

Yamada Hanako & Alex Hai

La Gondoliera

The exhibition presents an intriguing collaborative venture between an emerging artist and a celebrated but controversial female gondolier, who is also a photographer and film-maker. Both have a passion for Venice and see their roles there as part of a greater adventure and continuing artistic exploration. Expect an original vision of Venice in the guise of an adventuress. In this thought-provoking mixture of fact and fiction, the boundaries are blurred. Is it a true story or a movie in the making?

Introducing **Yamada Hanako**, currently Artist in Residence at Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa in Venice, and **Alex Hai**, the "Prima Gondoliera", who broke with ancient tradition by becoming Venice's first female gondolier. With a preface by renowned art critic **Marco Tagliaferro**, this exhibition charts the cinematic journey of "La Prima Gondoliera" through photography. On display are a series of photographs shot by the two artists and a catalogue which gathers an array of articles and artefacts depicting the story of this embattled heroine. Alex Hai dragged the profession of the gondolier into the 21st century.

Vernissage on invitation only: February 1st, 2014 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Opening time: from February 4th to March 29th, 2014
from Tuesday to Saturday h 2 - 8 p.m.

Jarach Gallery

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Artist Yamada Hanako

This emerging artist is currently Artist in Residence at the Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa in Venice. Despite her youth, Yamada has already held exhibitions in Venice, Basel and Washington DC. In the last few years, her artistic journey has focused on two main subjects: the photographic representation of Venice and the images behind female sexuality. This exhibition touches on her two current concerns.

Born in Ponte dell'Olio in 1986, Yamada currently lives in Venice, where she studied Visual Arts from 2005 to 2011, graduating from IUAV and the Academy of Fine Arts. Since 2008, Yamada's artworks have been exhibited through international festivals and institutions, including: Santorini Biennale of Arts; the House of Electronic Arts, Basel; Fondazione Querini Stampalia, Venice; the Biennial of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean, Thessaloniki; MSGU Tophane-i Amire Culture Center, Istanbul; the Italian Embassy in Washington DC, USA; the GCAC Galleria Comunale in Monfalcone; the CRAF Center of Research and Photographic Archives, Lestans; the Fondazione March, Padua; and at Venice Film Meeting, Venice.

Gondoliera Alex Hai

Countless articles have been written about controversial gondolier Alex Hai, with the theme taken up in books, movies and documentaries. This exhibition charts the cinematic journey of "La Prima Gondoliera".

Born in Hamburg in 1967, Venice's first female gondolier only now realises the synchronicity of leaving one seafaring city for another. The move to 'La Serenissima' proved less serene than anticipated, a life-changing adventure she's still living.

As a child prodigy, Alex penned several plays at the tender age of ten. At 22, her short film, dealing with domestic sexual abuse, caused a stir in her native Germany. The movie won her admission to the Communication Arts course at the Hamburg University - despite Alex not having finished high school. In 1992, Alex moved to San Francisco and worked for prominent film directors such as Francis Ford Coppola, Peter Kaufmann and Monica Treut.

In 1996 Alex arrived in Venice with a potential movie in mind, only to be seduced by the captivating world of the gondolier. In nailing her colours to the mast, Alex daringly embarked on a career that has been a male preserve for centuries. In seeking to gain admittance to this close-knit 'boys' club,' Alex inadvertently challenged the Venetian status quo – and stirred the murky waters in the world's loveliest lagoon city.

Against the odds, Alex has succeeded in her dream of plying the Venetian waterways on her own terms. As an embattled female gondolier, Alex was forced to take a circuitous route, reflecting the shifting contours of Venice herself. How can a lagoon city offer straight paths through such sinuous channels? Ostraced by the gondoliers' union, Alex stumbled in her attempts to obtain the official gondolier's licence, representing the keys to the waterways. Undaunted, the 'Prima Gondoliera' set her precious gondola on a more challenging course. Alex Hai dragged the profession of gondolier into the 21st century.

Documents and doubts

Articles, posters and book excerpts corroborate Alex Hai's vision of Venice and her adventures in the city. But prepare to be provoked. The array of materials and the piquancy of the anecdotes, often reported in a distorted or contradictory way, are designed to create doubt. If, at some point, fact become fiction, it serves only to suggest the legendary sense of the character. It's her story, in all senses of the word.

