

## **Aalborg Universitet**

### **CRAFT - Workshop Art Biennale**

Poster Booklet

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# **CRAFT**

#### **WORKSHOP ART BIENNALE**

VENICE 2019





#### What is cultural heritage?

Some would say that all over the world a lot of cultural heritage is available. Others would say that especially in Europe there is a common cultural heritage worth remembering, discovering and be aware of.

With the CRAFT research project, we suggest that in a world where the cultural diversity is increasing, the shared cultural heritage is a tool to promote intercultural understanding and create relations between identities, representations and performances of history. This by connecting higher educational institutions with cultural institutions and professional companies to work in an interdisciplinary, new and innovative way.

For those reasons and many more, we created CRAFT, an Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership including six partners in total, representing five European Countries (Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Italy & Slovenia) with interdisciplinary roots. The goal of the CRAFT research project is to teach new generations of young people our common cultural heritage by implementing a new Joint Multidisciplinary Curriculum. A specific goal is to design and develop the CRAFT Handbook - a manual and guidance material - that will document the project and project results with primary focus on the process, the results, the implementation and execution of the new developed course/curriculum training scheme. This booklet is the very first part of this result.

Never the less, our overall aim is to provide young students with relevant and high-quality skills and competencies needed to meet the expectations of the changing labour market.

It is therefore an important feature of CRAFT that the project brings together both educational and cultural institutions as well as cultural actors from across Europe.

Anna Marie Fisker, Project Leader





The International Venice Art Biennale is a prestigious and world-known cultural event more than 120 years old.

It is multi-faceted, multi-layered, and multi-national.

Since, 1895 large groups of tourists, students, academics and practitioners from all over the world have visited the historical and spectacular settings of the Arsenale and Giardini exhibition areas to get inspired, to scrutinize, and to critically discuss the newest developments and experiments within the contemporary art-world.

This booklet makes in its own way a small contribution to this grand history and heritage by taking a point of departure in the CRAFT research project, and the work done by 50



university students, teachers and practitioners from across Europe participating in a five-day Workshop and Biennale Session, held at La Biennale di Venezia in September 2019. The participating students, teachers and practitioners represented a mix of disciplines like Art History, Architectural Design-Engineering, Interior & Furniture Design, Industrial Design, Graphic Design, and Performance Theatre. From countries such as Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Slovenia.

The aim of this booklet is thus on the one hand, to document the critical-creative explorations of a series of talented young students conducted during La Biennale di Venezia 2019. On the other hand, the booklet presents a teaching and learning experiment engaging in a series of interdisciplinary and intercultural collaborations, testing what happens with the perception of art and cultural heritage when the boundaries of the traditional disciplines deliberately dissolve, mix and blend

Enjoy!

eritage









La Biennale di Venezia operates across different fields like Art, Architecture, Dance, Music, Theater and Cinema.

Each year a new exhibition theme represents the development and movement in the contemporary field.

Each year, the spirit of exploration and critical reflection is present.

La Biennale is a platform for debate that influence both practice and theory. Related hereto, a special part of the exhibitions is the Biennale Sessions with a devotion to universities and schools presenting teaching and research to promote discussion and debate among young generations.

In 2019, at the 57th International Art Exhibition the overall theme was titled May You Live In Interesting Times curated by Ralph Rugoff. This exhibition, highlighted art that exists in between accepted categories and genres or art which questioned the rationales behind our categorical thinking.

CRAFT was represented with a Biennale Session where we performed our work on a 5-day long workshop. Our focus was both on Rugoff's theme and on Cultural Heritage.

Our programme exemplified this explorative and criticalreflective approach, testing aesthetic, behavioural and social conventions in a wide range of events, and we are aware that the aim of the European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018) was to encourage more people to discover and engage with Europe's cultural heritage, and to reinforce a sense of belonging to a common European space.



Creative exploration and critical reflection is an essential element in La Biennale.

In CRAFT, we embraced this perspective with an interdisciplinary and problem-based educational concept, training students to critically and creatively describe, exemplify, evaluate and communicate issues of cultural heritage.

We took point of departure in the cross-examinations of the cultural heritage of the chair and the traditions of sitting. For instance, investigating the comparative historical, cultural and metaphorical differences the chair embodies as a pleasurable, artistic-playful artefact and socio-functional crafted object.

The chosen chair for this specific assignment was the MONOBLOC. A mass-produced everyday plastic object known worldwide.

The five-day workshop and the Biennale Session did, through a series of analogue and digital exercises, discover, analyze, develop, and transform key features of the Monobloc. This, first of all, by situating the chair into a series of six particular, carefully chosen historic contexts within the city of Venice. Secondly, by distorting and deconstructing the different perceptions of the chair.

The students, in groups, established their individual critical frameworks and contextualized designs in relation to the sub-themes put forth by the partners of CRAFT. Each partner was thus responsible for introducing the students to their contextual framework. Nevertheless, throughout the workshop, all project partners circulated around the six groups to supervise and provide feedback.

The workshop resulted in a series of A3 posters and a collective artistic performance, which were presented at a Biennale Session held on Saturday 21. September 2019 in the Arsenale.

Tenna Dokter Olsen Tvedebrink, Workshop Leader





















One of the most important consequences of globalization has been the rise of international tourism. Related hereto, Venice has been one of the most benefited cities by the massive arrival of visitors, but at the same time, it has become a besieged place by tourists and consumption. One could even ask, if it is possible to have interesting and enriching experiences and a peaceful place to sit around Venice without the destructive voracious massive consumer culture?

Using the "Monobloc Chair" as a metaphor (the search for a personal place in the world), group 1 explored Venice as the city spoilt by the crowds and consumer behaviour. Also as a place that gets full or empty depending on the time of the day and the scheduled touristic routes.

**Ana Maria Fernandez** initially supervised group 1, and further introduced them to the sub-theme of full/empty, as well as the historic context of the Rialto Bridge on the first day of the workshop.

In the following 36 pages, a selected and curated series of posters made by group 1 explore human behaviour and mass consumption, but also scrutinise the symbolic value and use of the chair by playing with its socio-cultural heritage.

See for instance the poster 'Shopping', which was mentioned by the teachers for the well-framed shot and the symbolic play on cheap goods all looking the same and producing a low-purity visual environment all over Venice. In addition, pay attention to the different historic perspectives illustrated, which gentle position Monobloc in the cultural heritage of Venice. A great example is the poster 'Canaletto rush hour', which is both graphically well done and with a very nice composition, but also use the Monobloc as a tool to experience 1700's main centre of Venetian everyday commercial life.

