



November 30, 2018 until March 6, 2019

Piazza San Marco, Venice

After the great success of the exhibition *Walls and Rags: The Material Becomes Art*, which took place at the Bevilacqua la Masa Foundation, the talented Mario Arlati has decided to honor and pay tribute to the city of Venice with a grandiose light installation.

From Friday November 30, the bell tower in Piazza San Marco will be illuminated by the colourful flags by **Mario Arlati**, shining light on the city's symbol of excellence. The flags are a new message from the artist, for they embody the underlying color and warm flow of the guests visiting our unique and

splendid city. Mario Arlati has established himself in the contemporary art scene for his celebrated understanding and material use of color. Through an informal language, he manipulates and transforms the banal and obsolete existence of old fabrics and everyday objects into extraordinary works of art.

Art Light Flags presents Arlati's work as we have never seen it, characterized by tangible immateriality. The installation projects soft light on the building, giving the surface new composition and color, marked by the celestial contours of the flags. The walls become so illuminated that they adopt an almost incorporeal, fluid consistency, while the projection solidifies thus dominating the entire square of San Marco. Once again, Arlati's research trajectory is about light and colour and their ability to stimulate our visual and sensory perception.

Arlati's artistic message escapes the white cube perimeter of an art gallery and projects itself into the urban landscape of Venice, stimulating a visual dialogue. Embedding itself within the heart of the historical center, the installation interacts with the public, it is a symbiosis of artwork and environment, merging Venice's cultural heritage with contemporary artistic expression, reiterating the city as an international crossroad between traditional and contemporary forms of creative expression.

In 2014, Arlati participated in the prestigious project *Living Art* in which he painted the facades of the five skyscrapers of the residential complex 'Pavshino Living Art Towers' located in the outer suburbs of Moscow, designed by Dante O. Benini. In 2017, he was awarded the 'Special Prize L'Arca International' for this particular project. In recent months, Contini Art gallery collaborated with the 'Institution Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation' and hosted a solo exhibition of Mario Arlati entitled *Walls and Rags, A Metamorphosis of the Material. Where Matter becomes art.*

The talented contemporary artist Mario Arlati was born in Milan in 1947, and lives and works in Ibiza, Spain. The island has been important to the artist's oeuvre, facilitating a development in his expressive language toward an informal and material-based research. Arlati passionately dedicates himself to the production of his works, finding inspiration from his surrounding environment in particular the colors, matter, and light. His art is composed of body language, of reinterpreted instruments, recycled objects, which he transforms into an expressive work of art.

The artist's recent series of work involves national flags of the European Union as a subject, a common theme explored by many contemporary artists. The exhibitions of the recent years have presented the public with Arlati's new series of *Incomplete Flags* to both Italy and abroad.

Art Light Flags project is proudly organized by Piazza San Marco Association, in collaboration with Contini Art Gallery, the City of Venice, Vela Spa and iGuzzini, as part of the city's Christmas festival

of 2018. With particular thanks to the Superintendence of Archeology, Fine Arts and Landscape for the City of Venice and the Lagoon, the board of Direction of the Archaeological Museum, the Director of the Correr Museum and the attorney of San Marco.

Piazza San Marco Association was founded in 1992 and exists for the promotion of cultural and social enterprises. An entity formed by merchants and individual members united by a shared interest in the protection and conservation of the history and environmental heritage of Piazza San Marco through promoting the entire 'Marciana' area. For over twenty-five years, the Piazza San Marco Association has promoted contributions aimed at improving the use of the central core of the city, while at the same time worked to raise awareness and improve the opinion of the public and of local administrations about related issues.

Art Light Flags is a project in collaboration with iGuzzini, a leader in the worldwide producer of lighting equipment. Since 1959, iGuzzini has promoted the use of light as an agency for social, artistic and cultural innovation. The company is recognized on an international and global scale for its excellence in the field of architectural lighting production. Today, the company identifies with the message *Social innovation through lighting*, advocating the essential role of light in the many areas of human activity, namely work, culture, and art. Thus, in support of their commercial activity, iGuzzini is constantly seeking a means to act on this mission with innovative installations, such as this very occasion inaugurating *Art Light Flags* by Mario Arlati.

Mario Arlati lives and works between Milan and Ibiza. Contini Art Gallery proudly represents the artist since 2001, exhibiting his work in both Venice and Cortina d'Ampezzo.

Mario Arlati
Art Light Flags
Piazza San Marco, Venezia

Opening Friday 30 November, 2018 at 6pm
The installation will be visible every evening from 4pm until 1am until January 6, 2019

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