Photographs as fact or fiction

Photographs are in cinematic 16:9 aspect, full bleed. Shots and subjects evoke an emblematic representation of contemporary Venice, a cinematic portrayal of the city as seen through Alex' eyes. Expect a conversation with counterpoints, inviting reflections on the authenticity of images and our desire to give labels.

Planimetry

WALL A

596 cm

Wall colour: white

Sentence and signature by Alex Hai

Navigo dentro il tuo sangue e so chi sei

[In your blood I navigate acknowledging you]

WALL B

488 cm

Wall colour: black

A book with all the articles and documents about Alex Hai from 1996 to present

WALL C

952 cm

Wall colour: white

3 black frames 110x140 cm with collages composed by original articles

WALL D

1960 cm

Wall colour: white

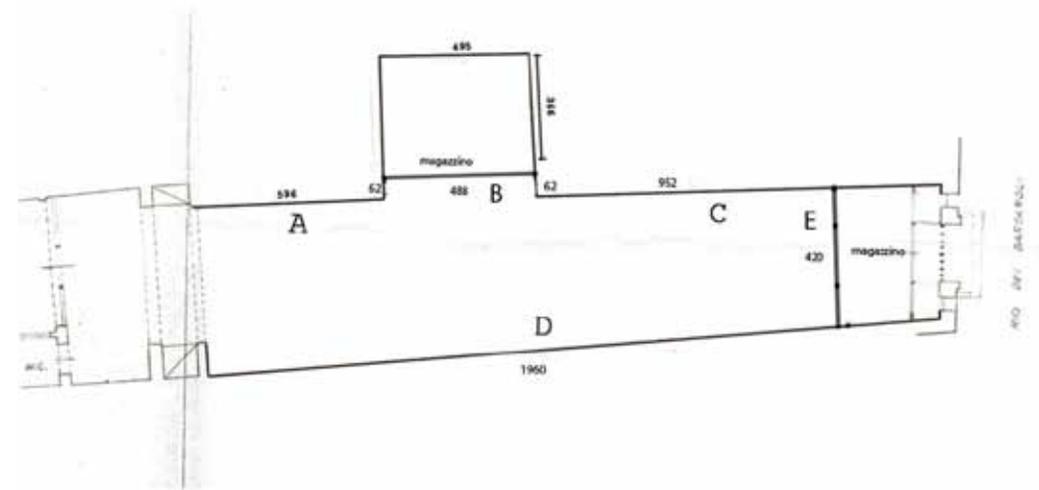
20 white frames 50x50 cm with color photos

WALL E

420 cm

Wall colour: black

A white frame 120x140 cm with a B&W photo





Si chiama Alex, è americana: vuole far parte di questa categoria sinora tutta al maschile

Una donna sfida i gondolieri

*Voga a S. Maria del Giglio
domani ha l'esame da sostituto*

di Consuelo Terrin

VENEZIA — Potrebbe anche passare inosservata. Ha i capelli corti, una struttura fisica forte ed un caratterino non indifferente, visto come se la prende se la prua qualche volta incespica non riuscendo a vogare come vorrebbe e come le stanno insegnando i gondolieri. Neanche un filo di trucco sul viso e un nome, Alex, che sembra scelto apposta per velare un'identità.

Ma quella che da qualche tempo presta servizio di traghetto presso lo stazio gondole di Santa Maria del Giglio è proprio una giovane donna. Non vuole dire nulla di sé, specifica solo che dovrà attendere fino al 7 novembre per parlare: domani, infatti, sosterrà l'esame di preselezione. «Ora sarebbe assurdo presentarmi come un gondoliere. Non lo sono, sto solo imparando a vogare e mi sto divertendo».



Diana Ferrara e Brunella Scarpa mentre portano la gondola di Casanova in Canal Grande. A destra Alex aspirante gondoliera allo stazio di S. Maria del Giglio. Interpreti

