

**Biennale Sessions**

**UNG & UNISCAPE  
RESEARCH FORUM  
MEETS  
AFRICAN LANDSCAPES  
ON THE MOVE**

**16 > 18.6.2023  
Venice**

Biennale Architettura

18th International  
Architecture  
Exhibition

*The Laboratory  
of the Future*

**University of Nova  
Gorica & UNISCAPE**

in collaboration with  
**Merging Ecologies**

**at Biennale Sessions**

The University of Nova Gorica and UNISCAPE (European Network of Universities dedicated to landscape studies and education according to the principles of the European Landscape Convention) in collaboration with Merging Ecologies invite you this year to activate your imagination and reflect upon the future perspectives and common challenges through the eyes of landscape, seen as a privileged testing site of change.

Following the outcomes of the first edition of the Forum, held last year in Bruxelles at NEB Festival, UNISCAPE will take this occasion to launch the UNISCAPE's Forum for students and early stage researchers by opening up the dialogue with their peers from Africa to exchange and discuss together their landscape stories, imaginaries, hopes and ambitions. To animate the collaborative imagination and debate, Merging Ecologies will present the outcomes and the winners of the competition "African Landscapes on the move".

As stated by Lesley Lokko, curator of the 18th International Architecture Exhibition, Africa is "the place on this planet where all issues of equity, race, hope and fear converge and merge. Anthropologically we are all Africans. And what happens in Africa happens to all of us".

**UNISCAPE, within the research initiative of the University of Nova Gorica and in collaboration with Merging Ecologies, invites active students and early career researchers to join us in our effort to shape together our future educational and research environment! Your voice matters and should not be left behind!**



**T**he Laboratory of the Future, the title of 18<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Biennale, has as its essential gesture the “change”. “What does it mean to be ‘an agent of change’? As stated by Lesley Lokko:

“For the first time ever, the spotlight has fallen on Africa and the African Diaspora, that fluid and enmeshed culture of people of African descent that now straddles the globe. What do we wish to say? How will what we say change anything? And, perhaps most importantly of all, how will what we say interact with and infuse what ‘others’ say, so that the exhibition is not a single story, but multiple stories that reflect the vexing, gorgeous kaleidoscope of ideas, contexts, aspirations, and meanings that is every voice responding to the issues of its time?”

“It is often said that culture is the sum total of the stories we tell ourselves, about ourselves. Whilst it is true, what is missing in the statement is any acknowledgement of who the ‘we’ in question is. In architecture particularly, the dominant voice has historically been a singular, exclusive voice, whose reach and power ignores huge swathes of humanity — financially, creatively, conceptually — as though we have been listening and speaking in one tongue only. **The ‘story’ of architecture is therefore incomplete. Not wrong, but incomplete. It is in this context particularly that exhibitions matter**”.

“Central to all the projects is the primacy and potency of one tool: **the imagination** - **Lokko** said. It is impossible to build a better world if one cannot first imagine it”

[See: <https://www.labiennale.org/en/architecture/2023>]

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## PROGRAMME

### FRIDAY 16.06

17.00 | IUAV University - Palazzo Badoer [Calle de la Laca, 2468]

**UNISCAPE General Assembly Meeting 2023**

### SATURDAY 17.06

11.00 - 19.00 | Arsenale and Giardini della Biennale

**Visit of the 18th International Architecture Exhibition**, focusing on the theme of the exhibition in relation with Landscape issues.

Meeting with the participants of the competition “**African landscapes on the move**”, organised by Merging Ecologies

### SUNDAY 18.06

11.00 Arsenale | Sala delle Armi

**UNG & UNISCAPE Forum meet African Landscape on the Move**

Competition awards (Merging Ecologies) and open forum with students.



### EVENT DIRECTION

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### COORDINATION

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