

HOMO FABER

Biennial

EXPERIENCE THE WORLD OF CRAFTSMANSHIP AT
HOMO FABER 2026: AN ISLAND OF LIGHT

THE INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION OF CRAFTSMANSHIP
IMMERSES VISITORS IN THE SPIRIT OF MAKING

FONDAZIONE GIORGIO CINI, SAN GIORGIO MAGGIORE ISLAND, VENICE
1-30 SEPTEMBER 2026

Live craft demonstrations, participative workshops, bespoke culinary experiences and a programme of associated events await visitors to **Homo Faber 2026: An Island of Light** in Venice this September. Much more than an exhibition, the fourth edition of the international celebration of contemporary craftsmanship promises to be an unforgettable experience, with Artistic Director Es Devlin's extraordinary scenography complemented by immersive activities designed to help visitors get even closer to craft and come away inspired.

ARTISANS AT THE HEART OF CRAFT

The main protagonists in the visitor experience are the craft artists themselves, many of whom will be present on site to offer live demonstrations and participatory workshops. These immersive activities root visitors in the language and environment of craftsmanship, inviting them to enter the spirit of making. At the heart of the visitor journey, *An Atelier Alive* recreates a real craft studio in which independent master artisans working with porcelain, leather, paper, textiles and much more demonstrate their skills, techniques and making processes. In the exhibition space *A Rooted Ascent* visitors can discover how organic materials inspire makers by interacting with woodworkers and weavers working in the room.

Visitors can also try certain crafts themselves. Hiroshima-based car brand Mazda presents *A Place for Workshops*, comprising two participatory workshops centred on the traditional Japanese crafts of *kintsugi* and *hanko*, interpreted by European artisans. In a space transformed into a place of calm and concentration by veils of white Swiss silk (supplied by Weisbrod-Zürcher), inspired by Japanese *noren* and adorned with kanji and poems inscribed by contemporary calligraphy artist Taró Nordberg, visitors can create their own personal, handmade souvenir of Homo Faber 2026. Open to ages 10+ (under 18s must be accompanied by a paying adult); €10, please book in advance on homofaber.com.

Mazda is also supporting a free participative laboratory inviting visitors to have a go at the Japanese technique of origami. Under the guidance of Italian origami artist Giuseppe Romeo,

participants can learn how to fold paper into an elegant white flower. Each handmade creation will be added to an installation that will grow over the course of September into a beautiful piece of floral art created by visitors to Homo Faber 2026.

CULINARY CRAFTSMANSHIP

The Homo Faber 2026 experience is further enhanced by the event's bespoke food and beverage outlets, which aim to immerse visitors in the craftsmanship of Venetian gastronomy thanks to a partnership with Local Venezia, a fine dining restaurant and trattoria in the heart of Venice which shares the Michelangelo Foundation's values. Following a successful first collaboration in 2024, Local is operating all the food and beverage offerings at Homo Faber 2026, bringing its blend of tradition, innovation and Venetian flavour to two restaurants and two café-bars in and around the lush gardens of Fondazione Giorgio Cini.

Set in a bespoke glass building designed and made especially for Homo Faber 2026, **A Glasshouse Restaurant** presents exceptional Venetian cuisine designed by Local's head chef, Salvatore Sodano. Guests can choose from three tasting menus – with accompanying wine pairings – which use premium local products to transform traditional dishes into modern masterpieces. It's all served in finely crafted surroundings featuring carefully selected tableware and furnishings, including an extraordinary 7m-long glass table and 6m-high chandelier made from artistic glass, generously provided by iDOGI. A chance to enjoy a fine dining experience in a magical setting which blends botanical beauty with creative contemporary gastronomy. Booking required.

Nearby, **A Trattoria on an Island** offers a more casual dining experience in the cool, elegant surroundings of the Capriate Pavilion. This contemporary trattoria-style restaurant celebrates the authentic spirit of Venice with a menu that pays homage to the lagoon's rich culinary heritage. Using seasonal ingredients sourced from the Venetian archipelago, dishes balance rustic simplicity with the refined technique for which Local is known. Guests can enjoy an à la carte menu for lunch or afternoon tea. Booking recommended.

In addition, two self-service café-bars situated around the grounds of Fondazione Giorgio Cini will offer healthy lunches, artisanal snacks, drinks and ice-cream. In **A Garden Café** outside the Capriate Pavilion, visitors can choose from seasonal salads, sandwiches and gourmet desserts along with wine, spritz and artisanal soft drinks, while **A Pool Bar**, outside the exhibition space *A Full Moon Rising*, offers soft drinks and snacks.