FATTO sta che presta il suo servizio quasi quotidianamente e, soprattutto, che è in assoluto la prima donna a farlo, scambussolando le secolari norme di una categoria che ha sempre vissuto al maschile. Che superi l'esame o meno, Alex resta in ogni caso una pioniera, la prima donna nella lunga storia della gondola alla quale sia stata «concessa» la possibilità di provare a fare quello che è un mestiere antico e, sinora, prettamente maschile. Due anni fa, infatti, ci aveva provato la veneziana Monica Marani, iscritta alle società remiere Settemari e Nomboli: era stata però esclusa dal corso e la faccenda aveva rischiato di finire per vie legali. La giovane donna ci aveva riprovato nel 1996: ma an-

cora una volta è stata esclusa con la giustificazione, da parte dell'Ente Gondola, che la sua domanda non era giunta entro i termini previsti. Ora, invece, ci prova «d'americana», come la chiama qualcuno. Il riserbo assoluto da parte dell'Ente Gondola e dalla stessa Alex, non fa che alimentare la leggenda. Di sicuro non è veneziana. E nemmeno italiana, benché parli un italiano più corretto di molti suoi «colleghi». Vorrebbe fare il gondoliere e ha presentato domanda di iscrizione (con altre 159 persone) al corso con il quale l'Ente prepara e seleziona quest'anno venti nuovi sostituti. Con lei, ha avanzato la propria richiesta anche un'altra donna, ma ancora non si sa chi sia e chi lo sa non intende

per il momento rivelarlo. Domani sosterranno entrambe l'esame di preselezione, rispondendo ad una serie di quiz preparati da una società specializzata. Poi, se tutto andrà bene, faranno parte dei 20 aspiranti gondolieri del corso. Quello che Alex sta facendo ora è una sorta di «scuola guida» privata. Ma fa parlare e discutere in un mondo dove — nonostante qualcuno veda favorevolmente un'eventuale entrata delle donne nella categoria — prevale comunque una posizione conservatrice: molti sottolineano che si tratta di un lavoro faticoso, che richiede forza fisica e resistenza perché si combatte contro il moto ondoso, contro le intemperie e contro una cultura che non rende la vita facile alle donne.

Commissionato un numero su Venezia «Bell'Italia», paga il Comune

VENEZIA — «Bell'Italia» per Venezia. Ca' Farsetti — su richiesta della concessionaria di pubblicità Publikompass — ha deciso di contribuire economicamente alla realizzazione di uno dei prossimi numeri della rivista mensile della Giorgio Mondadori che si occupa di turismo e di ambiente.

Si tratta di un numero monografico, dal titolo «Terre di Venezia», interamente dedicato all'ambiente lagunare e insulare, al litorale e all'entroterra veneziano. La Publikompass aveva già chiesto un contributo alla

pubblicazione alla Provincia di Venezia, che ha coinvolto anche il Comune nell'iniziativa, giudicata meritevole perché contribuirebbe alla valorizzazione del territorio veneziano. La Giunta ha deciso di stanziare 17 milioni e 850 mila lire perché la monografia veneziana di «Bell'Italia» veda la luce. Stanziati anche 20 milioni per il Consorzio di promozione del litorale del Cavallino per la pubblicazione del volume «Gli artigiani del Leone», dedicato alla storia delle batterie di artiglieria impiegate per la difesa di Venezia.

INSIDE



2006 Value of The New York Times

Rocking the Gondola

Alexandra Hui is the first woman authorized in Venice to operate a gondola, despite objections from some longtime gondoliers. A court recently ruled she could propel a boat around the canals, but only for guests of one hotel. PAGE A4

Pope Calls for Feeding Spirit

Pope Benedict XVI, in Aparecida, Brazil, condemned capitalism and Marxism as marginalizing God and urged the Latin American clergy to feed people's spiritual hunger as the way to ease poverty. PAGE A19



Agence France Press — Getty Images

Violence in Karachi Increases Pressure on President

A day after clashes claimed 39 lives in Karachi, analysts said the violence — and accusations that the government had done little to stop the killings — had put renewed pressure on President Pervez Musharraf. News reports said government troops had been in the city, but had not taken action. PAGE A3

Trying It On, Online

For the first time in online retailing, the sales of clothing have overtaken those of computer hardware and software, suggesting that consumers have reached a new level of comfort. BUSINESS DAY, PAGE C1

Wall St. Journal and Its Profit

Profit margins that do not equal those of other big newspapers and a poor outlook for 2007 may have opened the door for Rupert Murdoch to bid. BUSINESS DAY, PAGE C1

CBS Still Backing Couric



Eight months after Katie Couric took over "The CBS Evening News," the program is back in a distant third place. But Ms. Couric says she is unfazed, and CBS is continuing to support her. BUSINESS DAY, PAGE C1

COUNTRY MEMBERS FOR A CITY CHILD
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used on Page B4



Alessandra Hai on Venice's Grand Canal. She is the first woman to pilot a gondola in Venice, but she is permitted to carry customers from only one hotel.

