belém, Brazil, where it will stand as a symbol of disappearing rainforests at the COP climate conference. *Tree Beacon* is a direct result of Sesti's experiences in rainforests, where he worked with forestry scientists using laser scanning technology to document the intricate root systems of towering buttress-root trees. The sculpture stands as a monument to fragile ecosystems worldwide.

Conceived as a living bridge above the salt marshes of the Venetian Lagoon, *THE SKYWALK* offers a transformative way to experience one of Europe's most biodiverse landscapes. Envisioned by artist Petroc Sesti in collaboration with **Laura Onofri (University of Padua)** and developed alongside leading environmental scientists from **the University of Padua, Andrea D'Alpaos** and **Adriano Sfriso**, the proposed walkway reimagines how infrastructure can foster artistic and educational encounters with the natural world. Designed with architect **Ivan Harbour** and **RSHP (Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners)**, the walkway aims to provide a poetic yet practical response to rising sea levels and biodiversity loss. Supported by an island that will

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accommodate a hybrid scientific and cultural pavilion, *THE SKYWALK* presents a living bridge that connects ecological stewardship with architectural innovation.

Sesti has a deep familial connection to Venice. His father lived, studied, and conducted research at the Biblioteca Marciana. Returning annually to the city since childhood, Sesti brings a deeply personal and culturally embedded perspective to the urgent ecological conversation surrounding Venice's future.

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About Platform Earth

Platform Earth is a pioneering environmental arts charity focused on science and conservation. We are founded and run by artists and work to harness the power of the arts to shift cultural narratives and develop more symbiotic relationships with nature while directly contributing to conservation and active restoration projects around the world.

We create exhibitions, events, and effective educational solutions to help the public experience and contribute to restoring natural habitats. Platform Earth is unveiling new pathways to increase access to nature while providing a greater educational understanding of these beautiful ecosystems and the extraordinary efforts to preserve and restore them.

About Petroc Sesti

Petroc Sesti, founder of Platform Earth, is an Italian/British artist whose work pushes the boundaries of art and science. He strongly believes in the power of cultural and environmental storytelling to enact change. His vision for the Skywalk has been driven by the belief that exploring the lagoon firsthand will greatly develop people's appreciation for its cultural and environmental significance. Sesti is passionate about the educational value of immersive, personal experiences in nature. He aims to inspire the public's sense of discovery, encouraging them to explore the lagoon's rich biodiversity, flora and fauna; thereby fostering a greater appreciation for this unique ecosystem.

About Nadja Romain

Nadja Romain is a curator, producer, and philanthropist bridging contemporary art, craft, and social impact. As founder of Art, Action, Change, she supports socially engaged art, ecological projects, and women's empowerment. Since moving to Venice in 2020, Romain has championed sustainability, craft preservation, and innovative artistic collaborations.

About Xerjoff

Xerjoff, founded by Sergio Momo and Dominique Salvo, was launched to add an innovative dimension to the world of perfumery while respecting and preserving its traditions. The appreciation of beauty is at the heart of Xerjoff's mission. Beauty exists in countless forms. It provokes instinctive emotional reactions and unique sensations. Applying this original approach and sustainably using only the finest raw materials, Xerjoff merges Italian artistic flair with the aromatic wonders of nature, creating truly exceptional perfumes and new, multisensory experiences.

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Strenuous effort and attention are devoted to sourcing only the finest ingredients from around the world, creating unique scents housed within precious works of art. Xerjoff ensures that all materials are ethically sourced and cruelty-free, with full respect for labor rights, business ethics, and safe working conditions. Our commitment to a more environmentally friendly future drives continuous research into recyclable and recycled materials for every element of the perfume. From the coffret and flacon to the scent itself, meticulous processes and attention to detail guide our efforts to research up-cycling ingredients and incorporating them into the artistic world of high perfumery. Xerjoff proudly supports causes that safeguard wildlife and nature, helping to protect natural beauty and preserve our precious planet.