Finally, the poster 'Chairs have souls' was emphasised by several teachers for reflecting the relationship between humans and chairs, pointing to the spiritual meaning of sitting and daring to ask the underlying question if chairs make us human?









## INTERESTING TIMES ?









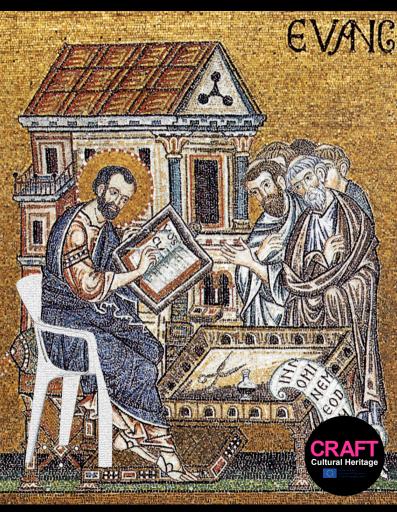






#### SACRA CONVERSAZIONE

















## /CROWDED BUT AT THE SAME TIME EMPTY/

The mass consumption, the new habit of finding interesting times while experiencing everything quickly is evident on the Rialto bridge. Crowded, but at the same time empty of context. How many people are really taking the time to look around other than their camera phone? A big confliction appears between the importance of the cultural monument that the Rialto represents and the new wave of "more and faster" tendency of experiencing things today.



























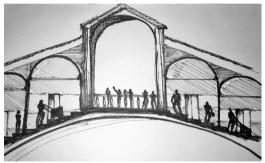
## /ACTION/

The Rialto bridge is full of people going up and down, passing through, taking photos, going into the shops, rushing, stepping onto each other, running, carrying stuff. It is a place full of motion, noise and people.















Public design

Heritage Tourism

Commercialization

Mass consumption

Boundaries

Crowd Design

Movement Pollution

Passage Capitalism

Pace Perspective
Acceleration Scale

**Public space** 

Commercial

Viewpoint Rest area Empty spaces

Comfort Exhaustion

Change Noise

So-me Circulation

Multifunctional Transition

Coexistence Monument

Traffic

Motion Social mixture

CRAFT Cultural Heritage





















Since the most distant civilizations and cultures, the labyrinth has been a fascinating issue exciting the artistic and literary imagination.

The labyrinth, sometimes bonded with myths and rituals, is a metaphor for space with its multiple choice of hypothetical directions and perplexing paths, but in effect, it also involves a sinuous relation with time. Namely when pointing out, in the limit, to the eternal return as a challenge for the logic of life.

Anyhow, from the polyvalent meaning intrinsic to the image of a labyrinth, it is to agree that a maze of hedges is always a puzzle connected with feelings about secrets, enigmas, mysteries, surprises, and bewilderment.



How can the Monobloc chair respond to the spirit of Borges Labyrinth knowing that it was inspired in The Garden of Forking Paths, a celebrated short story of the Argentine writer who loved Venice?

**Fátima Pombo** initially supervised Group 2, and further introduced them to the sub-theme of mystery, as well as the historic context of the Borges Labyrinth in San Giorgio Maggiore Island on the first day of the workshop.

In the following 36 pages, a selected and curated series of posters made by group 2 explore the mysteries of the labyrinth, playing with patterns, shapes and the comprehension of eternity. An example emphasised by the teachers is the poster '**Puzzled**', which play on the fragmentation of the single-piece structure, deconstruction and puzzling in a contemporary context.

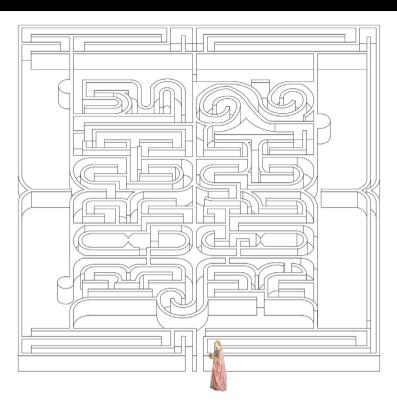
Further, pay attention to how the group play with historic and literary references, but also symbolism to add new layers to the existing labyrinth. For instance, the poster 'Indiana Jones' which was highlighted by the teachers, because it is a poster that honour the mystery and adventures of Borge's labyrinths design with the story of Indiana Jones and the brilliant clue that the mysteries of a maze can only be revealed by a hero.

Finally, the poster '**Solved**' was mentioned for the great inspiration it provides and the critical reflection on the process/lifespan of the chair.

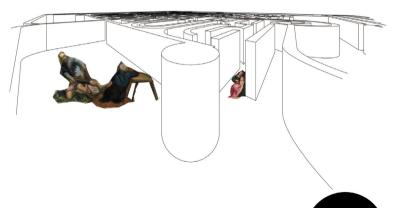










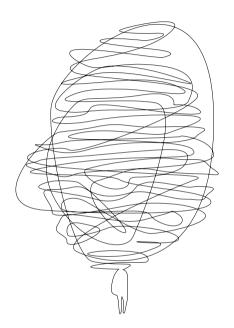


Cultural Heritage

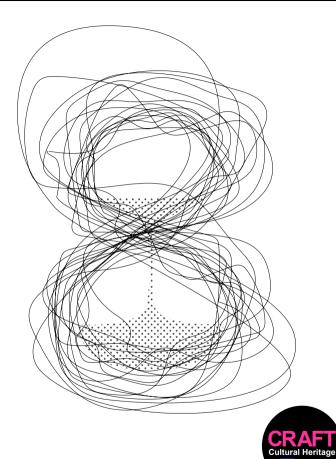


"THE GARDEN OF FORKING PATHS IS AN INCOMPLETE, BUT NOT FALSE, IMAGE OF THE UNIVERSE"
- The Garden of Forking Paths, Jorge Luis Borges, 1941











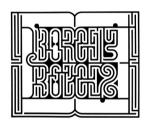




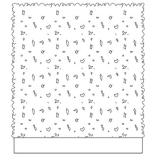


















Solve the riddle

Smooth plastic hands, curvy stright legs.
I am white as it comes, try and color me up.
Just take me out from the stack, sit on me and lean your back.















