



CA' FOSCARI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 14
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WIDESPREAD IN VENICE

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SHORT *meets* ŽIVA KRAUS

The Croatian (but Venetian by adoption) photographer, painter and video artist **Živa Kraus** will also be among the guests of this fourteenth edition of the **Ca' Foscari Short Film Festival** and will be interviewed by photography professor **Cristina Baldacci** to recall through her speech and her photographs, the pivotal moments of a luminous career, complemented by the screening of one of Kraus's experimental short films.

Živa Kraus's work are deeply inspired by the two cities that mostly characterize her biography: Zagreb, her native city, and Venice, her chosen home, opening the door to contemporary art for her and allowing her to assume a leading role in the Venetian artistic scene. After attending painting classes at the Fine Arts Academy of Zagreb, in 1971 she moved to Venice where she completed her studies in scenic design. Here she had the opportunity to work in the Vedova Studio as an assistant. Thanks to this experience she made her debut in the field of photography, where she would obtain a prominent position. The start of her career was also marked by a series of fundamental experiences for her professional and artistic growth, such as her collaboration with Peggy Guggenheim, who gave Venice one of the most important museums for twentieth-century art, and with Carlo Caldazzo, at the Cavallino Gallery.

The opening of the Ikona Photo Gallery in 1979 established her as a central figure in the field, becoming one of the first to introduce Lisette Model and Barbara Morgan's photographs, later followed by the works of many artists who made lasting impacts in the photographic and artistic domain, like Doisneau, Freund, Fontana and Meyer. After its initial foundation in San Marco, her business would expand ten years later, when Ikona Venice – International School of Photography – would take shape. From 1982 to 1991, she was also coordinator at the Sebastian Gallery, with branches located in Dubrovnik, Belgrade and Varaždin, soon becoming a hub for events associated with the Venice Biennale which she regularly collaborates with.

Her passion for painting brought her to exhibit her work in countless European cities and to realize, with the collaboration of Venice's Cavallino Gallery and the Contemporary Art Gallery of Zagreb, the *IV Encounter in Motovun* focused on identity. Furthermore, this opportunity allows her to expand her own horizons and to explore more of the video art domain, with the creation of a black and white film, *The Motovun Tape*. Between 2019 and 2020, forty years after the foundation of Ikona, *THE MEMORY OF THE FUTURE* is finally set up, an exhibition that glorifies Živa Kraus's extraordinary vocation of being a photographer, gallery owner and painter.