A HUMAN EXPERIENCE

Present in the exhibition spaces are 90 Young Ambassadors. Carefully selected from 62 applied arts and design schools in 23 countries around the world, these passionate students are on hand to share their craft expertise and knowledge of the objects with visitors. After receiving specialised training prior to the event, they are assigned to the exhibition spaces to help visitors move from contemplating the beauty of the objects to understanding the meaning behind them. In this way, the Young Ambassadors embody the human element of Homo Faber 2026 and help create an unforgettable visitor experience. For these talents of the future, it's a

unique opportunity to forge connections and long-lasting working partnerships with fellow students, artisans, professionals and more.

The Young Ambassadors' uniforms are conceived by Milanese fashion designer Colomba Leddi and made in the Veneto region of Italy thanks to the generous support of Repower, one of Italy's leading energy providers. Repower is also supporting Homo Faber 2026 by making its design-award-winning full electric boat *Lucietta* available to the organisation, as well as providing smart solutions to enhance sustainable mobility on Fondazione Giorgio Cini's premises.

Selected Young Ambassadors are generously supported by Qatar Museums.

CRAFT ACROSS THE CITY

Away from San Giorgio Maggiore island, visitors are invited to enrich their experience by exploring craftsmanship across Venice. As part of this city-wide programme, Sanlorenzo Arts will serve as a key partner by hosting Homo Faber in Città at Casa Sanlorenzo. The cultural headquarters of Sanlorenzo Arts, overlooking the Basilica di Santa Maria della Salute, Casa Sanlorenzo was opened by the Italian yachting maison in 2025 and conceived as a permanent hub for dialogue between art, design, culture and sustainability.

Homo Faber in Città comprises two exhibitions:

- ◆ *Ca' Riflesso* by Artemest, an immersive exhibition that brings Italian craftsmanship and heritage into the intimate setting of a home. The space is transformed into the imagined home of a refined collector, where furniture, lighting, décor and artworks by more than 40 Italian artisans come together in a layered domestic narrative, with Venetian and Veneto craftsmanship at its heart.
- ◆ *Fiat Lux* by De Mains De Maîtres Luxembourg, which brings together more than 60 remarkable objects and artworks made by some of the best craft artists in Luxembourg. The pieces selected represent acts of resistance – in defiance of mass production and automation, each is characterised by its singularity, its imperfections, and the slow process by which it was conceived and made.

All three organisations are also kindly supporting Homo Faber in Città.

Massimo Perotti, Executive Chairman of Sanlorenzo, said: "Hosting Homo Faber in Città at Casa Sanlorenzo is an expression of the values we share with the organisation: a deep appreciation for culture and art, a commitment to preserve and celebrate craftsmanship and, of course, the importance of supporting creativity in all its forms. At Casa Sanlorenzo we celebrate the dialogue between human talent, artistic heritage and excellence of craftsmanship, as the centre of the contemporary cultural scene."

In addition, around 130 Venetian artisanal workshops present on Homo Faber Guide will throw open their doors to the public throughout the month of September, with suggested itineraries available online to help visitors plan their time. Lastly, visitors can enjoy a programme of handpicked exhibitions and craft events related to Venice and its rich craft heritage, presented On the Occasion of Homo Faber 2026 and staged in beautiful locations around the city. The programme includes:

- ◆ *Murano Illumina il Mondo* at Procuratie Vecchie, Piazza San Marco, a site-specific, open-air exhibition featuring 12 chandeliers designed by internationally renowned artists,

designers and architects, realised in collaboration with some Murano's finest glass furnaces, launched to coincide with the 10th edition of The Venice Glass Week.

- ◆ *Richard Marquis e la murrina*, presented at Caterina Tognon arte contemporanea gallery, in which the eponymous US artist reimagines murrine by blending Venetian technique with playful, contemporary design.
- ◆ *The Beauty of Utility* at Hotel Gabrielli Venezia – Starhotels Collezione, an exhibition of masterpieces created by Italian master artisans, finalists in The Beauty of Utility award, as part of La Grande Bellezza – The Dream Factory by Starhotels, a patronage project in support of high craftsmanship, in collaboration with Fondazione Cologni dei Mestieri d'Arte.
- ◆ A book launch for Michela Scibilia's *Murano, a guide to the island* at La Casa di The Human Safety Net. The graphic designer and Venetian craft expert talks about the third edition of her detailed guide to Murano, which documents artisan workshops while offering historical context and insights into traditional glassmaking techniques.
- ◆ *Hyperbolic andamento* at Orsoni Venezia 1888, the only working furnace in the historic centre of Venice. Active in Ravenna since 2006, the CaCO3 collective explores mosaic as a contemporary device, searching for new possibilities of transformation, aggregation and modulation of matter and light, in dialogue with archaeological conservation and restoration practices.
- ◆ *What the Garden Whispers*, Juliette Agnel, a new site-specific exhibition by the photographer Juliette Agnel, presented by Van Cleef & Arpels at the Convent Garden of the Most Holy Redeemer, recently restored and now run by Venice Gardens Foundation.

