



CA' FOSCARI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 14
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WIDESPREAD IN VENICE

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**GIRLS JUST WANNA DRAW:
THE ART OF JOANNA QUINN**

Among the main guests of the fourteenth edition of **Ca' Foscari Short Film Festival** will be British animator and illustrator, **Joanna Quinn**, three-time Oscar nominee with *Famous Fred* (1996), *Wife of Bath* (1998) and the latest *Affairs of the art* (2021). Quinn will be interviewed by **Davide Giurlando**, a professor of the Masters 'Fine Arts in Filmmaking' at Ca' Foscari, and an expert in animation studies. She will present some of her works and relive a career of over thirty years. There will then be a screening of three short films made by the British author and two 'making ofs', which will show their creative process. The meeting will conclude with a **workshop**, in which Quinn will reveal some of the secrets behind her animation technique, with her dynamic style and her 'caricature-like' characters.

Born in Birmingham, **Joanna Quinn** completed an art foundation course at Goldsmiths in London, then went on to graduate from Middlesex University in *Graphic Design*. After moving to Cardiff in 1985, she founded the production company, Beryl Productions, with her partner: the screenwriter and producer, Les Mills. Beryl is, in fact, the name of the recurring character in her animations; the first film sees her as a protagonist in *Girls' Night Out* (1987), which validates her on the international animation scene with a three award winning debut at the Annecy Animation Festival. It sets up the recurrent theme that her heroine gives light to in her films: the relationship between the "imperfect" body shape and traditional female body standards. The theme of femininity returns - and highlights the expectations imposed on women by society - in her next film, *Body Beautiful* (1991) and *Elles* (1992). In her next film, she explores the theme of artistic inspiration; in *Dreams & Desires - Family Ties* (2006) and *Affairs of the Art* (2021), we find Beryl involved in the world of art, with partially autobiographical references. The provocative irony is another of the recurrent characteristics in Quinn's works, as in *Britannia* (1993), an anti-colonial satire and winner of the Leonardo Da Vinci Prize.

The British animator's career is constellated by numerous awards and nominations at the Emmys, at the BAFTAs (with *The Canterbury Tales* she won both in the same year) and at the main animation festivals. In 2008, Michael Harvey curated an exhibition dedicated to her, entitled *Drawings That Move*. It was exhibited by various museums and international exhibition spaces. Quinn is also involved in the world of education, dedicating herself to lectures and workshops at universities and cinematographic festivals.