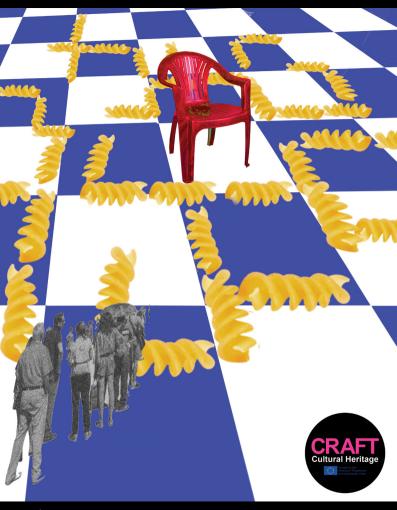


















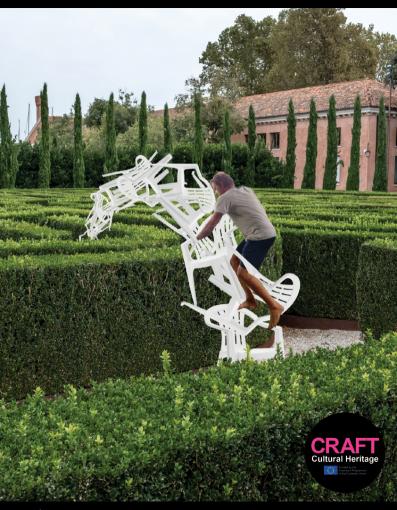










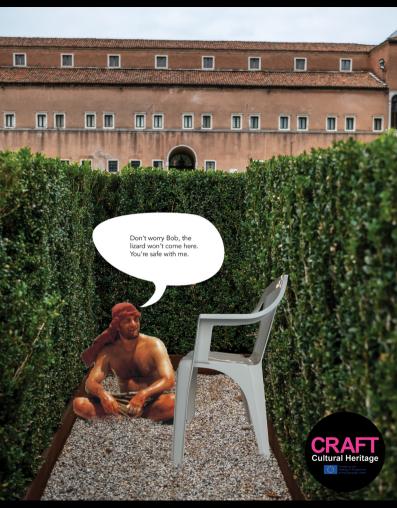
























The Venice Art Biennale itself is the point in Venice where the past meets the future: Venice, a city with a rich artistic past and heritage, is with its Biennale also one of the most important exhibition grounds of contemporary art.

If contemporary art offers a reflection of the contemporary world, in what kind of a world, are we living (is it interesting?), what appears to be our future? What happens when we slow down, when we sit down? What can we notice that otherwise we would not?

Can we find another, a different point of view (at the artworks, at the space, at the visitors)?

Rebeka Vidrih & Martina Malešič initially supervised the students of group 3, and further introduced them to the



sub-theme 'time' and the historic context of the Arsenale Biennale Exhibition on the first day of the workshop. In the following 36 pages, a selected and curated series of posters made by group 3 critically explore the complexity of contemporary art through the lens of the Monobloc chair.

Pay special attention to the poster 'We are Monobloc', which was outlined by the teachers for its clear contextualisation and for playing with the forms and relationships of humans and chairs. The poster opens the question of the chair as an individual personal space and reflects the strong presence of humankind figures at the Art Exhibition in the Arsenale. How humans and chairs are similar in position to the context, yet strange in the same time.

In line with this, a series of posters like 'Movie Theatre' unfold perhaps the more dark and uncanny sides of La Biennale, by twisting and diverting the place and the interrelationship between the exclusive, very expensive art objects and the observing humans. A provocative approach playing with the question of promotion of art per sé. Also, a critical comment referring to death by mindless contemporary mass-consumption and the horrors of mass-production.

Another poster mentioned was 'Threat', which presents a very intense image to express the inevitable condition of life; you will be dust to dust, ashes to ashes. Hence, the poster intimidates the end, framing the white plastic Monobloc chair as possible cause.

