

Pedro Cabrita Reis
XIV Steps

*A project by Pedro Cabrita Reis
with Luca Berta and Michael Short*

May 4 – November 22, 2026
Magazzino del Sale 3 - Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia
Dorsoduro 264, 30123 Venice

Press preview and opening: May 4, 2026

“My name is Pedro Cabrita Reis and I’ve always been a painter.”

Portuguese Artist **Pedro Cabrita Reis**, on the occasion of the 61st International Art Exhibition of **La Biennale di Venezia**, returns to Venice at Magazzino del Sale 3 - Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia with **a radically different gesture: *XIV Steps*, a cycle of fourteen paintings inspired by the Stations of the Cross.**

After two landmark Venetian projects defined by large-scale installations employing steel structures, industrial materials, and neon light, **the artist offers** an intimate and unexpected turn that redefines the audience’s relationship with his work.

Pedro Cabrita Reis, a painter at heart, marks, with ***XIV Steps***, a significant new chapter in his practice and ongoing investigation into culture, memory, and the complexities of the human condition.

Born in 1956 in Lisbon, where he lives and works, Cabrita Reis is widely regarded as **one of the leading figures of contemporary art**. Since the mid-1980s, his work has achieved international recognition and has been pivotal to the redefinition of sculpture in a post-minimal and post-conceptual context. Cabrita Reis has consistently pursued an independent path, developing a **multidisciplinary practice that encompasses painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, and large-scale installations** composed of industrial and found materials.

Cabrita Reis has a long-standing and significant relationship with La Biennale di Venezia. In 2003 he represented Portugal with ***Longer Journeys*** at the Antichi Granai in Giudecca having also presented ***Absent Names*** in the Giardini. In 2013, he presented ***A Remote Whisper***, a major site-specific installation at Palazzo Falier, which marked a decisive moment in the consolidation of his international profile. He returned to Venice in 2022 on the occasion of the 59th International Art Exhibition with ***Field***, a large-scale installation conceived for the Chiesa di San Fantin, a sculptural intervention articulated within the church space through architectural structures and industrial materials, reaffirming the centrality of construction, spatial experience, and physical presence within his practice.

A Remote Whisper in 2013 and ***Field*** in 2022 were Venetian projects that exemplified the broader logic of Cabrita Reis’ work, in which **materials are never neutral but instead act as carriers of memory, gesture, and action**. Deeply rooted in the complexity of an historically-layered territory shaped by myths, literature, music, and philosophical thought—his oeuvre nevertheless speaks with remarkable clarity to broader, transhistorical concerns.

The theoretical and formal richness of Cabrita Reis' work unfolds through an anthropological reflection that resists sociological reductionism. Meaning emerges through silence, fragmentation, and attentive inquiry rather than through explicit narrative or ideological assertion. **Central to his practice is an uncompromising belief in artistic freedom.** As the artist states:

“Artists, in the freedom of their practice, are not, should not, be constrained by political, moral or religious limitations of any kind. On the contrary, every topic, subject, or theme becomes a challenge, a matter of thought, a place for interrogations.”

This is the case of **XIV Steps**, the latest Venetian exhibition by Pedro Cabrita Reis; the 14 diptych paintings that Cabrita Reis created especially for Venice in 2026. Here the Artist engages with the dramatic narrative structure of the Stations of the Cross, a theme whose resonance extends far beyond its theological origins. As famously observed by Barnett Newman, the Stations articulate a universal reflection on suffering, endurance, and the human condition, dimensions that find renewed expression in this cycle of paintings.

Pedro Cabrita Reis: XIV Steps will be on view at Magazzino del Sale 3 - Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia, from May 4 to November 22, 2026, on the occasion of the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, curated by **Koyo Kouoh**, titled *In Minor Keys*.

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