

DONATE
word

ERA
ECO
RICERCA
ARTE

LINGUA IGNOTA

VICTORIA ZIDARU

PERFORMANCE

15.04.24 6pm
Archivi della Misericordia

INSTALLATION

11.05.24 - 29.09.24
Istituto della Pietà

VENICE 2024


 GRUPPO
VALORIZZAZIONI
CULTURALI®

 ISTITUTO ROMENO
DI CULTURA E RICERCA
UMANISTICA DI VENEZIA 

 FERMARTA
LITENI MOARA SUCEAVA
ROMANIA

15.04 | PERFORMANCE

Archivi della Misericordia

 Fondamenta de l'Abazia, 3549
30121 Venezia


vaporetto stop Ca D'oro

 **6pm**

** Attendance by reservation due to limited seating*

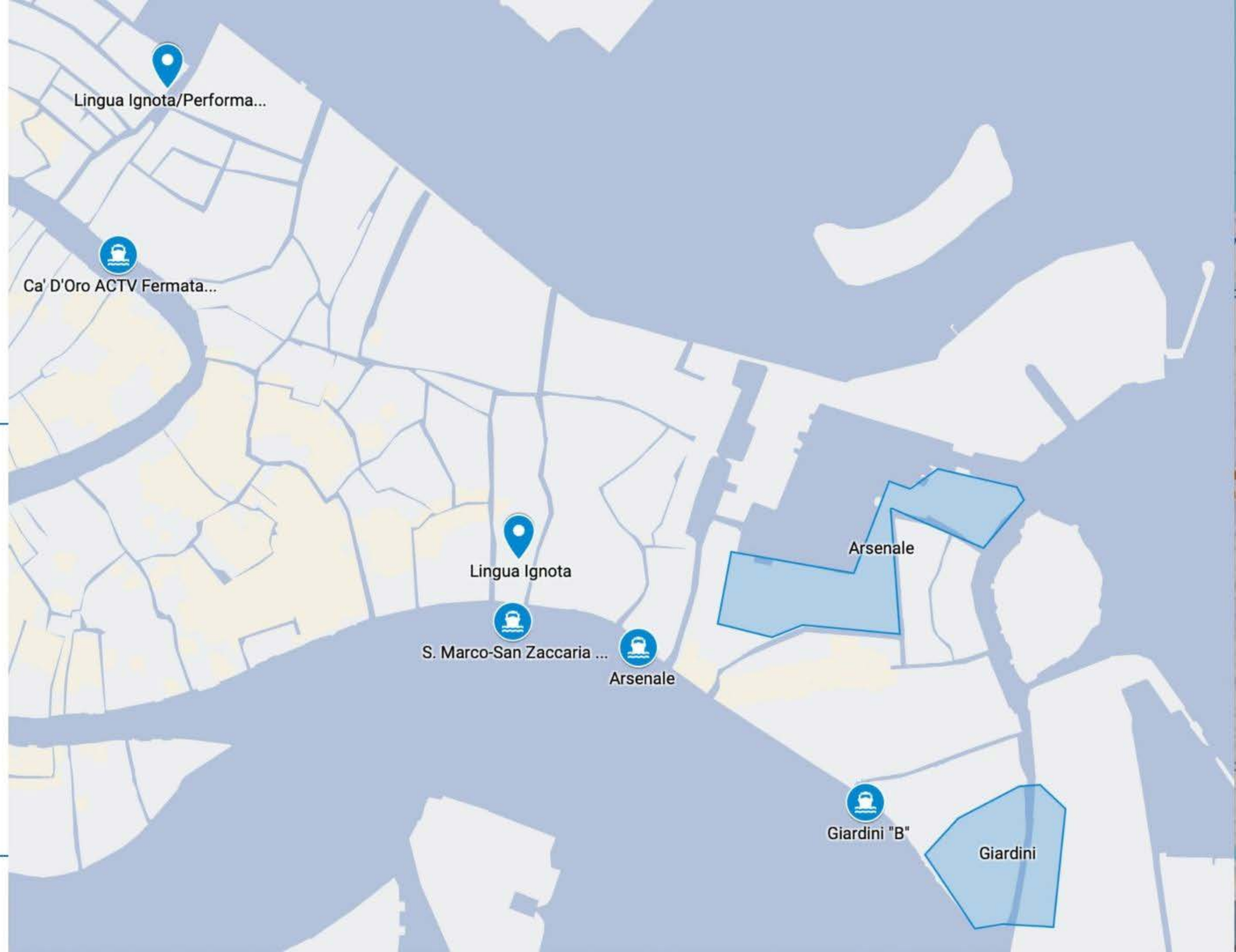
11.05 - 29.09 | INSTALLATION

