



La Biennale di Venezia

61. Esposizione  
Internazionale  
d'Arte

Eventi Collaterali

FONDAZIONE  
BVLGARI

FONDAZIONE BVLGARI PRESENTS  
LARA FAVARETTO AND MONIA BEN HAMOUDA  
AT THE BIBLIOTECA NAZIONALE MARCIANA  
AS COLLATERAL EVENT OF THE BIENNALE ARTE 2026

# Fondazione Bvlgari presents Lara Favaretto and Monia Ben Hamouda at the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana as Collateral Event of the Biennale Arte 2026

**For the first exhibition promoted by Fondazione Bvlgari, the artists have created two works that instigate a dialogue with the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, a venue that symbolizes the preservation and transmission of knowledge.**

Lara Favaretto, *Momentary Monument – The Library*  
Monia Ben Hamouda, *Fragments of Fire Worship*

From 9 May to 22 November 2026

Fondazione Bvlgari promotes its first exhibition as Collateral Events of the 61st International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia. Hosted in the Sale Monumentali of the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, a venue that symbolizes the preservation and transmission of knowledge, the project combines two site-specific installations: *Momentary Monument – The Library* by Lara Favaretto and *Fragments of Fire Worship* by Monia Ben Hamouda. With its presence in Venice, and through the support for two artists that are representative of the most recent generations of Italian art, Fondazione Bvlgari reaffirms its cultural vocation and articulates its eclectic approach rooted in the cross-pollination between cultures, creative languages, innovation and aesthetic exploration.

The exhibition opens with *Fragments of Fire Worship* by Monia Ben Hamouda, an installation consisting in two neon sculptures installed in the Vestibolo. The fragmented and indecipherable luminous signs evoke a form of writing that has relinquished its communicative function to become a gesture, a trace, a scar. The artist, the daughter of an Islamic calligrapher, transforms her cultural heritage into an impossible alphabet in which light withholds instead of illuminating. Neon lights

conjure fire, seen as an ambivalent force that both reveals and destroys, introducing a vision of knowledge as unstable matter, subject to continuous metamorphosis. Through an exercise in formal disobedience, the work challenges the idea of language as a univocal vehicle for the transmission of knowledge.

In the Salone Sansovino, Lara Favaretto presents the seventh and final chapter of *Momentary Monument – The Library*, reactivating the book as an epistemic infrastructure and as a critical space for verification and transmission. The project unfolds through a dialogue with the libraries in national universities and institutions, academies and private collections. They contributed by donating books that subsequently underwent a process of survey and selection: an in-depth examination aimed at restoring the plurality of practices focused on knowledge, and their documentary substance. The selection is displayed on a monolithic shelving unit, designed as an exhibition device, inviting the public to consult the books. These are not chosen for their rarity or prestige, but rather for their documentary solidity and the density of their contents, allowing even specialized or seemingly obsolete texts to continue to function as legible traces of the conditions in which knowledge is produced and transmitted. Each volume is paired with a different image drawn from the artist's personal archive, active since 1995: this visual graft establishes relationships between them through shifts, frictions and resonances, writing an analogue hypertext based on

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serendipity. During the exhibition, the library becomes a device in transformation, challenging the very idea of preservation and exposing it to processes of circulation and redistribution. Interacting with both the institution and the space, Favaretto questions knowledge in the age of digitalization, creating tension between access and experience, memory and dispersal, visibility and shared responsibility. The project will culminate in a publication by the artist.

*"It is a true honor for Bvlgari to begin this curatorial journey with the first exhibition officially promoted by Fondazione Bvlgari, in a place that stands as a universal symbol of memory and the transmission of knowledge. The Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana offers an extraordinary and meaningful setting to present the work of two leading voices of contemporary Italian art, Lara Favaretto and Monia Ben Hamouda, whose practices profoundly interrogate language, knowledge, and their constant transformation. Within the distinguished framework of the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, this project reaffirms Fondazione Bvlgari's commitment to advancing contemporary artistic research and fostering a dynamic dialogue across cultures. By supporting the artists of our time, we aim to build enduring cultural value and contribute meaningfully to the future."* said Jean-Christophe Babin, President of Fondazione Bvlgari.

Founded upon the donation of Cardinal Bessarione in 1469 and designed by Jacopo Sansovino, the Biblioteca Marciana embodies the notion of knowledge as a living organism, exposed to transformation, revision but also oblivion. It is within this context that the installations by Lara Favaretto and Monia Ben Hamouda unfold, transforming the space into a dynamic field in which memory and knowledge are continually redefined in an ongoing process of becoming.

Established at the start of 2024, Fondazione Bvlgari consolidates a cultural and philanthropic commitment that is deeply rooted in the Maison's identity and which translates into an important number of initiatives devoted to preserving historical and artistic heritage as well as supporting contemporary art. These include the current partnership with the Whitney Biennial and its collaboration with the MAXXI museum in Rome for the MAXXI Bvlgari Prize, a biennial award dedicated to young artists working in Italy. Lara Favaretto, was awarded the Prize for Young Italian Art 2004-2005: a work for MAXXI participating at the Venice Pavilion at the 51st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale

di Venezia, and subsequently participating in the Biennale Arte 2009 and 2019. Monia Ben Hamouda won the fourth edition of the MAXXI Bvlgari Prize in 2025. The collaboration with Monia Ben Hamouda extends beyond the Venetian context through a further intervention in Milan, where her sculpture *Ya'aburnee* (Untranslated Fragment I) will be installed in the garden of the Bvlgari Hotel Milano on April 27th, and will remain visible for the entire duration of the Biennale Arte 2026.

The intervention by Fondazione Bvlgari at the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana is part of the broader presence of Bvlgari as Exclusive Partner of the International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia for the next three editions through 2030. On the occasion of the 61st edition, the Maison will also present, in its pavilion at the Spazio Esedra in the Giardini, a project by Canadian artist Lotus L. Kang.

### **About Fondazione Bvlgari**

Founded in 2024 to strengthen and expand Bvlgari's cultural, philanthropic and social commitment, Fondazione Bvlgari is dedicated to creating lasting value in the fields of Art & Patronage, Education, Philanthropy, and Transmission of Savoir-Faire. Driven by a "give back" approach and a deep sense of responsibility toward the community, Fondazione Bvlgari partners with leading global organizations and builds long-term collaborations to empower future generations, nurture creativity and the arts, foster artistic expression and the preservation of cultural heritage, support vulnerable communities, and promote sustainable development.

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