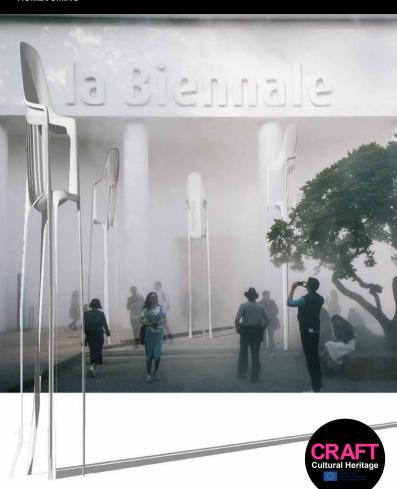
















## THEY'RE COMMING CRAFT Cultural Heritage



## DON'T LOOK NOW









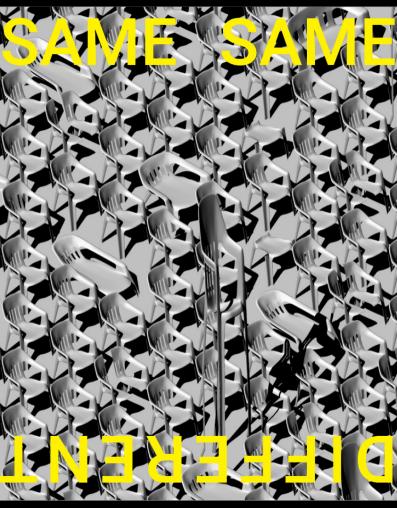




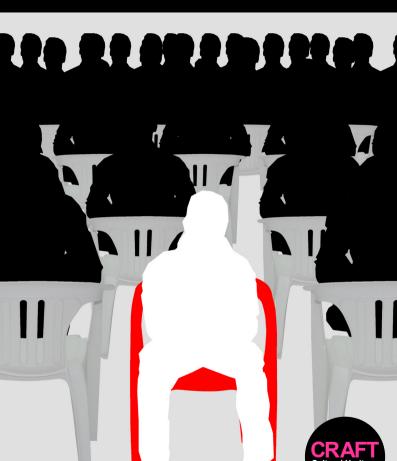
# GOD SAVE THE COMMON

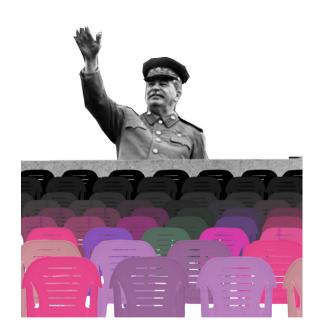














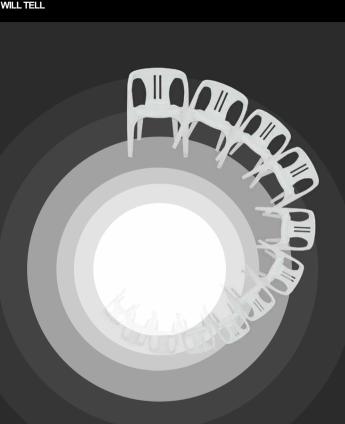








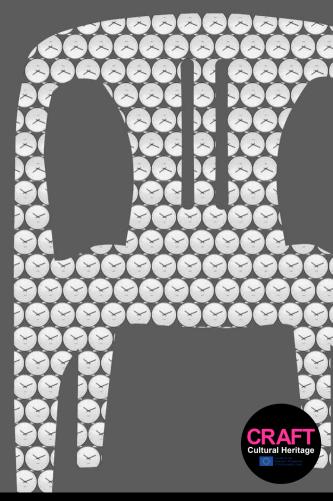












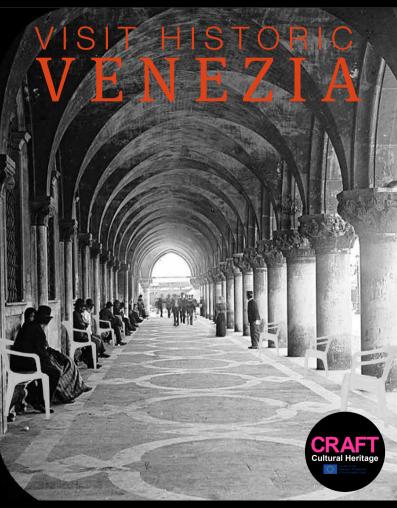














This
is
Monoblock.
It's
a little
worried
about
its
future.

#### THE MONOBLOCK



#### Monoblocs

#### Sinking under a tide of pigeons, Venice acts to save its statues

VENICE: All it takes is a handful of birdseed to transform any tourist visit-ing Venice's historic St. Mark's Square into a human perch for a fluttering mass

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Pigeon feed sellers protesting in St. Mark's Square after Venice's mayor moved to hall their trade. As pigeon numbers have increased, so has damage to statues and facades.

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electronic contraptions to deter perching—have been mostly unsuccessful.
What has made the situation particularly drastic in Venice is the spiraling number of tourists — about 20 million a viger by official estimates — which has triggered a whole new law of nature. More tourists equals more birdseed sold and more garbage produced. That couls more prisons and more damage

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"They peck at the most exposed parts of the match," as well as the stacco that restorers use in their work, said Benatic restorers use in their work, said Benatic with preserving the square. She flipped through a series of photographs of pochmarked statuary.

"I have nothing against pigeons," Codello Insisted, though she said the

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"They peck at the most exposed parts of the marble," as well as the stucco that restorers use in their work, said Renata Codello, the state art official charged with preserving the square. She flipped through a series of photographs of pockwards with the status or.

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Cultural Heritage

International Herald Tribus Friday, May 9, 2008



## THE MONOBLOCK RETURNS





Existing scholarship argues that chairs have been introduced first into sedentary human cultures as thrones.

The exalted position of individuals over their communal fellows emphasised rulers' transcendence, their power, and, through that power, their difference from the community. The notion of exaltation carried over into the Middle Ages. Kings and higher clergymen were allowed to sit individually, whereas their subjects or parishioners had to remain standing or kneeling. Later, benches were introduced as means of collective sitting.

Only after the French Revolution did the chair lose its signification of transcendental power. Like other former royal and clerical privileges, sitting became bourgeois. The Industrial Revolution introduced the means to manufacture chairs on a larger scale and, thus, robbed the chair of any persisting notion of elitism. However, through mass

production and mass dissemination, the chair acquired another meaning. In schools and at family dinner tables, it became a means of discipline.

The Enlightenment put the thinking subject into focus and stressed the mind's predomination over the body. Disciplining one's body by sitting still was the ultimate embodiment of Descartes' famous saying: Cogito ergo sum. In the 20th century, these altered meanings culminated in the success of the Viennese coffee house chair, which perfectly expressed the Enlightenment notion of cognitive ability through discipline.

In the second half of the 20th century, the Monobloc chair superseded the coffee house chair in popularity. It is found on all five continents and, seemingly, ubiquitous.

Its usually white monochromatic design, the single-piece manufacturing technique, and the smooth plastic surface facilitate the Monobloc's perception as a context-free object. It is, so to speak, a 'white canvas' onto which any meaning can be 'painted'. As meaning is constructed differently in different situations by different people at different times, the Monobloc's idiosyncrasies make it the perfect vessel for meaning. As the chair itself does not dictate any meanings, they can be constructed freely.

Through this libertarian process of meaning-making, the Monobloc can be regarded as the most democratic chair. Even though the diachronic notions of chairs as transcendental signifiers of power, or as a bourgeois means of discipline, are always present, the Monobloc's make-up emphasises the readers' liberty to choose or ignore them. In

the struggle over meaning, which is at the heart of human culture, the Monobloc chair is embedded in a complicated web of human meanings which are constantly negotiated in different contexts at different times.

In these struggles, its peculiar design enables the readers to construct their own meaning, thus transferring power to the reader. A Monobloc can mean many different things, which renders it utterly democratic.

Scholars such as John Fiske and Miguel de Certeau have identified this process of 'making do', the transference of power to the people, as peculiarities of popular culture. Making meaning, thus, serves as an act of democratic resistance to oppressive economic, social, or political systems. The construction of the Monobloc's meanings thus takes place within these diachronic and synchronic socioeconomic and political contexts which evolve around questions of power, hegemonic control through discipline, and empowerment through resistance.

Carsten Kullmann, University of Magdeburg, Germany





What happen when we disturb the traditional sense of scale between objects and cities? Between design and architecture? Or between the historic Venice and the icon of consumerism?

Can the skills of photography, sketching, designing, modelling, manipulating and collaging be used to create a 'poster dialogue' playing with the sense of scale? What happens when elements of the city of Venice, the iconic Monobloc chair, and a creative play of scale is deliberately forced together?

Hans Thyge Raunkjær initially supervised the students of group 4, and further introduced them to the sub-theme 'playing with scale' and the historic context of the City of

Venice on the first day of the workshop. They started by visiting the Caffé Florian and entering the Campanile Tower. In the following 36 pages, a selected and curated series of posters made by group 4 play with the sense of scale and how we perceive the city of Venice.

Pay special attention to the strong expression in for instance 'Venice Mascara', 'Look around' or 'Souveniers' which position the Monobloc chair in enriching situations from small souvenirs like key-holders and masks, to ornaments on iconic building facades, or even grand monuments shining in the night sky.

Another poster mentioned by the teachers, was the 'Industry vs. Industry', which in a clear and easy readable way play with the scale, form and impact of the monobloc chairs compared to the industrial background and scenery of Venice. It warns about the grand pollution deriving not only from the city itself, but also from the mass productions of plastic (chairs).