Istituto della Pietà

 Calle della Pietà, Castello 3702
30122 Venezia

vaporetto stop S. Zaccaria

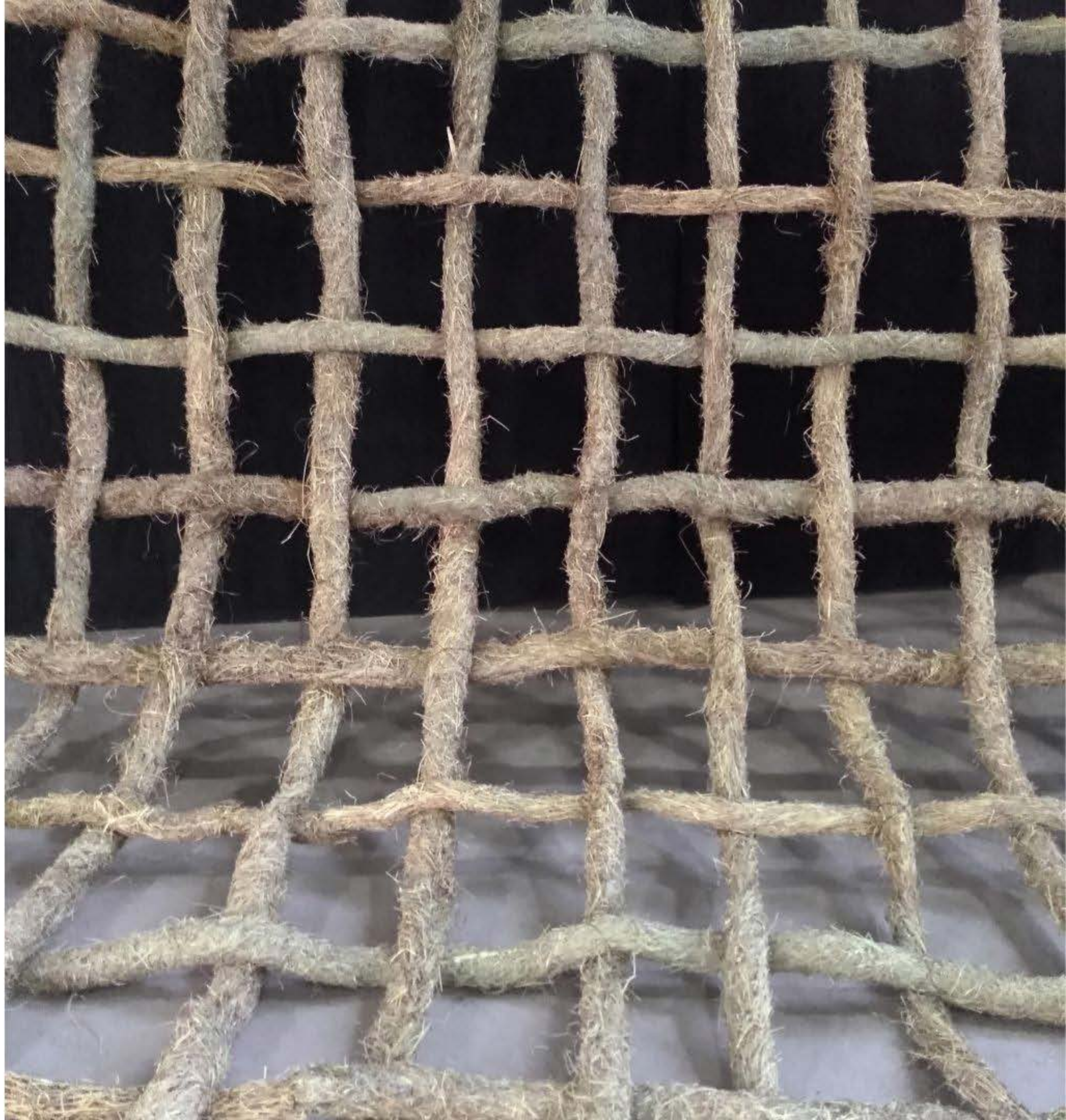
 **Tuesday to Sunday 11 am - 6 pm**



About the project

Coinciding with the 60th Venice Art Biennale 2024, **ERA** presents **Lingua Ignota**, a specially commissioned project by established Romanian artist **Victoria Zidaru**, curated by Adina Drinceanu. The project builds on a two year program done in collaboration with the Istituto della Pietà. It is supported by Valorizzazioni Culturali Group, Romanian Cultural Institute in Venice and Ferma de Arte.