Among Venice's gondoliers, a lone woman

By Peter Klefer

VENICE: For more than a thousand years, there has never been a female Venetian gondolier. But now there is Alessandra Hai.

After a decade of struggling to become a gondolier, Hai has won a moral victory. A court recently allowed her to paddle around the canals of Venice — but only for the residents of one of the city's hotels. "Bravo gondolieri! Brava!" shouted one man from his third-story balcony on the Rio de la Veste canal as Hai paddled past, stepping over a couple from Utah on their honeymoon. The man on the balcony, slouching a glass of champagne, beckoned his friends to take a look at Hai's boat and passengers slipped by.

"What elegance!" shouted another woman moments later. Whenever she paddles, eyes and cameras follow.

What does not flow in her wake is popularity among the 425 gondoliers of Venice, who practice an ancient, traditional, all-male craft, and who often spat down their ribs when she rowed. In fact, the gondoliers are a just a little bit up with her.

Roberto Lippi, president of the gondolier association, said that Hai had been proved incapable of the complicated duties of handling a gondola 35 meters, or 35 feet, long, having failed four times, and that she had used her gender to whip up media interest.

When asked about Hai's accusations that gondoliers had physically threatened her, he reacted with scorn: "After a person accuses gondoliers of being racists and sexist, what does she expect? That they are supposed to give her kisses?"

The *intreccio* is playing out in a graceful, decaying, threatened city that resists change and survives on tourism.

Over the past half-century Venice has experienced an exodus of residents. Its population, which stood at 184,000 in 1950, is now a third of that. Recurring flooding and rising tides have left many palazzos decrepit and uninhabitable. At night, parts of the historical center are as deserted as an abandoned movie set.

"Venice is an incredible, fragile city," said Anna Somers Cocks, the chairwoman of the Venice in Peril Fund, a British organization dedicated to protecting Venice from flooding. In her experience, she said, the city leans to the preservation of its cultural past at the expense of adaptation and rational city planning. "It matters terribly if you can't introduce a new idea to help run the city," she said.

A pioneering entrepreneur to Hai was Lidia Gusi, who, eight years ago, became the first female waitress permitted to serve customers at tables in St. Mark's Square. "I think it is chauvinism," she said of the opposition to Hai.

While Gusi tends tables at the Aurora Cafe, the Florian Cafe next door — in

business since 1770 — lets women wait on tables only indoors, not on the piazza.

Hai, a 40-year-old of German and Algerian descent, is the center of a rage that pits charges of sexism, reverse sexism, mastery of the waterways and bias against foreigners.

She contends that she was clearly discriminated against in the workplace. In three of her four failed runs, she says, the city of Venice and the gondoliers rigged the tests against her. She says that she has been the target of insults and threats and that her boat has been repeatedly vandalized.

She contends that the gondoliers' association, despite warm overtures at the outset, never wanted a woman or a foreigner (she holds a German passport) among their ranks.

Hai rattles off her suspicions, which are provocative but unproven: that in one test, she was forced to use an oar that was as "light as a cigarette" that in another, her boat was littered with an unusually high number of parked motor-boats. She blames both the gondoliers' association and the city hall. "If it is all connected in one way or another," she said. And once the Locanda Art Deco hired her privately, she says, she was equidistant pulled over by the police to make sure her passengers were from the hotel.

Lippi says it more simply, saying, "She needs to look in the mirror and ac-

cept that she cannot drive."

"We give her two chances to test every time. We can not accept that she hides behind the fact she is a woman and a foreigner. The gondoliers note that men fail the test each year.

To gondoliers, the job is fit because it involves strength, but to navigate currents and pad oars, and even the aesthetically minded gondoliers of yore in their white striped shirts.

Masso Muzini, a gondolier, said it is a question of skill gender. "Let's leave just one impact," he said. "Being a good tradition, and it is very difficult."

Hai is not much bothered thought that the gondoliers might appeal the court ruling her to steer her gondola some down the city's canals.

"They can go to the pope. I'm not there," she said.

Despite her transition to witness from the gondoliers, Hai says a fierce warrior. Indeed, her will is evident for the role.

"There is nothing worse if something like this," she said at a cafe in the Piazza St. Ascribing the decade she spent in waiting acceptance. "It is not to remain like this. I would want to do something more useful in helping save the rain forests."

