



Press release

Art and Sport to remember Tibet

TIBET PAVILION at the 44th edition of the VOGALONGA IN VENICE

start at 9 am – Bacino San Marco

A participation that has a double purpose: the interaction of Art and Sport keeping constant attention to the Tibetan cause, at the same time sustaining the purpose of the event's organizers to protect Venice and its traditions.

The VOGALONGA is a large international, non-competitive venetian sports event, created the day of St. Martin in 1974 as a regatta between friends on 'mascarete' (typical venetian boat), then transformed in a "discovery of the evocative lagoon ambiance, a folk gathering not to protest against something or someone, but to solely support Venice. Many hands stretched out towards the city to protect her from one of her most insidious woodworms, the tide". All types of rowing boats, no limits on weight, size and number of rowers. For the 2018 edition, 1800 boats with 7/8000 rowers are expected. The route through the lagoon and the canals is more or less 32 km, start time 9.00 am at the cannon shot, the day of Pentecost, **Sunday May 20th 2018**.

Tibet Pavilion's boat - a **Dragon Boat** - will certainly attract attention and interest, because, aside from the few contacts between art and sport, it is **the first time**, that a **boat, with indeed an Italian crew (20 rowers from the Bobbio Canoa Club) is supported by Tibet Pavilion with the colors and flags of the State of Tibet.**

The flags will be made and painted by contemporary artists that with their creative and spiritual messages will make them unique.

59 years have already passed from that tragic date (March 10th 1959) when the Dalai Lama was forced to leave Tibet, nothing however has been done to give hope and freedom to the Tibetan people. This event would like to catalyze the public opinion's attention on this situation. A moment to remember these People that can be unfortunately now considered an ethnic minority that is at risk of losing its cultural and spiritual heritage, founded on the concept of peace and non violence. In remembrance of its martyrs that gave their life for the freedom of others and the truth of all.

With this project Tibet Pavilion, by Ruggero Maggi, would like to offer to everyone the possibility to gazing at the boat, stopping to look at the flags and then look beyond, towards the horizon...maybe it is rhetoric but the horizon always has inspired feelings of hope in something that is still hidden but will soon be revealed.

The Bobbio Canoa Club, of which the rowers are members, was founded in 1971 and Enzo Traferri is the current President. The Athletes of the CCB have won numerous regattas on the most famous national and international rivers, and attained 3 Italian championship titles: in 1973 classic descent and slalom with the C2 crew, in 2006 classic descent with the K1 Master.

Artists:

Marco **Agostinelli**, Piergiorgio **Baroldi**, Carla **Bertola** - Alberto **Vitacchio**, Mariella **Bogliacino** - Fernando **Montà**, Rossana **Bucci**, Silvia **Capiluppi**, Pino **Chimenti**, Giampietro **Cudin**, Sergio **Dangelo**, Adolfina **De Stefani** - Antonello **Mantovani**, Anna Maria **Di Ciommo**, Franco **Di Pede**, Marcello **Diotallevi**, Giovanna **Donnarumma** - Gennaro **Ippolito**, Gretel **Fehr**, Mavi **Ferrando**, Alessandra **Finzi** - Gianni **Marussi**, Ermes **Giacomello**, Gruppo **Il Gabbiano**, Peter **Hide 311065** - Isabella **Rigamonti**, Benedetta **Jandolo – Kappa**, Oronzo **Liuzzi**, Ruggero **Maggi**, Ruggero **Marrani**, Fabrizio **Martinelli**, Lorenzo **Menguzzato**, Clara **Paci**, Lucia **Paese**, Benedetto **Predazzi**, Mario **Quadraroli**, Carla **Rigato**, Anna **Seccia**, Lucio Tiziano e Cesare **Serafino**, Danilo **Sergiampietri**, Ilaria **Sperotto**, Roberto **Testori**.

"There are no barriers to man that can say: 'Thus far and no farther.'" (Beethoven)