

# Venice Mapping

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*Open Call*

18–21 September 2023

# INTRODUCTION

In the course of Time [...] the College of cartographers evolved a map of the Empire that was the same scale as the Empire and that coincided with it point for point. Less attentive to the Study of cartography, succeeding Generations came to judge a map of such Magnitude cumbersome, and, not without Irreverence, they abandoned it to the Rigors of sun and Rain. In the western deserts, tattered fragments of the Map are still to be found. Sheltering an occasional Beast or beggar; in the whole Nation, no other relic is left of the Discipline of Geography.

—J.A. Suarez Miranda, *Viajes de Varones Prudentes* (1658), quoted in Jorge Luis Borges, *A Universal History of Infamy*

The subject of mapmaking is vast. Like the Equator or a horizon line, maps are as much ideas as they are physical things. Their reality is created and reinforced by use, implementation, laws, and infrastructure, but their meanings, and the stories we tell about them, are open to interpretation.

Cartography and mapmaking have always been used as a way to describe and contain what is considered as real and true. Yet, the reality and content of maps are not fixed, and their interpretations are boundless as associations and investments are continuously formed, reformed, and dissolved.

As the suggestive, shimmering, and evaporating proximity of the water and the lagoon play deeply into our atmospheric, sensorial, political, and metaphorical understanding of the Venetian landscape, we will look into historical, artistic, and philosophical approaches to mapmaking.

By looking at Venice as an landscape of imagination and ideas, this workshop will explore impermanence, the phenomena of spatial and sensorial premonition, the relationships between visible and invisible worlds—and the possibility of Venice as a mode of thought and state of mind.

# INVITATION

## Invitation

On the occasion of the inauguration of Ca'Buccari and its public program, the institution is organizing with the artists and designers Erica Overmeer and Iván Martínez, a speculative mapping workshop in Venice. Ca'Buccari invites international students, artists, architects, researchers, and professionals from all backgrounds to apply to our [open call](#) and to participate in a workshop exploring the possibilities and abstractions of speculative research, mapmaking, and alternative readings of the Venetian landscape.

## Workshop 18-21 September, 2023

Over the course of three days, we will look at historical, contemporary, artistic, and philosophical instances of mapmaking, and develop a vocabulary for indexing and mediating spatial and atmospheric events and phenomena in relation to Venice. The workshop will feature roundtable discussions, field trips and fieldwork, boat trips, and experimental mapping exercises.

External reviewers based Venice from the fields of art, architecture, and beyond, will be invited for the concluding public presentation and discussion of 21 September 2023.

The workshop is organized and led by Iván Martínez, artist and editorial designer (MX), and

Erica Overmeer, artist and photographer (NL).

Participation in the workshop is free of charge. Travel and accommodation are the responsibility of the participants. All participants must be physically present on-site during the entire duration of the workshop. The workshop, research, and reviews will be conducted in English. Further details about the workshop and requirements can be found here.

**The application deadline is 31 July 2023.** Applicants should send their portfolios to [apply@ca-buccari.org](mailto:apply@ca-buccari.org). Full application requirements can be found below.

## FACTSHEET

### Participation

Participation in the workshop is free of charge. Travel and accommodation are the responsibility of the participants. Participants must purchase an entrance pass to the biennale. For additional information, contact: [apply@ca-buccari.org](mailto:apply@ca-buccari.org).

### Requirements

All participants must be physically present on-site during the entire duration of the workshop and its final presentation. The workshop, research, and reviews will be conducted in English.

### Application

Please send a portfolio of max. ten A4 pages (max. 5MB) as a single PDF to [apply@ca-buccari.org](mailto:apply@ca-buccari.org). Your application must include a biography with your name, date of birth, background, and fields of interest. Otherwise, you are free to determine what you want to share. Applicants will be selected based on their portfolio.

### Application deadline: 31 July 2023.

Notification of selection: 15 August 2023. Seven applicants will be invited to participate.

### Applications and inquiries

Applications and inquiries at: [apply@ca-buccari.org](mailto:apply@ca-buccari.org)

### Accommodation

In Venice, you are responsible for your own accommodations. (If needed, we can provide limited support in finding accommodations.) Shared meals and dinners will be provided by Ca'Buccari for the duration of the workshop.

### Where

The workshop will take place in the spaces of Ca'Buccari, and on the playgrounds and boats of Venice. Ca'Buccari is located at the eastern edge of Venice, within walking distance from the Giardini di Biennale. [Where we are](#).

### Workshop

The workshop is organized and led by Iván Martínez, artist and editorial designer (MX), and Erica Overmeer, artist and photographer (NL).

## Preliminary schedule

Sunday, 17.09.2023, 17.00–19.00: Introduction

Monday, 18.09.2023, 10.00–17.00: Working on-site, in and around Venice

Tuesday, 19.09.2023, 10.00–17.00: Working on-site, in and around Venice

Wednesday, 20.09.2023, 10.00–17.00: Working on-site, in and around Venice

Thursday, 21.09.2023, 17.00–19.00: Public presentation and discussion

## Materials

Bring your own computer, and bathing suit. Recommended reading and reading lists will be provided.

## Publication

Based on the workshop and research, an Atlas/Map/Publication will be produced in collaboration with local presses and printers, and presented in the context of an exhibition at Ca'Buccari in 2024.

## Exhibition

An exhibition, at Ca'Buccari, concerned with alternative readings of, and interactions with, the Venetian landscape—and a concurring public program in the context of the exhibition—will include the workshop research. Details will be announced in spring 2024.

# ABOUT

## About

The workshop is organized and led by Iván Martínez, artist and editorial designer (MX), and Erica Overmeer, artist and photographer (NL).

[Iván Martínez](#) (MX) is an artist and editorial designer who translates oneiric experiences into spatial mindmaps and publications and transforms urban environments into alphabets and new graphic languages. His current work focuses on developing fictitious narratives and speculative publications on the aesthetics of rumor and its mechanisms of propagation and modification. He teaches at the UNAM, Mexico City/Morelia and is involved in various editorial projects in Mexico, the US, and all over Europe. He lives and works in Mexico City.

[Erica Overmeer](#) (NL) is an artist and observer of the contemporary urban landscape. Working across various media and approaches, she explores the convergence of social, spatial, and material cultures as embedded in and mediated through our surroundings. She teaches and talks widely. She is also a collaborator and co-organiser of the internationally operating [Index Art Book Fair](#), and is cofounder and artistic director of Ca'Buccari. She lives and works in Amsterdam and Berlin.

## About Ca'Buccari

[Ca'Buccari](#) is an independent nonprofit organization based in Venice, Italy. Its program focuses on engaging critically with the city's social, cultural, and spatial context, and the Sant'Elena quarter where the space is situated.

Ca'Buccari occupies five former storage units and storefronts, connected by an arched arcade to the Parco delle Rimembranze, the Grand Canal, and the lagoon. Situated near the Giardini della Biennale, on the eastern tip of Venice—it is adjacent to the Pierluigi Penzo Stadium located next to the historic Sant'Elena Church and monastery.

Through discursive and collaborative programming and collaborations, Ca'Buccari will use its spaces to advance artistic and critical practices and discourse.

Ca'Buccari develops and hosts public events, exhibitions, workshops, and research residencies—for and with artists, architects, curators, publishers, critics, activists, thinkers, researchers, and cultural practitioners from all backgrounds, interested in thinking with and by the example of—Venice.

In summer 2023, the space is undergoing a complete renovation and will re-open its doors in September 2023.