Victoria Zidaru, *Stromata mare / The big Stromata*, detail, 2018





Victoria Zidaru, *Dealul Plutitor / The Floating Hill*, installation, 2016

About the work

Lingua Ignota highlights Victoria Zidaru's artistic vision, which over the past four decades has reinvented and transcended historical textile art paradigms by integrating vegetal textures and olfact with conceptual and sensuous elements. Her multidisciplinary approach encompasses large scale installation, sculptures and performance.

The concept of the project expands upon the artist's vision to explore an interconnected approach to knowledge, bridging ecological, spiritual, and collective actions in an intimate and urgent dialogue with environmental justice challenges.

Victoria Zidaru *_Invazie / Invasion*, 2018





Victoria Zidaru, *Ziua Întâi* / *The First Day*, 2023, installation view at MNAC, Bucharest

About the work

Lingua Ignota unfolds in two interconnected acts:

- **An immersive performance** on April 15th at the Archivi della Misericordia;
- **A site-specific large scale installation** in the garden of the Istituto della Pietà, inaugurating on May 11th and open to the public until 29 of September.

The project is complemented by **Donate a Word**, a series of collective actions through pedagogy and participation that reflect on the relationship between healing, nature, and spirituality. It is done in collaboration with **Jamaican poet Ishion Hutchinson**.

Victoria Zidaru, *Heruvim*, 2023



About the work

Lingua Ignota draws inspiration from writings and sonic images of Hildegard von Bingen, a 12th-century figure renowned for her mystical, theological, and ecological insights. The project's title, "Lingua Ignota," references Hildegard's innovative linguistic creation, a form of literacy aimed to reach a state of linguistic plenitude by capturing a holistic spiritual and natural wisdom.

This language, featured in her seminal work "Riesencodex," represents an early attempt at constructing a language that transcends traditional modes of expression, offering a medium for exploring the divine and the natural world.

Victoria Zidaru, *Arborele Vieții / The tree of life*, detail, 2018



About the artist's practice

Victoria Zidaru's artistic lexicon is deeply entrenched in the vernacular of her native Bucovina, employing vegetal materials, words, embroidery, sewing, and braiding as conduits of expression. Her practices are embedded in the rhythms and cycles of natural life and gestures of ancient rituals, emphasizing the importance of organic materials such as cords of aromatic herbs, leaves, seeds, among many others. Through her multidisciplinary practice, Zidaru advocates for a sustainable, interconnected form of knowledge, rich with the sacral undertones of ancient rituals and the organic essence of the natural world.



About the artist

Victoria Zidaru, born in 1956 in Liteni, Suceava, Romania, is an artist who expresses herself through sculpture, painting, drawing, and embroidery, favoring natural materials such as fabric, handmade paper, medicinal herbs, and leaves. In recent years, she has devoted herself to installations that utilize textile and vegetal materials to create works with strong visual-tactile and olfactory components, a practice known as Olfactory Sculpture, which is becoming increasingly relevant in the European art scene.

Zidaru graduated from the "Nicolae Grigorescu" Institute of Fine Arts in Bucharest in 1983 and is the co-founder of Ferma d'Arte, a museum and artistic and cultural residency program aimed at preserving ancient artisan techniques and passing them on to new generations. Her career includes numerous solo and group exhibitions, both nationally and internationally. Among her most notable solo exhibitions are "Il giorno primo" at MNAC, the National Museum of Contemporary Art, Bucharest, Romania (2023), "Hortus Deliciarum" at the Gallery of the Romanian Institute of Culture and Humanistic Research in Venice (2019), "Said and Sewn" (2016), and "Angels, Thrones, Lords" (2014)



About the curator

Adina Drinceanu is a curator and cultural consultant specialized in contemporary art. She earned an M.A. in Art History after beginning her career as an artist. Drinceanu has curated exhibitions across Italy, the United Kingdom, and Romania, with a particular focus on the complex interplay between art and sociopolitical phenomena such as totalitarianism and genocide.

