



Welcome to the Arts & Climate Health Panel

The Geometry of Resilience: From Sable Island to Venice

Presented by: Roberto Dutesco in partnership
with the Jameel Arts & Health Lab, established
with the World Health Organization (WHO)

Le Stanze della Fotografia
Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice, Italy

**June 9, 2026
3:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

A Shared Threshold

3.3 Feet. That is the average elevation of Sable Island. It is also the average elevation of Venice.

In the vast expanse of the North Atlantic, situated some 300 km from the coast of Nova Scotia, Sable Island sits upon this precarious threshold. Here in Venice, we stand upon that same line. This exhibition and panel bring together two worlds—one of wild, salt-misted dunes and one of storied, stone canals—linked by a shared vulnerability and a shared strength.

Gathering in Venice during a week focused on global climate dialogue, this event brings climate science and public health into conversation with creative practice, informed by a new World Health Organization policy brief on the role of arts and culture in addressing the health impacts of climate change. As rising seas, heat, and displacement leave their imprint on bodies and minds, we look to the visual arts as a form of medicine, helping us name eco-anxiety and grief, rekindle connection to place, and imagine new ways to care for one another and the Earth.

The wild horses of Sable Island stand as a powerful metaphor. Their resilience, stamina, and vitality in the face of a rising tide mirror the very qualities we must summon to protect our shared future, our mental fortitude, and our global heritage.



SABLE ISLAND, CANADA
1 meter (3.3 ft)



VENICE, ITALY
1 meter (3.3 ft)

Event Schedule

3:00 PM | Welcome Coffee

3:30 PM | Opening remarks and context framing by **Curator Denis Curti**, joined by Artist **Roberto Dutesco** and Producer **Anthony Williams**. This introduction features the exclusive premiere screening of the first 20-minute chapter of the documentary trilogy, *The Wild Horses of Sable Island*, capturing the profound intimacy and raw beauty of an untouched world.

4:15 PM | The Arts & Climate Health Panel
Moderated by Dr. Dahlia Rizk.

A cross-disciplinary dialogue drawing on a new World Health Organization policy brief on the role of the arts and culture in addressing the health impacts of climate change and the shared resilience of Sable Island and Venice.

5:30 PM | Aperitivo

“
Thus, the task is not
so much to see what
no one yet has seen,
but think what no
one yet has thought
about that which
everyone sees.

– Schopenhauer

”

Ambassador of Canada

“I appreciated the opportunity to see your remarkable exhibition in Venice in early May, and in our conversation, your passion and deep commitment to the health of the global environment, and to Canada’s Sable Island in particular were evident. This unique ecosystem is both fragile and extraordinary, and as you noted , it requires continued care and attention. Your photographs are a powerful testament to its beauty, while also serving as a compelling reminder of its vulnerability. I am confident that your meeting will contribute to concrete outcomes for the preservation of such a magical and irreplaceable place on our planet.”

Sincerely,
Elissa Golberg

Ambassador
Embassy of Canada

“
Treat a person as
he is, and he will
remain as he is.
Treat a person as
if he were where
he could be and
should be, and he
will become what
he could be and
should be.

– Jimmy Johnson

”

Featured Speakers & Panelists

01



Introduction Remarks

Denis Curti | Artistic Director & Curator

Denis Curti is the Artistic Director of Le Stanze della Fotografia in Venice and a leading authority in the international photography community. A prominent curator, journalist, and photography critic, Curti has spent decades managing major photographic institutions, including serving as the director of Contrasto-Milano, vice president of Fondazione Forma, and founder of the STILL gallery in Milan. He has curated milestone exhibitions for world-renowned photographers, directed major photography publications, and authored multiple books on contemporary photography and collecting.

02



Moderator

Dr. Dahlia Rizk | Founder and Chief of the Division of Hospital Medicine and President of the Board at Mt. Sinai Beth Israel

Dr. Dahlia Rizk is currently a hospital-based physician in the Mt. Sinai Health System, she holds an academic appointment as Professor of Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine. As a physician leader for over 25 years, she has led clinical teams through natural and man-made disasters in NYC—including major hurricanes, blackouts, 9/11, and the COVID-19 pandemic. A public health advocate with a master's from Johns Hopkins, Dr. Rizk is keenly interested in exploring how the arts can enhance community, connection, and well-being among faculty, patients, and communities alike.

03



Panelist

Roberto Dutesco | Artist, Photographer & Explorer

Roberto Dutesco is a New York-based photographer, filmmaker, and explorer whose work serves as a bridge between the raw power of the natural world and the delicate complexities of human consciousness. For over 30 years, Dutesco has been the preeminent documentarian of the wild horses of Sable Island. Born in Bucharest and established in New York City, his work has been exhibited globally, transforming these wild creatures into universal symbols of resilience, love, and ancient alliance. His mission remains singular: to change the way we see the beauty before us, forcing a reconsideration of our responsibility to the future.