Finally, the eye-catching poster 'Is production culture' is another great example, which in a brilliant way question the thin line between culture and production. The poster in a very creative way use of the pure form of the monobloc as a new lace-like decoration. This reminds us of old facade decoration on the Venetian monuments as well as plays with the idea of contemporary visual culture – more and more led and oriented by an aesthetic connection to specific consumption products.

### saint Marks chair



## ARCHITECTURE 101 VENETIAN ORNAMENTS



















### CAN YOU FIND ME?



# DON'T LOOK AT THIS CHAIR





## **VENECIAN MURAL**







<u> የ</u>ተለተለተለ





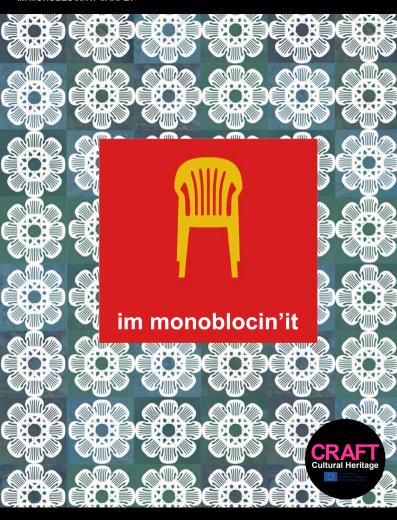
# INDUSTRY vs INDUSTRY





# WHAT SCALE OF OF THE PRODUCTION IS CULTURE?

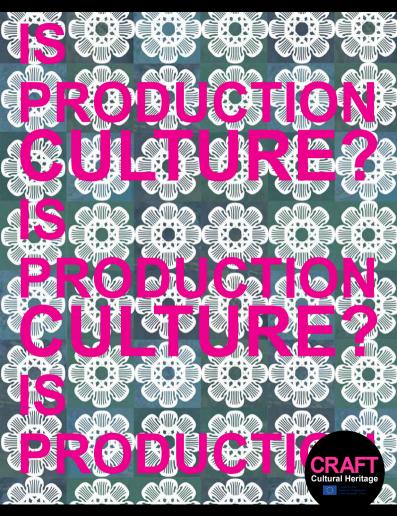










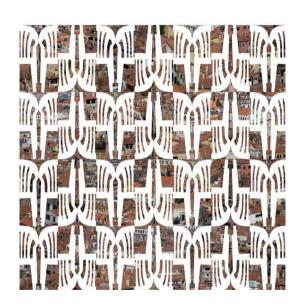






# WICKER CHAIR FOR ALL











































# MMMMMM... YUMMY MONOBLOCKS



# **VENECIANS' EMIGRATION**







The San Marco Square is the foremost physical manifestation of the victories and the defeats, the everyday life and the general history of the people of Venice. These narratives are all preserved in the stones; the buildings and the sculptures on the square. The Venetians have created this urban spatial wonder through centuries of mastering the art of assembling; the talent of re-framing artistic interpretations by introducing manipulated foreign objects into the existing compositions and organizing all into a new and unified assemblage.

Can this assignment be used to revitalize this talent? Can it be used to express the interesting times we are living in, by introducing the object and the narratives embedded in the Monobloc chair into the narratives preserved on the San Marco Square?

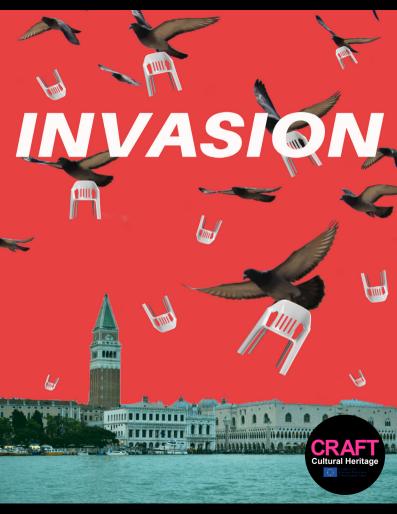
**Elias Melvin Christiansen** initially supervised the students of group 5, and further introduced them to the sub-theme 'place' and the historic context of Piazza San Marco on the first day of the workshop.

In the following 36 pages, a selected and curated series of posters made by group 5 explore the historic layers of the city of Venice and the iconic site of the San Marco square. With great visual and graphic skills, the group play with the collective memory and political power as part of the sociocultural heritage.

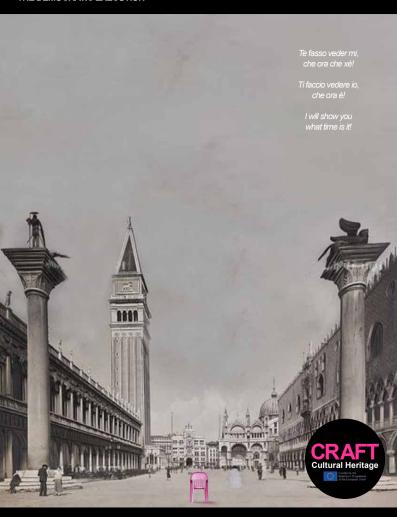
Pay special attention to the poster 'Plague of the 21st century', which illustrates a great attention to the historic (Venetian) context and a strong satirical play of words and metaphors referring to capitalism, mass production and the increasing mono-culture.

In line with this, the posters 'Holy Chair' or for instance 'Seat of no power' questions the political rules and human behaviour in the San Marco square. Who has which rights? Who decides what you can do where? Both posters reflect the political and socio-cultural positions in one of the most democratic early republics in Europe. As well as, represent the contrast between mass production and the loneliness of the power, the uniqueness of Venice and the cheapness of the millions of tourists passing by here.

In addition, 'The aftermath' or 'Massive chair for massive tourism' touch on this critical point of mass production and mass consumption threatening to destroy Venice. For instance by comparing the Monobloc to the huge cruise ships passing through Venice.