In 2021 she co-founded ERA - Eco Research Art, a non-profit organization based in Rome, with operational bases in Venice and Città della Pieve. As president, she leads ERA's mission to harness art as a vehicle for social change and cultural enrichment, with a particular emphasis on supporting vulnerable children and promoting sustainable practices across various sectors.

Since 2021, she has been serving on the advisory board of a private collection in England, assisting with acquisitions, exhibitions, and curatorial strategies.





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An ongoing art project initiated by
Victoria Zidaru in collaboration with **ERA**

act@donateaword.org
era00.org/donateaword
[@ecoresearchart](https://www.instagram.com/ecoresearchart)
[#donateaword](https://www.instagram.com/donateaword)

Donate a Word

"To exchange words is to encounter the goodness of each other. And that is the process at the heart of the Donate a Word campaign: a selfless giving of words that seeks to harmonise against despair. It is a joy and honour to be an ambassador to this form of human chorus."

Ishion Hutchinson, poet and writer
ambassador for *Donate a Word*

The *Donate a Word* campaign is an ongoing art project initiated by Victoria Zidaru in collaboration with the non-profit organization ERA and Jamaican poet Ishion Hutchinson for the *Lingua Ignota* project which is being showcased during the Venice Art Biennale 2024. Although it started as an integral part of *Lingua Ignota*, *Donate a Word* will continue to have a life of its own, creating a legacy that extends beyond the project's duration.

This initiative invites you to share words of kindness that will be gifted to others. Some of these words will be transformed into art objects, intricately embroidered onto canvas and combined with natural elements sealed in wax. They will become part of the site-specific installation *Lingua Ignota* or be gifted to visitors during the show.

Additionally, contributed words are also featured on the dedicated website, donateaword.org, envisioned as an interactive tapestry that weaves together words, images, and sounds, allowing online visitors to explore and interact with the contributions by clicking on elements that resonate with them.

Drawing inspiration from the Romanian 'Descântec' ritual, this campaign is rooted in the belief in the transformative and therapeutic powers of verbal and symbolic expressions.

So far, contributions have been collected from children housed by the Venetian community of Istituto della Pietà, women from the Romanian village of Liteni in Bucovina, and various other communities and individuals worldwide.

See below how to participate



Victoria Zidaru, *Donate a Word*, gifts, 2024

contact us

PRESS ENQUIRIES: press@era00.org

RSVP *Lingua Ignota* performance and general information: contact@era00.org

HOW YOU CAN DONATE A WORD

- Send a Picture: Capture your handwritten word in a photograph. Feel free to be in the shot or let the word speak for itself.
- Audio Submission: Record yourself saying the word, adding a personal touch with the tone and emotion of your voice.
- Share Your Story: Accompany your word or audio with a message or a short story, adding depth and context to your chosen word.

WHERE TO SEND YOUR WORD

- Email: act@donateaword.org
- Instagram: Tag us [@ecoresearchart](https://www.instagram.com/ecoresearchart) and use the hashtag [#donateaword](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/donateaword).
- Web Form: era00.org/donateaword

VISIT US

- *Lingua Ignota* <https://era00.org/lingua-ignota/>
- donateaword.org
- ERA www.era00.org

ERA

ERA - Eco Research Art is a nonprofit program established in 2021 by **Adina Drinceanu, Jerome Bellavista Caltagirone,** and **Filippo Perissinotto**. ERA is committed to harnessing the transformative power of art to promote a culture of environmental justice. **Its vision** is to influence both public and private strategies related to eco-sustainable development, aiming to improve the lives of children, young mothers, and other vulnerable groups within specific communities.

ERA's mission involves mobilizing artists, cultural actors, and professionals across various fields to address and illuminate the particular vulnerabilities of childhood, among other issues. Through strategic philanthropy, ERA engages in social awareness and educational projects, contributing to the development of a cultural and emotional literacy on economic, social, and environmental sustainability issues.

ERA's journey commenced in 2022 with the launch of the Bloom and Leadership programs, which place art at the heart of teaching eco-sustainable nutrition and its relevance to mental health. Since November 2023, ERA has broadened its scope to include art exhibitions, film programs, residencies, and commissions.

ERA is legally based in **Rome**, in Piazza Francesco Borgognini Duca 7, CAP 00165 and has operative bases in **Città della Pieve**, in Piazza del Plebiscito 13, CAP 06062, ed in **Venezia**, Misericordia, Cannaregio 3549.