Full details of all activities and events across the city are available on homofaber.com.

Tickets for Homo Faber 2026: An Island of Light cost €16 full price (reductions available). Booking is now open on homofaber.com, with limited tickets available on site on the day.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

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Homo Faber Biennial is an international celebration of contemporary craftsmanship in Venice, curated by the Michelangelo Foundation for Creativity and Craftsmanship. The flagship project of Homo Faber, a cultural movement centred on creative artisans worldwide, it brings together the work of hundreds of master artisans, rising stars and designers in the magnificent setting of Fondazione Giorgio Cini. homofaber.com

The **Michelangelo Foundation for Creativity and Craftsmanship** is a non-profit institution based in Geneva, which champions contemporary craftspeople worldwide with the aim of promoting a more human, inclusive and sustainable future. The Foundation seeks to highlight the connections between craft, the wider arts and the design world. Its mission is to both celebrate and preserve craftsmanship and its diversity of makers, materials and techniques, by increasing craft's everyday recognition and its viability as a professional path for future generations. The Foundation presents **Homo Faber**, a cultural movement centred on creative

artisans worldwide. Its signature projects comprise: **Homo Faber NextGen**, a suite of education programmes for the next generations of artisans; **Homo Faber Guide**, an online platform showcasing artisans around the world; **Homo Faber Finds**, which identifies craft excellence and proposes imaginative ideas to inspire collaborations, private commissions and acquisitions; and a yearly programme of events including flagship celebration **Homo Faber Biennial** and curated exhibition series **Homo Faber Capsule**. michelangelo.foundation.org

British contemporary artist and designer **Es Devlin** views an audience as a temporary society and invites public participation in communal choral works. Her revolving *Library of Light* drew 500,000 visitors to Pinacoteca di Brera at Salone di Mobile Milan 2025 featuring the words of Italian theoretical physicist Carlo Rovelli, and was followed by her luminous *Library of Us* commission for Faena Art Miami. She has created public sculptures and installations at the V&A Museums, National Portrait Gallery, Serpentine Galleries and Imperial War Museum, and outside at Tate Modern, Trafalgar Square and the Lincoln Centre, as well as kinetic stage designs at the Metropolitan Opera NYC, Royal Opera House, the National Theatre and Teatro alla Scala. She and her studio have also conceived Olympic ceremonies, Super Bowl half-time shows, and monumental illuminated stage sculptures for large scale stadium concerts with celebrated musicians, as well as collaborations with international fashion houses including the Metropolitan Museum Costume Exhibition *About Time* in NYC in 2020 and the landmark *Gucci Cosmos* touring exhibition in 2023. She has collaborated with Cartier over the past decade on a series of projects including the Women's Pavilion at the World Expo Osaka 2025 and her monumental choral sculpture *Come Home Again*, for which she made drawings of 250 endangered London species outside Tate Modern. In 2024 she drew 50 portraits of strangers in partnership with The Courtauld and Kings College London in support of UK for UNHCR (the United Nations High Commission for Refugees). She conceived a pavilion at the United Nations Headquarters in New York drawing attention to the United Nations Global Goals, while her *Nevada Ark* video installation highlighted Nevadian endangered species at U2's inauguration of the Sphere, Las Vegas in 2023. She is the subject of Thames & Hudson's monographic sculptural book, *An Atlas of Es Devlin*, and her practice is documented in a series of retrospective exhibitions at the Design Museum in London, Casa Bradesco São Paulo, Futura Seoul and the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum in New York. Devlin was the first female designer of the UK Pavilion at Expo 2020, creating a pavilion that used AI to generate a collective poem across its 20-metre diameter facade. She has been awarded the Eugene McDermott Award for the Arts at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) as well as The Critics Circle Award in the Visual Arts, The London Design Medal, three Olivier Awards and a Tony Award. She has been honoured by the Emmy Awards and Ivor Novello Awards and has been appointed Royal Designer for Industry by the Royal Society of Arts. She is the recipient of a CBE for Services to Design and has received honorary doctorates in arts and letters from the Universities of Kent and Bristol. She has been appointed as a fellow of the Royal Academy of Music and the University of the Arts London, Bloomberg Digital Fellow and Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre at the University of Oxford.

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Fondazione Cologni dei Mestieri d'Arte, based in Milan, promotes cultural, academic and educational initiatives for the protection and diffusion of artistic crafts, and its purpose is to rescue them from the threat of oblivion by fostering a "new Renaissance". fondazionecologni.it

Founded in 1951, **Fondazione Giorgio Cini** is one of the world's leading cultural institutions, safeguarding an extraordinary heritage of art, architecture and historical archives. Through its seven institutes and three research centres, it drives high-level humanistic research and hosts global symposia that foster cultural dialogue. cini.it

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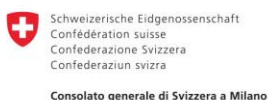
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