

PRESS RELEASE

## KUMA

**"Luce dall'Estremo Oriente"**

**12 June-2 November, 2003**

**INAUGURATION COCKTAIL 12 June at 18.00**

**Cloister S. Francesco della Vigna**

**Castello 2786, Arsenale Venice**

**Vaporetto stop Arsenale, boat n. 1 or Celestia stop, boat n. 41 or 52**

**5 minutes by walk from the Biennale Corderie, Arsenale**

**Opening hours 10-00-18.00, Closed on Tuesdays**

**Organized by Kuma's Factory, Japan**

**Co-organized by Arte Communications, Venice**

**"Luce dall'Estremo Oriente" by Japanese artist Kuma will be exhibited from the 12<sup>th</sup> of June to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November at the Cloister of S. Francesco della Vigna located near the Arsenale of Venice. This event coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> Visual Arts Biennale of Venice.**

Kuma is a world-reknowned artist. He is an eclectic visionary who has an energetic and passionate relationship with his materials. His work has a poetry, even when the results seem naive or ingenuous, expressing two opposing concepts: density contrasting with transparency. Heavy, opaque, long-lasting metal counterpoints and dramatises the notion of light from melted glass.

In Venice, inspired by the antiquity of the XIII century convent where the work will be situated, the artist will create two original installations: "**La Luce Circolante**", prisms made of glass and iron weighing 200 kg will emanate natural light, and "**La Campanella**", a sculpture composed of engraved metal sheets 100 meters in length. Other recent, significant pieces will also be present.

*"Last November I returned to Venice, the city of stone constructed on the sea. Arrived at from the Far East, I walked across the inundated city and headed towards the Church of Saint Francesco della Vigna. The cloister was illuminated by the transparent light of the clear sky and I was inspired as I was in the Sahara desert when I created "L'Albero del Vento" or, as in Mongolia, with the arrival of winter in the Gobi desert. I returned to Japan and began to elaborate on the Venice project. Contrary to Marco Polo, in the Spring of 2003, I will bring the pilasters of light and iron to Venice for completion and, like the men of antiquity, with the sole strength of muscles, I will raise a tower of light predominantly with levers, rollers and ladders. In the cloister, where sacred tombs recall virtuous men, I will install sheets of engraved metal 100 meters in length while, in the center, blue prisms will incorporate and emanate the Luce Circolante."*

*Kuma*

### *Organisation*

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