

THE FONDATION CARTIER POUR L'ART CONTEMPORAIN BY JEAN NOUVEL

Collateral Event of the 19th International Architecture Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia
Exhibition presented at the Fondazione Giorgio Cini
May 10 - September 14, 2025



View of the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain's future premises, place du Palais-Royal, Paris. Rendering of platform 1 looking onto the Rue de Rivoli © Jean Nouvel / ADAGP, Paris, 2024

The Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain is pleased to present the exhibition *The Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain by Jean Nouvel* from May 10 to September 14, 2025, on the occasion of the 19th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. As part of the Collateral Events of the Biennale Architettura 2025, this groundbreaking exhibition, hosted at the Fondazione Giorgio Cini, unveils the innovative design concepts imagined by Jean Nouvel for the Fondation Cartier's futures spaces.

Since its creation in 1984 the Fondation Cartier has placed architecture at the heart of its programming,

positioning it as a catalyst for interdisciplinary dialogue. Its historic building designed by Jean Nouvel and inaugurated in 1994 on Boulevard Raspail, Paris, redefined exhibition-making with its striking glass and steel structure, challenging conventions with its apparent immateriality.

Thirty years later, the Fondation Cartier has once again commissioned Jean Nouvel, this time to transform a mid-19th century Haussmannian building at 2 Place du Palais-Royal, Paris, next to the Louvre - set to open in late 2025. Pushing the boundaries of architectural design, this project embodies the Fondation's mission to engage with all forms of contemporary creation.



The building that will house the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain from autumn 2025, place du Palais-Royal, Paris. Interior architecture by Jean Nouvel. Photo © Luc Boegly

In Venice, visitors will encounter the premises of the new architecture of the Fondation Cartier. A large-scale sectional model of the new spaces reveals the potential of an architecture that is a dynamic exhibition-making tool. Five platforms which can be adjusted to different heights offer the possibility of creating multiple combinations of volumes, voids and spaces, offering unprecedented imaginative opportunities for multi-disciplinary programming. The sensation and experience of the interior architectural landscape of the Fondation Cartier's new address are evoked within the exhibition space through a display of projections, full-scale photographs, architectural plans, and prototypes. The scenography highlights key design elements, including the retractable ceilings that temper natural light, as well as the mechanical guard rails that expand or restrict perspectives on the surrounding urban landscape. The possibility of perpetual transformation, expressed through the mobility of the exhibition spaces, reflects architecture's ability to engage with the full spectrum of human creativity, spanning visual arts, performance, technology, science, and philosophy.

The Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain by Jean Nouvel stages the architect's desire to create spaces that are not merely buildings but cultural environments in and of themselves, responding to what is already present at a given site. In Venice, the exhibition unfolds against the

backdrop of the museum-city. Through the Fondazione Giorgio Cini's windows, visitors glimpse the cityscape beyond San Giorgio Maggiore, across from the Grand Canal. The superimposition of the exhibition within the Venetian vista mirrors the context of the new Fondation Cartier, a building project at the heart of historical Paris. Further, the presentation of a small glass engraving of the Fondation Cartier's current, iconic building on boulevard Raspail, along with a video showcasing Jean Nouvel's past museographic projects highlights the contextualist approach.

With its presence and participation as a Collateral Event at the Biennale Architettura 2025, the Fondation Cartier presents a compelling vision of architecture as a discipline that synthesizes the arts — coexisting in a dynamic, ever-evolving relationship through exhibition-making.

Public program

A public program accompanying the exhibition will take place on the morning of May 9th at the Fondazione Giorgio Cini. It will investigate the notion of the "Museum as a site of architectural experimentation," and prolongs the topic of the 19th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia in

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questioning the museum's role in fostering the future of the architectural discipline. Confirmed participants alongside Jean Nouvel include architects, art historians, and museum directors, among others Cecilia Puga, Andrés Jaque, Lina Ghotmeh, Manuel Segade, Antoine Picon. The contents of the program will be made available in video format within the exhibition spaces after the public opening.

Publication

On the occasion of the inauguration of the Fondation Cartier's new spaces in Paris in Autumn 2025, the Fondation Cartier will publish a book dedicated to Jean Nouvel's architectural project. Through numerous photographs of the building's interior and exterior spaces, the book traces the building's unique history and explores the technical feat of Jean Nouvel's architectural design. This publication features a text by Jean Nouvel, a technical presentation of his architectural project for the Fondation Cartier by Mathieu Forest, architect, studio director and Cyril Desroche, architect, project director at Ateliers Jean Nouvel, as well as two essays by leading architectural historians Antoine Picon, G. Ware Travelstead Professor of the History of Architecture and Technology at Harvard GSD, and Beatriz Colomina, Howard Crosby Butler Professor of the History of Architecture at Princeton, and an essay by Béatrice Grenier, Curator and Director of Strategic Projects at Fondation Cartier. This publication sheds light on an ambitious architectural project, the culmination of nearly forty years of exchange and dialogue between the Fondation Cartier and Jean Nouvel.

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