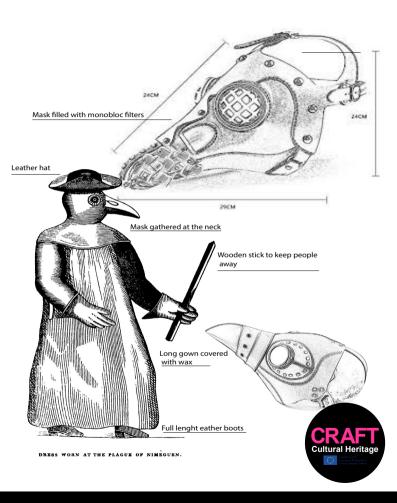






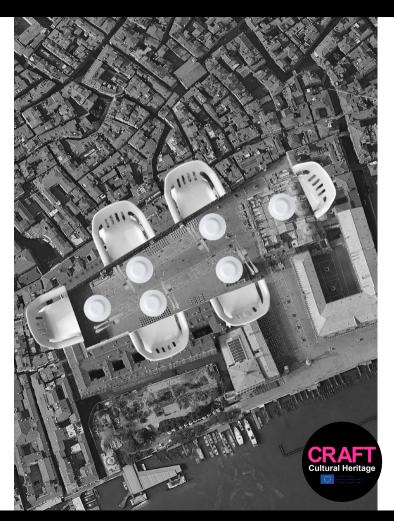












## DEMOCRACY INSIDE NOW OUTSIDE!













### I WANT MY CHAIR!





# HOLY CHAIR!





## BRICKS AND STONES MAY BREAK LIKE BONES BUT PLASTIC IS FOREVER





NEW FROM CRAFT LUXURY DESIGNS

## THE CARNIVAL CHAIR

IT WON'T SUPPORT YOUR WEIGHT

BUT IT WILL SURE AS HELL LET ALL YOUR FRIENDS KNOW YOU WENT TO VENICE



Te fasso veder mi, che ora che xè! Ti faccio vedere io, che ora è! EU MOSTRO - TE QUE HORAS SÃO ora che xè! I will show you what time it is! I will show you what time it is! I will show you what time it is! ovedere io, che ora è! I will show you what time it is! Te fasso veder mi, che ora che xè! POLAZAL TI BOM POLAZAL TI BOM KOLIKO JE URA I will show you what time it will show you what time it is! 你死定了! POLAZAL TI BOM KOLIKO JE URA I will show you what time it faccio vedere io, che ora è! EU MOSTRO - TE QUE HORAS SÃO!POLA



#### **BREAKING NEWS**

#### **VENICE IN TROUBLE**

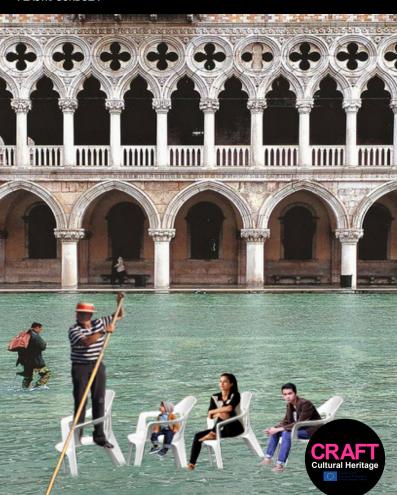
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**VENETIANS TIRED OF CHAIRS IN WATER** 



### ROW! ROW! ROW! YOUR MONOBLOC!







# ARE YOU ALSO A VICTIM?

You don't have to fight your battle alone. Get your very own seat at San Marco - now for only 50€ per day!

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THI POWER OF SITTING VISIT WWW.CRAFT-CULTURALHERITAGE.EU



















### IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR A SEAT

You don't have to fight your battle alone. Get your very own seat at San Marco - now for only 50€ per day!

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE POWER OF SITTING VISIT WWW.CRAFT-CULTURALHERITAGE.EU





Bring your monobloc to a public square. Throw caution to the wind. Change a life today.





ONE MAN'S TRASH
IS ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE



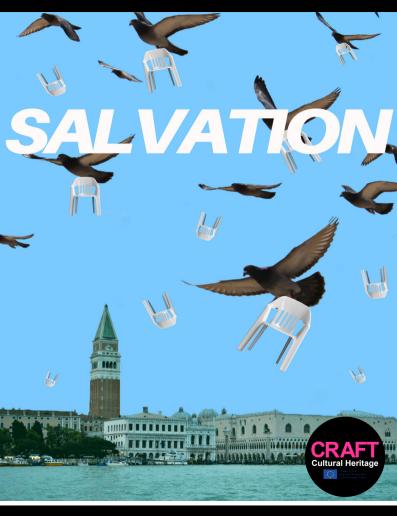














Can the appearance and the deep power of the body be transformed by the energy, rhythm, and shape of Santa Lucia Railway Station through the Monobloc Chair? What does it mean to investigate the relationship between the Monoblock chair and the body, reflecting on the subject of Waiting?

Finally, how can the work with three different sections: investigation of the body, relationship with the chair and graphic reworking be used to move beyond traditional perceptions?

**Daniela Rimei and Daniele Sepe** from AMAT and the representatives from **7-8 CHILI** initially supervised the students of group 6, and further introduced them to the sub-

theme 'body' and the historic context of Santa Lucia (the railway station) on the first day of the workshop.

In the following 36 pages, a selected and curated series of posters made by group 6 challenge established collective social behaviours, rules and norms in public places.

For instance by using the emotions and meaning we assign to certain objects in specific situations to push (or perhaps even trigger) contemporary public phenomena like the fear of terror actions. Related to this, the teachers emphasised the groups' strong graphic skills, good humour, and elegant approach as seen with the posters 'Relationship', 'Settle down' or 'Part of us'.

Pay special attention to the poster 'Fear them', which was emphasised for its' thoughtful and daring approach illustrating a nice reflection between classical, modern painting in front of modern concerns and thought related to contemporary plastic littering debates and economic ecological considerations. The poster play with the scream and the fear of the modern world changing too fast.

Finally, the poster 'Static of submergement' was mentioned because it illustrates how statics is always present in cultural discourse and communication processes. The poster ask if the Monobloc is an effect of static noise, or a victim of cultural misunderstanding by its lad reputation?









