

435 PONTI

QUALCHE ^e SCORCIATOIA

DAVID HORVITZ

2019

07 MAGGIO - 25 NOVEMBRE

VENEZIA, ITALIA

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3 Easy Pieces #2

David Horvitz

435 Ponti e qualche scorciatoia

(435 bridges and some shortcuts)

Venice, May 7 - November 25 2019

A site-specific project by Lab'Bel in the public space during the 58th Biennale: an art performance throughout Venice

Curator : Silvia Guerra

Opening on May 7, 8, 9 and 10 during Biennale professionals' week

435 Ponti e qualche scorciatoia, David Horvitz's project, commissioned by Lab'Bel in Venice, is *easy*, meaning discreet with an invisibility that is non-intrusive and vast like the city. It is as much a personal act, a performance in a public space that draws a path across all the city bridges, a manifesto on slowness, as an initiative of storytelling and interactivity with the inhabitants of Venice. In this sense, the conceptual artist and poet David Horvitz carries on the tradition specific to the *Fluxus* movement of interconnecting art and life.

Venice has 435 bridges. These bridges unite the micro-islands, making the city walkable without the need to take a single boat (the primary means of transport). It is the proximity of the Venetians to each other within their daily lives that transforms the city into one big home where we can still go out and buy bread in our *friulane**.

Venetians struggle to maintain their unique way of life due to the singularity of their city, many of the local trades disappearing under the shock wave of globalization – like St Mark's Clock Tower, as if the city's unique way of keeping time where the day began at first hour of sunset should be normalized with that of other cities.

But there are determined Venetians who persist in exercising their trade to the rhythm of the city – boat builders, ice cream makers, pastry chefs, gardeners, priests, organists. And there are children born every day who are perhaps named Alvisè or Maria.

The *3 Easy Pieces* project is a three-part contemporary art project that is spread over several areas of the city and pays tribute to the resilience of the Venetians and the city itself: the famous *stones of Venice* as described by Ruskin in his eponymous book.

The first occasion of *3 Easy Pieces, Concertino Unisono* by Michael Staab, was held in 2015 in the only square with this name, *piazza San Marco* (the others are *campo*). He invited the three historic cafés and their musicians to join together in a *Walzer*, a waltz with three orchestras.

This year, *435 Ponti and qualche scorciatoia* is taking hold of Venice through an internal itinerary, a walking map drawn by David Horvitz linking all of the bridges of the city by foot.

Our history as thinkers is tied to walking. We know since Aristotle and the Peripatetic School that philosophers have associated the exercise of thinking with that of walking. A few centuries later, Rousseau theorized the main themes for his work *Reveries of a Solitary Walker* while taking walks. Our reflection is activated by our steps and with them, ideas are born by free association. In the 20th century, Robert Walser and W.G. Sebald carried on this art. More recently, Rebecca Solnit dedicated a remarkable work on this very subject called *Wanderlust, A History of Walking*.

Many cities in the world no longer allow for pedestrian space. The inhabitants are forced to move from one interior to another via transport. However, it is precisely through walking that we occupy space, through those in-between stretches that connect places, that we are able to grasp the world as a whole. Venice has the exceptional quality of being a city made to be experienced on foot; on foot and in the *calle*, where we all become equal under the stars.

A performance transforms its audience, while a walk at night composes a story to tell.

David Horvitz is an artist who regularly creates maps, whether around a bouquet or a constellation. For the second of the *3 Easy Pieces*, he has collected stories of people who have lived in Venice, connected the places they frequented and the impressions they kept from them, and given all of this voice and circulation, transmitting them in his own way, which is that of a conceptual poet who with two words, *Tu (you)* and *Nebbia (fog)*, transforms us into a fog, ready to envelop the *Serenissima*.

He has chosen sites that are still authentic, where the inhabitants obey their own time, without being conditioned by the rest of the world. These people collaborate with the artist in a creative way, remaining free within their own schedules. Venetians appreciate "foreigners". The city has always been linked to them and built with them. The authorized city guides try to tell *their* history.

More than a calendar of events and performances, this project is presented in the form of a city map that indicates where projects can appear and disappear. Beyond the walk, it is also praise to the proximity that the inhabitants of Venice maintain between themselves, for whom the private space blends together with the common space; the breathing of the neighbours opposite exhales within our own home, upon us; and where the *calle stretta* (narrow street) only allow the passage of a solitary walker.