UNA TEDESCA SFIDA LA CORPORAZIONE PIU' MASCHILISTA DEL MONDO

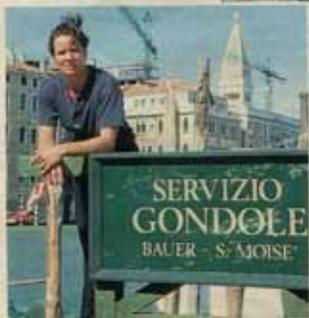
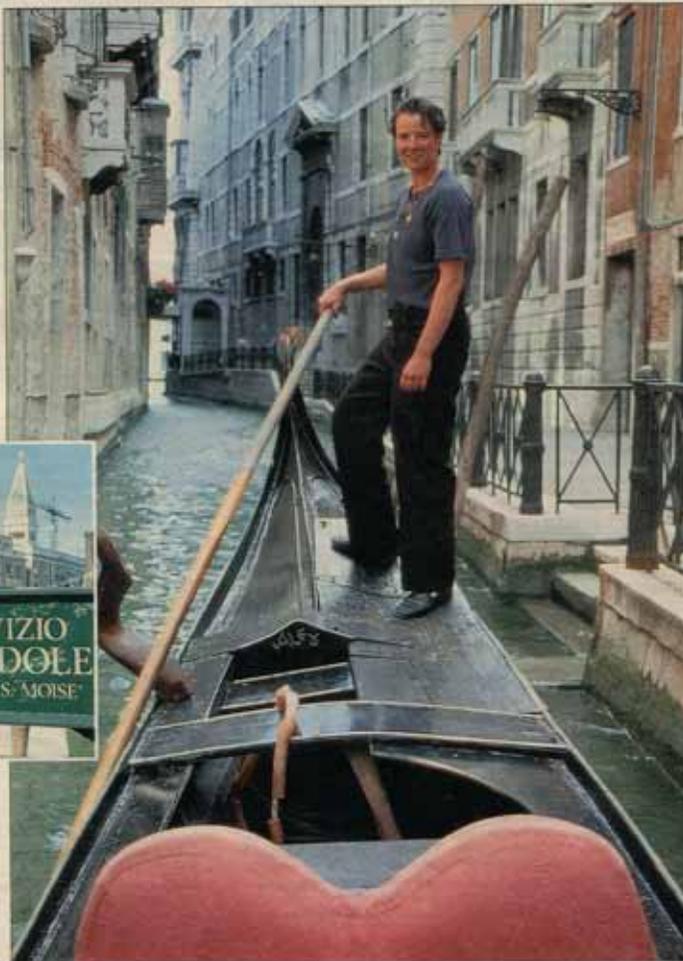
VENEZIANI, RASSEGNA TEVI SARO' LA PRIMA GONDOLIERA

«Mi hanno bocciata due volte, ma solo perché non vogliono una donna alla guida della barca più bella del mondo», dice Alexandra

di LAURA COSTANTINI
Venezia, agosto

Alexandra Hey non è il tipo da crederci. Ma il dubbio di aver percorso calli e canali di Venezia in un'altra vita le è venuto spesso. E sarebbe forse il modo più semplice per spiegare perché una ragazza tedesca di 32 anni, laureata in cinematografia ad Amburgo e con sette anni passati a San Francisco a tentare la fortuna come regista alle spalle, sia finita in laguna a condurre una battaglia quasi impossibile: diventare, lei donna e straniera, gondoliere.

«Tutto è iniziato proprio a San Francisco», racconta Alexandra con il suo italiano dal maritato accento teutonico. «Lavoravo a una sceneggiatura ambientata nella Venezia del '500 in cui c'era una donna che vogava la gondola, e sono venuta»



“Non affondate i miei sogni”

Venezia, Alexandra Hey, 32 anni, tedesca; da anni studia le gondole e ne ha ormai appreso tutti i segreti. Però non le hanno ancora dato il patentino per vogare con turisti a bordo.



SFIDE

Alexandra rema contro

Donna, per di più straniera. Con in testa un'idea fissa: fare la gondoliera. I suoi nemici dicono che non sa vogare. Ma un campione di remo e un conte l'hanno laureata. Noi siamo saliti a bordo

di Casavola Toppio - Foto di Mark E. Smith

Alexandra
ha 35 anni.
Da dieci
combatta per
diventare
ufficialmente
gondoliera.



