

Vino Vero Venezia

presents

VETRINA#18

a project curated by Mara Sartore

Barbara Prenka**Making myself at home****September 24, 2026 - February 18, 2027****Opening September 23, at 6:30pm**

For **Vetrina#18**, Mara Sartore has invited **Barbara Prenka**, a Kosovar artist who lives and works between Bolzano, Brescia, and Prishtina. Her research stems from the observation of everyday life: gestures, objects, and materials that tend to be taken for granted are taken up, analysed, recreated, and relived. Prenka considers each work as an entity in itself, yet linked to the others by a common thread running through creation, destruction, and recreation. Her work interrogates obviousness – that vision we immediately recognise and let slip by without pausing – turning it upside down to offer an unexpected perspective, capable of revealing something new about our history. It is a practice that becomes a tool for identity research, in which past, present, and future confront one another daily, and in which the artist takes on the role of an interlocutor capable of reclaiming the ability to see and to be present in the world.

For this occasion, the artist will present **"Making myself at home"**, an existing work reconfigured specifically for the space of Vetrina. The new set-up starts from a concrete condition: a work measuring 450 cm in length must fit entirely within a space 227 cm wide and 30 cm deep. To do so, the work changes its own shape, folding and turning back on itself – it fits in its entirety, but can no longer be seen in full at the same time. From this condition emerges a question tied to belonging: to inhabit a place means entering into a relationship with a reality that exists prior to our arrival, and with the conditions it imposes. Finding one's place is therefore not a neutral gesture. Adaptation becomes a negotiation between what we bring with us and what we encounter. Something changes shape, something remains hidden, something continues to exist without being immediately visible. It is not necessarily a matter of becoming something else, but of finding a way to exist within conditions we did not establish ourselves.

"Vetrina" is a series of exhibitions curated by **Mara Sartore** for **Vino Vero**, in collaboration with **Lightbox**. This art project launched its second cycle of presentations last year, February 2024. After exploring the broad theme of nature through the site-specific works of the first nine invited artists, the focus has shifted towards creating a platform for women artists. This phase exclusively involves female artists, bold and provocative in different ways, who have always used their art to foster constructive reflections on the contemporary world. In 2024, Vetrina presented works by Loredana Longo, Stefania Galegati and Paula Valero; in 2025, by Mariana Hahn, Isabella Staino and Manuela Kokanović. In 2026 the series continued with "Intrico" by Daria Dmytrenko and "Siren" by Marilisa Cosello; with Barbara Prenka's "Making myself at home", this second cycle comes to a close. The challenge is to present works of art in a limited space and in direct contact with the public, where **the Vetrina becomes an integral part of the artwork itself, rather than just a place for exhibiting goods.**

Barbara Prenka (Gjakova, Kosovo, 1990) completed her artistic studies in Italy, earning her Bachelor's and Master's Diploma in Painting from the Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia under the guidance of Carlo Di Raco. In 2015 she won the Euromobil Under 30 Prize at Arte Fiera Bologna; in 2014 she received the Emerging Art Prize at the Premio Francesco Fabbri per le Arti Contemporanee and the Combat Prize in the Painting section. She has taken part in numerous artist residencies, including Bocsart in Cosenza (2019), Palazzo Monti in Brescia (2021), and Lottozero in Prato (2025). Her work has been exhibited in

institutions, galleries, and international contexts, including the National Gallery of Kosovo in Prishtina, Kunstquartier Bethanien in Berlin, Galerie Italienne in Paris, Tommaso Calabro in Milan, A plus A Gallery in Venice, Arthouse in Shkodër, and the Biennale Gherdëina 8 in South Tyrol. Her recent solo exhibitions include "Dita e re," realized in collaboration with the Humanitarian Law Center and the Municipality of Gjakova at the Asim Vokshi Palace of Culture (2026); "What Lies Behind the Boundaries of a Shadow?," curated by Alessandra Tempesti, at Lottozero, Prato (2025); "What Time Is It Between My Fingers?" at A plus A Gallery, Venice (2025); and "Covers" at the Gallery of the Ministry of Culture of Kosovo, Prishtina (2024), later presented also at Arthouse Shkodër (2025). She has also taken part in numerous group exhibitions and international projects, including "Again Again" (Venice, 2026), "Splendide Creature" at Secci Gallery, Pietrasanta (2025), "Ventaglio" at Clima, Milan (2025), "Re:nature" at Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin (2024), "The Event of a Thread - Global Narratives in Textiles" at the National Gallery of Kosovo (2024), "Double Take" at A plus A Gallery, Venice (2024), "What Do Landscapes Dream Of?" at the Biennale Gherdëina 8 (2022), "Venice Time Case" at Galerie Italienne, Paris (2022), and "Etna & Paricutin" at the Centro Cultural Antiguo Colegio Jesuita in Uruapan, Mexico (2019). She has also participated in major international art fairs, including Zona Maco (Mexico City, 2026) with Secci Gallery, Artissima (Turin, 2018), ArtVerona (2017 and 2019), Vienna Parallel (2017), SWAB Barcelona Art Fair (2016), and Arte Fiera Bologna (2015).

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