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Real Venice: An Art Sale to Help Save the City

Leading photographers capture the city in it's current state, offering all proceeds to the cause

By Evan Mantyk
Epoch Times Staff

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"Scuola Grande di San Rocco" by Finish artist Tiina Itkonen, from the series "At the time of the Bora Wind", Venice, 2011. 27.6 x 84 in. (Courtesy of Michael Hoppen Contemporary, London)

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All of the money raised from the sale will be donated to Venice in Peril, a charity dedicated to helping preserve Venice from rising waters and heavy tourism.

"Real Venice is a necessary initiative that harnesses the creativity, the vigor, the internationalism—and the financial power—of contemporary art to saving Venice, an ancient, exquisite city where art has always been of the essence," writes Anna Somers Cocks, chairman of Venice in Peril on its website.

Fourteen photographers were selected to visit Venice and were given "absolute freedom" to make a portfolio of images. Contributing photographers include Lynne Cohen, Philip-Lorca diCorcia, Antonio Gribés, Nan Goldin, Pierre Gonnord, Dionisio Gonzalez, Candida Höfer, Tiina Itkonen, Mimmo Jodice, Tim Parchikov, Matthias Schaller, Jules Spinatsch, Robert Walker, and Hiroshi Watanabe.

Venice is in peril. Experts believe the city is slowly sinking into the water.

Now, 14 photographers considered at the top of their field, are selling their photographic depictions of Venice to help raise money to save the Italian city known for its streets of water.

The works are on show in Venice, through the end of this month, in an exhibit titled Real Venice. They will go on auction at Phillips de Pury & Company, in London, England, on Nov. 3.

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"Fondaco dei Turchi," from the series "Venice," Venice 2010 by Mimmo Jodice. 40 x 40 in. Mimmo Jodice (Courtesy of Galerie Karsten Greve)

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