Une gondolière à Venise

Elle ne porte pas encore le maillot rayé ni le canotier à ruban noir. Pourtant, Alexandra Hai est la première femme gondolière de l'histoire de Venise. A 35 ans, cette Allemande, installée dans la capitale des Doges depuis dix ans, vient d'intégrer un des plus vieux clubs italiens, jusqu'ici exclusivement réservé aux hommes. Bien qu'elle ait échoué à l'examen pour la troisième fois, une cour régionale lui a accordé le droit de conduire les clients de l'hôtel pour lequel elle travaille sur les canaux vénitiens.

Cette décision a provoqué l'indignation des 425 membres de l'Association des gondoliers italiens. Devenir gondolier requerrait force, agilité et plusieurs années de pratique, qualités que les détracteurs d'Alexandra Hai lui reprochent de ne pas posséder. Mais ils ignorent sans doute qu'en allemand son nom signifie... requin. ■

FERRINE SABRAT

Toter Lama verblüfft die Wissenschaft

Im russischen Burjatien ist der Leichnam eines Buddhisten auch nach 80 Jahren nicht verwest. Experten raten abermals über den Mönch im Lotussitz.

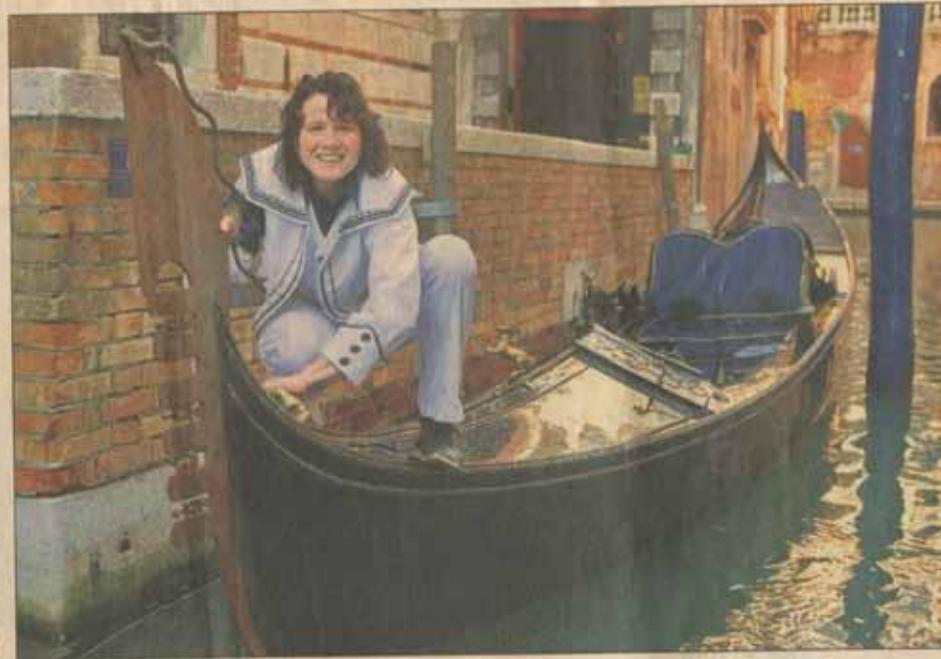
Eduard Steiner
aus Moskau

Burjatien ist nicht die Gegend, für Schlagzeilen prädestiniert ist. Fünfeinhalbtausend Kilometer östlich von Moskau, eingeschlossen vom Baikalsee und der Mongolei, befindet sich zwar der größte in Stein gehauene Leninkopf, an dem freilich das Leben seinen eigenen Rhythmus schlägt, dort aber auch der Tod nach eigenen Regeln zu spielen scheint, macht der Landesherr doch von sich reden. Geuer gesagt das buddhistische Kloster (Dzhan) im Dorf Iwolginsk. Begonnen hat alles am 11. September 2002. Damals wurde im Kloster, das immer noch ein Zentrum der russischen Buddhisten ist, das würfelförmige Grabmal des Lama Chambo gijew Daschi-Dorscho geöffnet.

auslöst, ausgesetzt worden ist. Weil der Leichnam seine Feuchtigkeit behalten hatte, haben die Fenster des Glassarkophages, in den er nach der Exhumierung gesetzt wurde, beschlagen.

