



**Celebratory sail with vela al terzo boats in the lagoon
for the release of the volume
Red Regatta by Melissa McGill
in collaboration with Associazione Vela al Terzo Venezia**

June 20th, 2 pm, Ass. Vela al Terzo Venezia, vaporetto stop Bacini

On Sunday June 20th, at 2 pm, approximately **thirty traditional vela al terzo sailboats**, each **with hand-painted sails in a different shade of red**, will set sail from the nautical headquarters of the Associazione Vela al Terzo Venezia and sail between Fondamenta Nove and Isola San Michele in **Venice** to celebrate the **publication of the book *Red Regatta*** (published by Marsilio) by the artist Melissa McGill.

This celebratory event, organised by the artist, is dedicated to her Venetian collaborators and the city of Venice to which she has been linked since the early 1990s, in memory of **Giorgio Righetti**, President of the Associazione Vela al Terzo Venezia, who passed away this May.

"I feel honored to have worked side by side with Giorgio Righetti on *Red Regatta*. Giorgio was the perfect partner throughout the process of making this dream come true, with his passion for vela al terzo and the lagoon environment, his pride in being a Venetian citizen, mixed together with his great energy and enthusiasm. In him I found a great friend and a man of unique spirit who I will always hold in my heart... He will always be with us".
Melissa McGill

At 5 pm, following the sailing event, **the book will be presented to the public by the artist**, the director of Magazzino Italian Art **Vittorio Calabrese**, the curator of the *Red Regatta* project **Chiara Spangaro** and the journalist, writer and AVT member **Silvio Testa**, at the Associazione Vela al Terzo Venezia headquarters (vaporetto stop Bacini).

The book *Red Regatta* documents the extraordinary public art project by Melissa McGill organised by Magazzino Italian Art, Associazione Vela al Terzo Venezia and Comune di Venezia, supported by Mazzoleni gallery and curated by Chiara Spangaro, with project management by Marcella Ferrari.

In 2019 the project activated the Venetian Lagoon with a highly evocative spectacle of boats sailing with sails hand-painted in fifty-two shades of red that on the one hand was intended to celebrate Venice's ancient and vital maritime tradition and on the other to draw attention to the dangers that threaten the delicate balance between the city of Venice and the sea.

In *Red Regatta* nothing was left to chance: all the sails were made to measure for each of the fifty-two boats that took part and every shade of colour developed by Melissa McGill, who then painted the sails by hand during a workshop in which the sailors and a group of students from the Università Iuav di Venezia took part. Each boat, privately owned and registered with the Associazione Vela al Terzo Venezia, is a traditional vessel with shallow bottom and removable mast, with the gaff rig called *vela al terzo* (literally "sail on the third," because the upper yard on which the sail is bent is fixed to the mast about a third of the way along its length).

The volume of 200 pages and 250 colour photographs is designed by the graphic designer Beatriz Cifuentes of New York studio Waterhouse Cifuentes in close collaboration with the artist. It features McGill's personal reflections on the making of *Red Regatta*, including essays by Chiara Spangaro tracing the artist's body of work and by Silvio Testa, who reveals the secrets and history of the *vela al terzo* tradition in the lagoon. *Red Regatta's* collaborating sailors share their testimonies, collectively expressing passionate dedication to their Venetian family legacies, their city's history and the lagoon, with respect and love for their unique and delicate environment, and their hopes for the future, the spirit of their portraits, taken by the artist.

In concomitance with the book's release, **from June 23rd to September 18th, 2021, Mazzoleni will present a solo exhibition by Melissa McGill at its London gallery entitled *In Venice***, featuring works related to *Red Regatta* and interpreted in a wide range of media. Press release of the exhibition available at this [link](#).

Melissa McGill is a New York based interdisciplinary artist known for ambitious, collaborative, site specific public art projects that explore the intersection of human culture and the nature. The artist lived in Venice from 1991 to 1993, and has established deep and lasting ties with the city and its environment. Mazzoleni gallery officially represents Melissa McGill in Europe and Asia.

THE VOLUME:

Marsilio

Melissa McGill

Red Regatta

208 pp., with 250 color photos

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