# MONOBLOC CHAIRS ALLOWED CRAF Cultural Herita





## HELLO WORL







### WTF IS GOING ON???? THESE CRAZY PEOPLE ARE BLOCKING THE WAY...

#theybuiltawall



RETWEETS 24,195

LIKES 79.977









3:14 AM - 11 Nov 2016

◆ **1** 24K



₩ 80K •••





**MONOBLOC 2020** 











## THE SCULPTURE of Canova 🛭 PALAZZO CRAFT SEP 16 - OCT 21, 2019

### VENICE ITALY









PSSST.. TOURISTS

IN THE END YOU ALL SEAT HERE





### ONE SIZE FITS ALL!







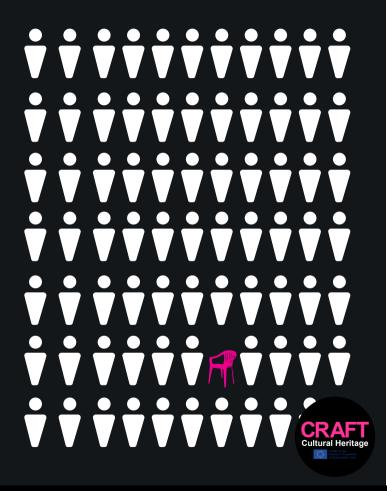


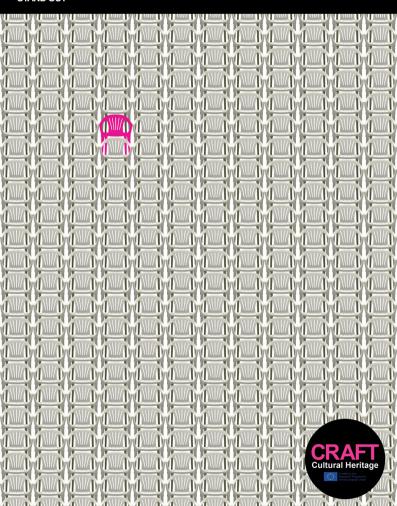




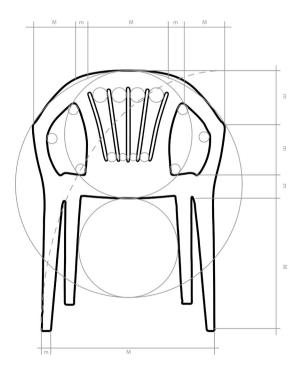




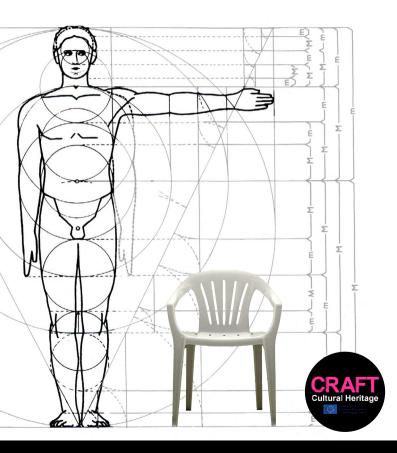


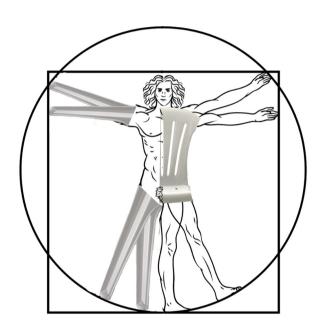














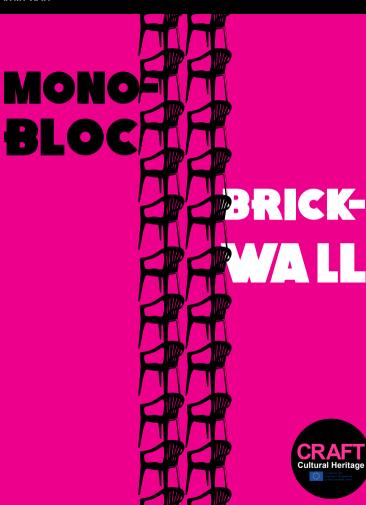


### TITALIA GILLE















During the CRAFT workshop at the Art Biennale, the teachers, professors, experts and artists joined in a group, Group 7+. The ambition with this group was to get the professionals to test to work and learn on the same basis as given to the students through knowledge-sharing and interdisciplinary collaboration.

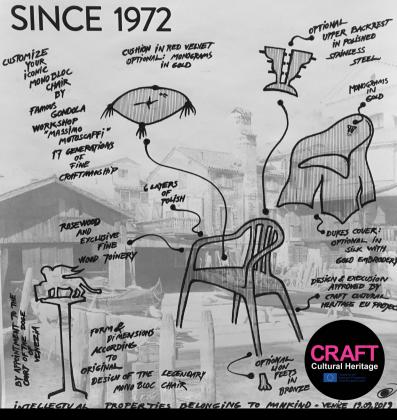
The idea behind was developed by the CRAFT partners with the aim of gaining practical experience with the workshop, to get in line with the students and understand their point of view from where they worked, while also allowing the professionals to engage with the students in a new and innovative way.

The professionals should, in the same way as the students, develop posters taking point of departure in the Monobloc chair and connect it into the context of Venice asking themselves:

How can The Monobloc be a medium for cultural heritage when placed in Venice?

The professionals worked during the workshop at tables, similar to the students and on the same premises. As such, Group 7+ shared both laughter and experiences with the many students – it is never too late to learn - and we all became a team – team CRAFT.

# CRAFTED

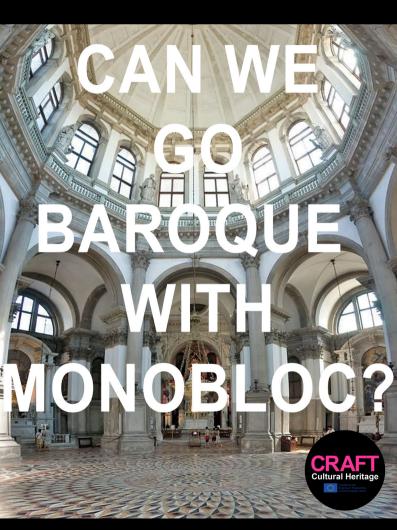




Partners of CRAFT 257



Partners of CRAFT 258



Partners of CRAFT 259



The trademark of Aalborg University (AAU) is the Problem-based learning (PBL) approach. The approach is highly recognised by universities, researchers and students in Denmark as well as internationally. It was one of the building stones from the beginning of the AAU history and AAU has proudly and competently developed and carried this into the new millennium.

One of the principles of the PBL model is that students work on a problem-oriented basis and complete projects of an advanced academic standard. This approach is characterized by combining a central engagement in local, regional, and national issues with an active commitment to international collaboration.

The Problem-based learning approach focuses on projects that through groupwork relates to real-life problems and secures the student projects to follow an ongoing cycle of development, implementation, execution and evaluation throughout the project period. The problem-based learning approach provides the students to collaborate with external partners and practitioners, giving the students unique possibilities to transform ideas and thought to action(s) in real life.

At the workshop and session at the Art Biennale 2019 the problem-based learning methodology allowed the students to follow the problem-based learning cycle, with the theme of The Monobloc and the Context of Venice constant in play in the development of new posters. A methodology securing flexible interaction between theory and practice. Further it provided the students with new collaborative and communicative competencies, learning skills and real-life experiences beneficial for future scientific and practical work.

University of Aalborg







Does chairs makes us human?

Perhaps! One thing is sure; a chair is never just an object for sitting.

The chair has throughout history signified extraordinary socio-cultural relations, invited for many different bodily encounters, defined habits, and reflected various perspectives on individual personal space.