Für buddhistische Gläubige ist der Leichnam zum Objekt der Verehrung geworden. Buddhistische Theologen erklären das Phänomen der Nichtverwesung damit, dass der Chambo-Lama die Oberste Realität aller Erscheinungen, die Leere, erfasst und beim Sterben seinen Körper so gereinigt hat, dass er nicht verwest. Wissenschaftler hingegen rätseln nach wie vor, weshalb sich eine Reihe von Körperereigenschaften – etwa die Eiweißverbindungen der Zellen – des Lama von denen eines lebenden Menschen nicht unterscheiden. „Seine Gelenke biegen sich, das Weichgewebe lässt sich eindrücken wie bei Lebenden, und nach der Öffnung des Grabgefäßes entströmte daraus ein Wohlgeruch“, sagte die Leiterin des Lama-Erforschungsprojektes, Galina Jerschowa, vor drei Jahren: Die Untersuchung von Körperteilen des Lama in der Moskauer Gerichtsmedizin bestätigte die Verblüffung.

Der Lama hatte sich gegen Ende seines Lebens in Meditationspose begeben. Als seine



Alexandra Hai auf einer Gondel in Venedig, die sie für eine kleine Hotelkette betreiben darf – zur echten Gondelfahrerin darf sie weiterhin nicht werden.

Foto: Reuters

Frau Gondoliera, das bleibt ein Wunsch

Deutsche scheiterte zum fünften Mal an Prüfung: Frauenfeindlich, klagt sie

Venedig – Wieder nicht: Die 35-jährige Deutsche Alexandra Hai ist bei der offiziellen Gondolieri-Prüfung in Venedig zum mittlerweile fünften Mal durchgefallen. Sie versucht seit Jahren, in die bisher männliche Berufsdomäne einzubrechen.

Unter 126 Anwärtern belegte Hai nun den 53. Platz. Nur

die besten vierzig Prüflinge erhielten aber das begehrte Zertifikat und auch gleich einen Arbeitsplatz: Es waren 40 neue Gondolieri-Stellen ausgeschrieben. Bis zu 5000 Euro verdienen die Männer in den Matrosenhemden in der Hochsaison pro Monat.

„Dies ist die Bestätigung für das, was ich immer schon ge-

sagt habe: Die Posten für die Gondolieri sind bereits vergeben, es steht schon vorher fest, wer durch die Prüfung kommt und wer nicht“, reagierte Hai verärgert. Auch zwei weitere Frauen fielen durch. Hai schließt daraus öffentlich auf Frauenfeindlichkeit.

Als im Frühjahr bekannt wurde, dass Hai nach einem

Gerichtsbeschluss die Erlaubnis erhalten hatte, die Gäste einer kleinen Hotelkette privat in einer Gondel zu befördern, regte sie Protest. Die Stadt kündigte an, notfalls bis vor die höchsten Gerichte zu ziehen. Es sei zu gefährlich, ohne die richtige Ausbildung durch die engen Kanäle von Venedig zu gondeln. (APA, ANSA)

Flugkatastrophe: Strafe

PANORAMA

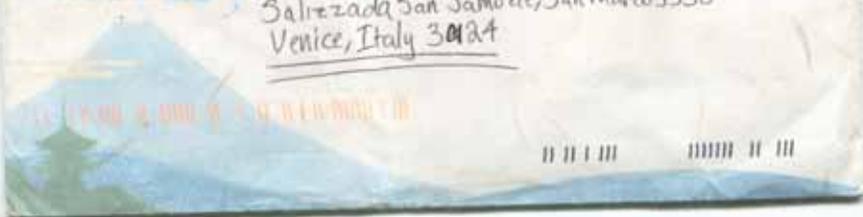
Afghanistan bekämpft das Rauchen

Momoko Tazaki
Mihori-cho 1-15-4-206
Akishima-city Tokyo 196-0001
Japan



AIR MAIL

Mrs Alexandra Hai - Hotel Albergo San Samuele
Salizada San Samuele, San Marco 3358
Venice, Italy 30134



Dear Mrs Hai,

Hello, you probably don't care who I am and maybe
you won't even read this letter, but if you don't, my name
is Momoko Tazaki. I am a Japanese student at
Kokusai Metropolitan High School. I am 18 years
old and ever since I read about you in the Times
article I have become a big fan. I am writing you this
letter because I want you to know that you
have opened a big door to my future. After I read
about you, I became very interested in the business

of gondolas. I became so interested that I wrote an
paper I wrote about the gondola business and about
you. It's strange but I have never been this
hooked on a topic before. I can say this for certain
because I too want to become a gondolier
some day. It was because of you that
made me realize my future goal. In

妈妈