



Sniffing Books. Myths, Stigmas and Writings on Drugs

Spazio Punch, Giudecca Island, Venice
April 20—November 24, 2024, from Thursday to Sunday 3pm—7pm
Opening April 19, 10.30am—1pm

Bookzilla, a project founded in 2022 at Spazio Punch, endeavors to frame visual imaginaries and capture the urges of contemporary culture through an evolving collection of editorial projects. Serving as the conduit for Spazio Punch to share its interests and obsessions, it provides a platform where images and narratives, voices and gestures converge in a non-hierarchical manner, leading to uncharted territories.

For the 60th edition of the Art Biennale, Bookzilla introduces its audience to *Sniffing Books. Myths, Stigmas, and Writings on Drugs*, a new editorial selection aimed at delving into the universe of images, biographies, censorship, and biases related to drugs. The selected projects are not linked by publishing house, year of publication, content, literary genre, or authors. They represent distinct paths, frequently divergent, traversing the intricate interplay between the microcosm of personal narratives and the macrocosm of broader historical contexts. Marginal autobiographical narratives intertwine with contemplations on the standard health paradigm, the phenomena of victimization or criminalization of individuals, the sensationalist discourse of the media, and the connections among capitalism, institutions, pharmaceutical lobbies, and drug cartels.

Sniffing Books. Myths, Stigmas and Writings on Drugs is a transdisciplinary collection that navigates the many-sided terrain of drug culture. The use of drugs by underground cultures as a means of accessing alternative dimensions of meaning is juxtaposed with documentation of the effects of the opioid crisis on rural lives in the US. The hidden and forgotten stories of the medical and magical use of poisonous and psychoactive plants and mushrooms are interwoven with the diverse visual landscape of drugs sold on the streets of the Bronx during the early years of the AIDS epidemic. The investigation into methamphetamine use within queer chemsex practices is juxtaposed with the broader global economic implications of organized crime and drug trafficking.

Sniffing Books. Myths, Stigmas and Writings on Drugs is an editorial collection of visions, voices, stories, and biographical narratives that open up drifts, provoke questions, and inspire fresh perspectives.

Spazio Punch

Giudecca 800/o
Venezia

t 348 8909065
info@spaziopunch.com
www.spaziopunch.com

Boat stop
Giudecca Palanca

Curated by	Alessia Prati
in collaboration with	Augusto Maurandi
Project Manager	Marta Girardin
Setup	Zaven
T-shirt	Federico Antonini
Graphic support	Hstudio
Opening Food Project	Giulia Ceccarelli – Pelatokitchen