



**John Palmesino (Switzerland/UK) [Commissioned Artist - Venice]**

John Palmesino is an architect and urbanist. His researches and projects deal with the material transformation patterns of the contemporary territories. He is co-founder of PALMESINO RÖNNSKOG Territorial Agency, a practice involved in the management of international innovative transformations of the contemporary inhabited landscape and its architecture. Territorial Agency has developed the Markermeer Plan, an integrated vision for the future of the Markermeer, in the Netherlands. After the 'Unfinishable Markermeer' plan developed in 2005, the Markermeer Plan addresses a plurality of environmental, architectural, planning, and policy issues in a collaborative environment with a large team of experts from different fields.

He lead the researches of ETH Studio Basel–Contemporary City Institute and is a founding member of multiplicity, a research network dealing with contemporary architecture, urbanism, arts and general culture. He is currently researching on the implications of neutrality in the relation between politics and territorial and architectural transformations. Territorial Agency is an independent organisation that innovatively promotes and works for sustainable territorial transformations. Territorial Agency is engaged to strengthen the capacity of local and international communities in comprehensive spatial transformation management. Territorial Agency's projects channel available spatial resources towards the development of their full potential. Territorial Agency works for the establishment of instruments and methods to ensure higher architectural and urban quality in contemporary territories.

Territorial Agency's work builds on wide stakeholder networks. It combines analysis, projects, advocacy and action. The activities of Territorial Agency are grounded in extensive territorial analysis. Focus is on complex representations of the transformations of the physical structures of contemporary inhabited territories. Territorial Agency works on comprehensive projects for the strengthening of regional performance and in the organisation of seminars, workshops, exhibitions and public events as a process of building capacity to innovate.