The Colussi pastry shop will welcome you, as will Carlo Pistacchi, the ice-scream maker of the Gelateria Alaska, who will have you taste his sea-flavoured sorbet. In some kiosks you will find postcards to send to your friends as a souvenir of Venice, cards that speak of the distance that separates us in space and time.

During his stay in Venice from April to May, David Horvitz will do a reading from his book *How to Shoplift Books* at the Marco Polo bookstore, on the campo Santa Margherita. He has been taking Italian classes since he started this project to get closer to the language that connects him to the inhabitants and the city.

Massimo Bisson, a talented organist from the Veneto region, has especially adapted Stravinsky's *Three Easy Pieces* for piano to the organ so that children can play them in the churches throughout the city, as well as on the pianos in their homes during the summer evenings. As you stroll the streets beneath the open windows, you'll be able to hear the Conservatory students play partitions of Stravinsky's *Walzer*, *Marche*, or *Polka* - the three movements that give the *3 Easy Pieces* their tempo and colour.

One of finest Venice guides, Elena Degan will be at your disposal every day, throughout the duration of the project, offering an intimate tour of the city by visiting the places dear to the artist.

There are many places to go, to relax in, to discover, to meet the people who are Venice's lifeblood, giving us the opportunity to experience the city not just as tourists, but as locals, even if it is only for one foggy day.

**Friulane* are traditional slippers associated with Venice or the Friuli region in northern Italy.

Silvia Guerra,
Curator of *435 Ponti e qualche scorciatoia* and artistic director



David Horvitz *435 Ponti e qualche scorciatoia* ©Ernst van Deursen for Lab'Bel

Openings during Biennale professionals' week

(May 7-10, 2019)

RSVP : a.legrand@lartenplus.com

Tuesday, May 7, 7 pm - CONCERT

Chiesa San Rocco - Campo San Rocco 3063 (plan bellow, mark )

Built between 1489 and 1508, Chiesa San Rocco hosts a monumental organ built in 1742 by Pietro Nachini. Near the church is the *Scuola Grande di San Rocco*, known for its Tintoretto paintings. Stravinsky's *Threni* was premiered in this unique historical surroundings in 1958.

Wednesday, May 8, 5 pm - CONCERT

Chiesa San Rocco - Campo San Rocco 3063 (map bellow, mark )

Wednesday, May 8, 7 pm - READING

Libreria Marco Polo - Santa Margherita - Dorsoduro 2899 (map bellow, mark )

David Horvitz together with Francesco Tenaglia will do a reading of his recent publication *How to Shoplift Books* (Ed. Taube, Printed Matter, ChertLüdde, Mousse).

Thursday, May 9, 5 pm - CONCERT

Chiesa San Rocco - Campo San Rocco 3063 (map bellow, mark )

Friday, May 10, 11 am - TOUR IN VENICE « A LA CARTE »

(map bellow, mark )

Follow the cats. The tour starting from the campo, will be designed by David and led by Elena Degan, one of the best Venice city guides.

Throughout the Biennale

(Venice, May 7 - November 25 2019)



01 Gelateria Alaska - Santa Croce, Calle dei Bari 1159

From May to September

Mo - Su: 11AM - 7PM

Tel: +39 041715211

Carlo Pistacchi is a music and ice cream lover. His tiny shop offers a wide variety of gelati, from classic to more experimental flavors. Have you ever tasted an Adriatic Sea-flavored gelato?

03 Chiesa San Rocco - Campo San Rocco 3063

Once a month, from June to November

Info often updated on www.lab-bel.com

04 Pasticceria Dal Nono Colussi - Calle Lunga de San Barnaba 2867/A

From May to June and from September to November

Wed - Su: 9AM - 1PM | 3.30PM - 7PM

Tel: +39 0415231871

Opened since 1956, this typical Venetian pasticceria produces the best traditional Venetian “Fugassa” (Focaccia). David Horvitz was inspired by the wrapping of the pastry.

05 Calle de la Madoneta, Castello 5163 (as first location)

Changing location from May to November

No public access to the flat.

