Venezia, Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore

Homo Faber

August 29, 2024

Gianfelice Rocca  
President of Fondazione Giorgio Cini

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear guests

**Welcome to the third edition of *Homo Faber*** which takes place on the island of San Giorgio. Really happy to have you here to explore this year’s theme, ‘The Journey of Life’.

**A really warm thank and gratitude to the Michelangelo Foundation and the Fondazione Cologni**, who share the idea that creativity and craftsmanship, the ability to use the human hand, are the way to rediscover beauty, to create objects of universal value, and to remind us of the importance of sensory experiences in interpreting the world. But our thanks and gratitude go in particular to the two extraordinary founders of the two Foundations, Johann Rupert and Franco Cologni. Two real cultural giants.

**It is no coincidence that an exhibition of this quality takes place on the island of San Giorgio**, a treasure trove of artistic and artisanal beauties, but above all the historic seat of a large Benedictine abbey.

San Benedetto, patron of Europe, with his "Benedictine Rule", laid the foundations of a harmonious relationship between spirituality and work. With his commandment ‘ora et labora’ Benedetto was the first great ‘homo faber’.

He has also inspired the creation of that network of great abbeys throughout Europe which, with their culture of welcome, hospitality and peace, have contributed to bringing civilization to a medieval world shaken by invasions and violence.

**The Cini Foundation was born from this universalistic Benedictine tradition and is also based on the entire Venetian tradition.** Venice, a city of art with a thousand-year history and organization that has always been projected into the Mediterranean and the East. It is precisely in this year that we commemorate the historic journey of Marco Polo and the discovery of the great Chinese civilization.

We live in an era marked once again by wars, immigration, geopolitical polarizations, renewed contrasts between technological accelerations and humanistic values, conflicts between global cultures and local spiritual roots.

**Fondazione Giorgio Cini aims to facilitate intercultural dialogue in such a divided world.** Aims to be a ‘lantern’ that illuminates the environment creating a space where everyone is free to express his and her views.

It is no coincidence that the extraordinary exhibition of *Homo Faber*, centred on the importance of manual skills, will be followed **in November by an important meeting on Ethics, AI and global health**. Forty experts and young researchers from all over the world in an innovative setting here on the Island of San Giorgio. Three days of full-time coexistence, in an almost ‘monastic atmosphere’, in search of a common ‘position paper’ that can contribute to the advancement in the political and scientific field.

Finally, I would like to extend our **thanks and gratitude** to all those who have been key to the conception and realization of this event:

first of all **Hannely Rupert**, vice president of the Michelangelo Foundation but above all extraordinary animator of the event;

**Luca Guadagnino and Niccolò Rosmarini**, for the very special artistic direction;

**Alberto Cavalli**, general director of the Cologni Foundation;

**Renata Codello**, Secretary General of Fondazione Giorgio Cini, who with tireless commitment made sure that the entire island accompanied a very complex event;

**Marsilio Arte**, general contractor of Homo Faber, since the first edition.

Last but not least, all the volunteers, the Young Ambassadors, who will be your guides and who, with their enthusiasm, have supported the extraordinary nature of this event.

Thank you all for being here and I hope that this event can inspire us and enrich our experience.

**Informazioni per la stampa:**

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