



DIOCESI PATRIARCATO DI VENEZIA
UFFICIO BENI CULTURALI &



»Towards the Light«

A project by **Lore Bert** at the Church of **San Fantin**

5 May – 22 October 2026

at the **61. Venice Art-Biennale 2026**



Press conference: 5 May 5 pm

Reception: 5 May 6 pm

Following her successful official participation in the Venice Art Biennale (2013) at the Correr Museum and her stunning presentation at the Biennale (2019) in San Samuele, **Lore Bert** is once again creating an impressive installation in the lagoon city for this year's Biennale (2026).

Under the title »*Towards the Light*«, the artist is presenting a large-scale paper installation featuring neon elements at the Church of **San Fantin** (opposite the Teatro La Fenice) from 5 May to 22 October 2026. The »van der Koelen Foundation for Art and Science« is sponsoring this project.

The overall project highlights another important aspect of Lore Bert's work: **light installations using neon tubes**, which she has been developing since the 1990s. In the nave, there are two paper circles made from folded sheets of paper; one features red neon elements in the shape of »Quatrefoils«, whilst the second comprises alternating turquoise and white neon spheres arranged in the shape of a »Spiral«. The third light installation stands as a sculpture in the chancel and displays »Oriental Numbers«. In the flanking aisles there are four large-format pictorial objects that correspond thematically and in colour.

Light symbolises hope and confidence, for it shines in the darkness. The **Quatrefoil** is not only a typical Venetian architectural form found on numerous Gothic palaces, but also represents the »Cardinal Virtues«: Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance, which were already mentioned by Plato. The **Spiral** symbolises both concentration and infinity, as well as stillness and movement. (**Oriental Numbers**), which originate from India and include a '0', not only allow for the description of qualities and quantities, but are also used in the humanities and empirical sciences, as well as in business and banking.

Lore Bert (b. 1936), who is celebrating her 90th birthday this year, occupies a unique position on the international art scene. In the exhibitions she realizes worldwide, she presents works that engage in a multifaceted dialogue with the material of paper. Her artistic universe unfolds in the spirit of Kant's »*Transcendental Aesthetics*«, in which sensory perception plays a fundamental role in the experience of beauty. »Beauty is the Mystery of life« (Agnes Martin). Over 350 exhibitions in 30 countries and 60 monographs document her oeuvre. Lore Bert's works are held in numerous public and private collections worldwide.

Lore Bert lives and works in Mainz (Germany) and Venice (Italy).