Throughout the five-day workshop, the six groups creatively played with the scale, form and function of the Monobloc chair. They endeavored into a critical exploration of the chair and its' contemporary context. Used this lens to discuss and reflect on the historical Venetian context and current cultural discourses.

During the workshop, more than 500 A3 posters were produced.

Yet, in the end, only 36 posters were selected and curated from each group.

Let us be very clear. It was not an easy task to make the selection!

The workshop produced an overwhelming series of posters with many great visual presentations and graphic illustrations. Many posters displayed a brilliant use of wordplay, metaphors and analogies engaging in topics like human relationships, personal space, loneliness, climate and capitalism. They were emotionally effective and with a very creative use of the Monobloc chairs to raise critical, daring, provocative and even satirical comments on contemporary society and societal issues.

Hence, applying political and socio-cultural reflection on the interplay between historic sites, cultural heritage and todays' increasing tourism contributing to the growing problems of plastic littering and mass-production all around us.

In the end, we are proud to see how, not only the entire workshop but also, each poster represents a continuous oscillation between analysis and design thinking and contribute to broaden our understanding of cultural heritage by challenging the borders of the experienced, the remembered and the imagined.

## Thank you for the effort.















The Italian partner AMAT has the last ten years been increasing the support to creativity participating in regional, national and international projects aiming at offering opportunities of interdisciplinary approach to contemporary artists. The actions of AMAT have been enlarged: workshops led by artists dedicated to ordinary people/communities; platforms supporting youth creativity; international projects to experiment new approaches to the cultural development. During our workshop, AMAT and the rest of the CRAFT team collaborated with the artistic performance group 7-8 Chili in developing an artistic performance with the students in order to perform a part of the project at our Biennale Session.

The performance group 7-8 Chili participated actively in the network of professionals supervising the students with the



overall aim of developing more than 500 posters. On the fourth day of the workshop the 7-8 Chili trained, danced with, developed, guided and supervised the students into a performance that took point of departure in the Chair contributing with a new aspect of the multidisciplinary curriculum.

On the day of the Biennale Session, the public was invited in to experience the poster exhibition and here the students gave a performance under supervision from 7-8 Chili. The 45-minute performance took point of departure in the cultural heritage of the chair, more specifically the Monobloc as the main object, removing all barriers between humans, developing a new common language through the Monobloc chair.

Collaborating with an artistic performance group as 7-8 Chili brought new aspects and disciplines to the project. Their inputs, insights and practical exercises provided the students with the opportunities to get deeply focused in new possibilities and understandings. It also showed new nuances to their existing knowledge and understandings and provided everyone to experience the Monobloc through the eyes of an artistic performance group.













La Biennale di Venezia operates across different fields like Art, Architecture, Dance, Music, Theater and Cinema.

Each year a new exhibition theme represents the development and movement in the contemporary field.

Each year, the spirit of exploration and critical reflection is present.

La Biennale is a platform for debate that influence both practice and theory. Related hereto, a special part of the exhibitions is the Biennale Sessions with a devotion to universities and schools presenting teaching and research to promote discussion and debate among young generations.

In 2019, at the 57th International Art Exhibition the overall theme was titled May You Live In Interesting Times curated by Ralph Rugoff. This exhibition, highlighted art that exists in between accepted categories and genres or art which questioned the rationales behind our categorical thinking.

CRAFT was represented with a Biennale Session where we performed our work on a 5-day long workshop. Our focus was both on Rugoff's theme and on Cultural Heritage.

Our programme exemplified this explorative and criticalreflective approach, testing aesthetic, behavioural and social conventions in a wide range of events, and we are aware that the aim of the European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018) was to encourage more people to discover and engage with Europe's cultural heritage, and to reinforce a sense of belonging to a common European space.





Multiline Fælleskøkkenet I/S Aalborg Universitet

Carsten Kullman, University of Magdeburg
Tobias Linden, University of Cologne
Francesca Zanotto, Politecnico di Milano
Davide Calvaresi, 7-8 CHILI
Stefania Crocetti, 7-8 CHILI
Valeria Colonnella, 7-8 CHILI
Anna Eva Utke Heilmann, Aalborg University
Elias Melvin Christensen, Aalborg University
Jeppe Heden Christensen, Aalborg University
Nini Camilla Bagger, Aalborg University
Peter Frigaard, Aalborg University

Tenna Doktor Olsen Tvedebrink, Aalborg University
Esben Clausen Nørgaard
Piero Schiavon
Renato & Laura

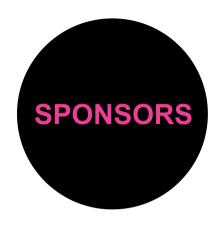
#### **All CRAFT Team:**

Anne Dall
Aske Eg Thorn
C+W Studio
Helle Sone Larsen
Morten Mogensen
Simon Ellehammer J.

#### All CRAFT Partners for their dedicated participation:

Ana María Fernández García Anna Marie Fisker Daniela Rimei Daniele Sepe Fátima Pombo Hans Thyge Raunkjær Martina Malešič Rebeka Vidrih

# All the students!













#### Group 1 - Full/Empty

Nikolaj Weberg Rahbek, *Aalborg University*Noelia Fernandez Garcia, *University of Oviedo*Christina Theofanidi, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*Ramin Dorri, *Politecnico di Milano*Katarina Richter, *University of Ljubljana* 

# Group 2 - Mystery

Even Årsland Anderssen, Aalborg University
Mercedes Menéndez Ganzáles, University of Oviedo
Devvrat Chowdhary, Politecnico di Milano
Agnes Schulz-Bongert, Bauhaus University Weimar
Ardian Murati, Politecnico di Milano

#### Group 3 - Time

Asbjørn Christian Carstens, Aalborg University César Ripoll Dono, University of Oviedo Mikolaj Bialasik, Cracow University of Technology Leonard Jaboulay,

Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Marseille Elmedinë Morina, Politecnico di Milano

### Group 4 - Scale

Anna Konstantopoulou, *National Technical University of Athens*Lele Ramphele, *Politecnico di Milano*Radoslaw Mazgaj, *Cracow University of Technology*Daniela Gomes, *University of Aveiro*Katarina Bogataj, *University of Ljubljana* 

#### Group 5 - Place

João Martins, *University of Aveiro* Hana Ceferin, *University of Ljubljana* Sara Tacchella, *Politecnico di Milano* Zhi Min Goh, *Politecnico di Milano* 

#### Group 6 - Body

Blaise Korpnik, *University of Ljubljana*Guilherme Oliveira, *University of Aveiro*Cort Widlowski, *Politecnico di Milano*Moritz Goetze, *Bauhaus-University Weimar* 



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