

## Graham Hay: Critical Mass



Photo: Samuele Cherubini

details of a West Australian artist. Information as ornament highlights communication as source of inspiration in contemporary society.

During the opening celebrations most of the cones will be used as vessels for the guests to drink from and get connected, by chance, to an artist from the opposite side of the globe. This ritual of offering drinks, the using and gifting of the porcelain vessels, will be recorded and played during the exhibition, while the actual objects will be scattered at various locations with their new owners – forming physical connections between the continents, individuals, past and future.

**Critical Mass** is part of **Personal Structures – Open Borders** from 13 May – 26 November 2017 at Palazzo Bembo, Palazzo Mora and Giardini Marinaressa.

[www.europeanculturalcentre.eu](http://www.europeanculturalcentre.eu) [www.grahamhay.com.au/2017venicebiennale.html](http://www.grahamhay.com.au/2017venicebiennale.html)

A report by Andrea Vinkovic; <http://andrea-ceramics.blogspot.com.au>.

*"It remains important to remember that there is no clay in ceramics; the clay has been completely transformed by the irreversible ceramic process ... Once the clay has been fired ... It is transformed materially, physically, aesthetically (sight and touch) and conceptually. It has gone irrevocably from being a natural material to a cultural one. Ceramics is a cultural material, made by humans."*

Paul Mathieu

The Art of the Future: A History and Theory of Ceramics

Ceramics as a material and an art form is complex and multilayered, and Graham Hay's work **Critical Mass** pays homage to its complexity. It's not often that a single work successfully embodies aspects of applied art (functional/craft), sculptural art and performance. Hay is attempting all three, in an ambitious project now showing at The Venice Biennale.

His sculpture consists of more than 2000 handmade porcelain cones assembled into spidery, delicately balanced archways. Each cone has a single decorative element: a printed decal with the name and contact