04



Panelist

Dr. Nisha Sajnani | Professor of Creative Arts Therapies & Founding Co-Director, Jameel Arts & Health Lab, New York University

Dr. Nisha Sajnani is a Professor of Creative Arts Therapies at New York University and the co-founding co-director of the Jameel Arts & Health Lab, established in collaboration with the World Health Organization. She directs a broad research program on the health value of the arts across the life course, including a landmark Lancet collection on arts and health. Notably, Prof. Sajnani led the development of the WHO policy brief on the role of the arts in addressing the health impacts of climate change.

05



Panelist

Jane Da Mosto | Environmental Scientist & Executive Director, We are here Venice

Jane Da Mosto is an environmental scientist, sustainable development consultant, and the Executive Director of We are here Venice (WahV). Her expertise spans wetland ecology, climate change, and resource economics, with decades of international research experience. Since settling in Venice in 1995, she has dedicated her scientific training to the preservation of the city and its lagoon, advocating for evidence-based policies that position natural capital and environmental health at the center of decision-making. A recipient of the prestigious “Osella d’Oro” award for her fierce community activism, Da Mosto views Venice as a critical microcosm for demonstrating innovative, long-term approaches to climate adaptation and societal resilience to the future.

06



Panelist

Pier Luigi Sacco, PhD | Professor of Biobehavioral Economics

Pier Luigi Sacco is a Professor of Biobehavioral Economics in the Department of Neuroscience and Director of the BACH University Center at the University of Chieti-Pescara. He serves as a Senior Advisor to the OECD Center for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions, and Cities, and is an Affiliate Researcher at metaLAB at Harvard. He is the Vice-President of Bourges European Capital of Culture 2028, the Scientific Coordinator of L’Aquila Italian Capital of Culture 2026, and a steering board member of the Jameel Arts & Health Lab.

Special Presentation

The Wild Horses of Sable Island®
Exclusive Screening (Part 1: 20 Minutes)

A film by Roberto Dutesco

Executive Producer, **Anthony G. Willimas**



Gallery Info

The Wild Horses of Sable Island® Gallery
500 years. 500 shipwrecks. 500 wild horses.

Keith Gerchick
Gallery Director

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Beauty • Connection • Conservation.

About the IAMWILD® Foundation

We move people.
We create connection.
We inspire conservation.

The IAMWILD® Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, brings art and beauty into people's lives to inspire a deeper connection with nature. Through observation, contemplation, acknowledgment, and action, IAMWILD® encourages individuals to fall in love with the natural world—and protect it. The foundation supports organizations and initiatives dedicated to the wellbeing of our planet, creating both local and global impact.

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Phil Caputo
Co-Chair IAMWILD® Foundation

Phillip has spent over 20 years helping launch, grow, and strengthen foundations worldwide, partnering with leaders in government, business, philanthropy, entertainment, and sports to turn vision into lasting impact.

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The Jameel Arts & Health Lab

Launched in January 2023 by the World Health Organization, the Steinhardt School of Culture at New York University, Community Jameel, and CULTURUNNERS, the Jameel Arts & Health Lab is a global initiative to measurably improve health and well-being through the arts. With a focus on overlooked and underserved communities, the Lab leverages scientific evidence, a global Healing Arts campaign, and capacity building to drive the integration of the arts into mainstream healthcare across 193 UN member states.



We are here Venice ETS

(WahV) is an independent non-profit organization and research for actions that embrace the reality of the city and its surrounding lagoon as a single, co-dependent system. The NGO collaborates with academic institutions, cultural entities, public authorities, and community groups on projects to co-design actionable solutions to substitute unsustainable over-tourism, generate environmental and social resilience, and restore the lagoon's vital natural ecosystem to extend the future of Venice for its residents and the world.member states.



Le Stanze della Fotografia

Located on the historic Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore in Venice, Le Stanze della Fotografia is an international center for research and the enhancement of photography and image culture. A joint initiative of Marsilio Arte and the Fondazione Giorgio Cini, the center serves as a dynamic bridge between classic masters and contemporary photographic narratives. Under the artistic direction of Denis Curti, it hosts world-class exhibitions and serves as a vital venue for dialogue on how photography acts as a universal cultural and humanitarian language.



IAMWILD®

Founded by artist and explorer Roberto Dutesco, the IAMWILD® Foundation is a collaborative movement and platform built on the belief that art and beauty have the power to transform conservation. Moving away from traditional environmental models, IAMWILD® utilizes immersive art experiences—anchored by Dutesco's thirty-year documentation of *The Wild Horses of Sable Island*®—to foster partnerships across business, purpose, and education. The organization operates under a singular manifesto: that wildness is not “out there,” but within us all, and that preserving the natural world is ultimately an act of preserving our collective humanity.member states.

Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to **Cristiano Magni**
Public Relations.

“
We do not
inherit the
earth from our
ancestors, we
borrow it from
our children.

– Native American Proverb

”

Thank you for your stamina, guidance and
support over the years.

Daniel Dutesco, Marketing / Strategy / Brand
Experience

Robert Shereck, Founder and CEO,
Legacy Transformational Consulting

Notes

“
You are made
of magic.

– Unknown

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