A cutting of a Plumeria tree taken from the artist’s grandmother’s house that has travelled from Los Angeles to Rennes to Venice will be hosted in a private apartment.

06 Liceo Classico e Musicale Marco Polo Liceo Artistico Statale di Venezia

From May to November

Fondamenta Sangiantoffetti

07 Scuola media Dante Alighieri - San Marco 3042

From May to November

David Horvitz created simple instructions for the children of these two schools: rehearsing Stravinsky's 3 Easy Pieces on summer evenings, at home, with an open window, to fill the city with sounds for passerbyers.

08 to **11** Tabaccherie Ai do Fradei

From May to November

In these four tabaccherie, you will find some special postcards made for the occasion by David Horvitz.

12 Campo San Barnaba - Dorsoduro

From May to November.

Follow the cats, a daily guided tour à la carte. The tour starting from the campo, will be designed by David and led by Elena Degan, one of the best Venice city guides. This service requires a fee depending on the group size.

Book directly to elenadegan@icloud.com

Times and places of the performative proposals will be updated regularly on the Lab'Bel website: www.lab-bel.com

The project will be photographed by Ernst van Deursen.

David Horvitz

David Horvitz (lives in Los Angeles) works with installation, photography, mail, performance, sound, artist books, watercolor, digital media, text and film. His practice revolves around notions regarding individual relationships to time, distance and the reappropriation of human experience. Horvitz has participated in numerous exhibitions in venues such as: La Criée, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Rennes (2019); S.M.A.K., Ghent (2018); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2017); HangarBicocca, Milan (2017); Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus (2016); MOCAK Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow, (2016); NOMAS Foundation, Rome (2016); Israel Museum, Jerusalem (2016); Mambo Bologna, Bologna (2015); Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen (2015) and New Museum, New York (2014). He will be featured in the upcoming group exhibition snap+share: transmitting photographs from mail art to social networks, at SFMOMA in March 2019.



David Horvitz
When the Ocean Sounds (Bubbles on the Surface of Water), 2018
Courtesy of the artist and ChertLüdde, Berlin



David Horvitz
When the Ocean Sounds (Big Wave Coming from the Distance), 2018
Courtesy of the artist and ChertLüdde, Berlin

3 Easy Pieces

3 Easy Pieces is an ensemble of performative proposals with the city of Venice as its backdrop, occurring over different editions of the Venice Biennale of Contemporary Art. The title is a tribute to an ensemble of teaching pieces for the piano composed by Igor Stravinsky, who was buried, in accordance with his last wishes, in the cemetery on the island of San Michele.

Three performances, four hands - those of an artist and a curator who accompanies the former in the realization of this project.

Each of these interventions attempts to take the pulse of the ducal city within the context of the creative energy that surrounds the Biennale. While relying on a profound knowledge of the city, its inhabitants and networks, the project also advocates - not without a certain impertinence and inquiring spirit - discretion, evanescence and lightness, in contrast to some of the imposing and spectacular productions generally produced for the Biennale.

The series *3 Easy Pieces* invites us to reconnect with the uniquely easy-going pace that characterizes this city by taking a moment to breathe deeply in opposition to the frenetic toing and froing that characterizes mass cultural tourism and the institutional rationale driving art and its market.

Two tempos, three movements - like a detour; a digression...

Laurent Fiévet, Director of Lab'Bel

* Weblink to *3 Easy Pieces* #1 : [Concertino Unisono by Michael Staab](#) (May 8,9 and 10, 2015 - San Marco , Venice)

About Lab'Bel

The Lab'Bel Arts and Cultural Fund was created in the spring of 2010 to support contemporary art. The activities of this laboratory of ideas and impertinent innovation are shared between the development of a contemporary art collection - now on long-term loan at the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Dôle - and the organization of exhibitions and artistic events throughout France and Europe. Lab'Bel is also behind a series of performative multidisciplinary projects ranging from modernist architecture to poetry or music. In parallel, Lab'Bel is responsible for a number of publications and artist's editions, including for example The Collector's Edition Boxes of The Laughing Cow[®], created every year by a different contemporary artist, in close collaboration with the Bel team, giving rise to a range of research and experimentation.

Laurent Fiévet and Silvia Guerra act as director and artistic director, respectively. More info at: www.lab-bel.com

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