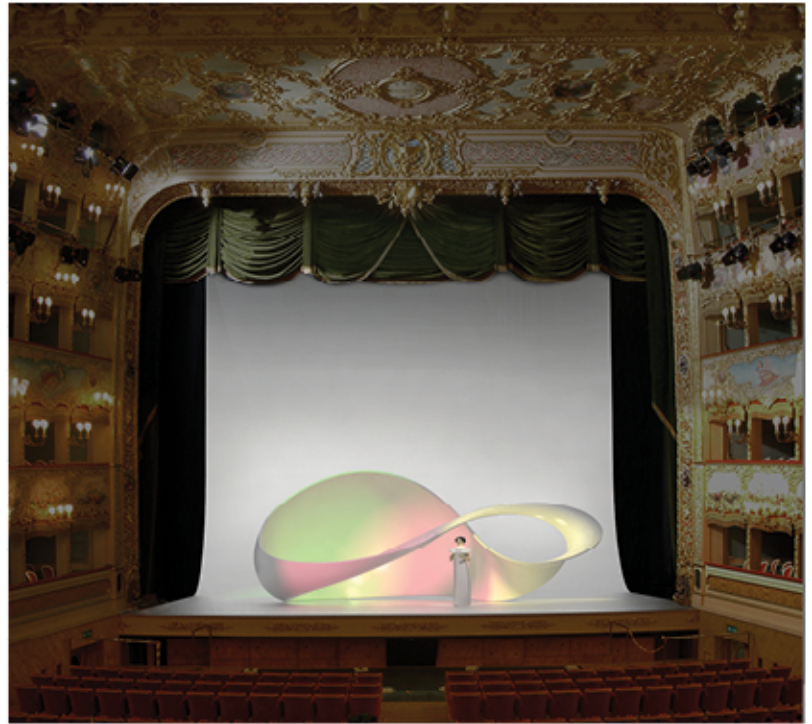


# Madama Butterfly, Teatro La Fenice & La Biennale di Venezia

New York, NY (14 May 2013) – The studio of artist Mariko Mori is pleased to announce that Mori has been commissioned by **La Biennale di Venezia** and the **Teatro La Fenice**, the world renowned opera house in Venice, Italy, to design the stage set and costumes for its upcoming production of **Madama Butterfly**. The opera will premiere on **21 June 2013** run concurrently with the 55th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia and continue through 2016.

Mori's stage design is comprised of The Mobius, an 8-meter long sculptural form that will evolve in both shape and color over the course of the opera's three acts. In Act I we find a ribbon-like half Mobius, gently canopied over the stage to symbolize the innocence and cheerful bonds of a new marriage. In Act II the Mobius migrates to stage level and comes to resemble a cocoon-like shelter, or Mobius house, which underlines the Buddhist philosophy of an endless circle of life and death.



Mariko Mori - Stage Set Design, Teatro La Fenice & La Biennale di Venezia

Madama Butterfly is well known as a story of conflicting cultures, between East and West. But like the cultures it portrays, the story's underlying themes must too evolve and adapt. For this undertaking Mori interprets the opera through a broader lens. Rather than East and West, the artist emphasizes the roles of the exploited and the exploiter. Characters' roles are distinguished by their attire to indicate their ties to Earth, to remind us that we are the residents on earth. The Japanese, or foreign characters, are portrayed in costume as something quite otherworldly, as if now existing even beyond this planet's realm.



Mariko Mori - Costume Design  
Teatro La Fenice & La Biennale di Venezia

For her costume and stage designs Mori draws from two distinct phases of her career, the first being her early 3D video works such as *Nirvana* (1997) and the other, her extensive work of large-scale installation work, such as *WAVE UFO* (2003) both were exhibited in the past exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

These sets of works, although divergent in scope, reveal a fascination with the other, and always return to the ideal that humankind is bonded by certain commonalities that transcend any cultural or national differences. These ideas are very much reflected in her designs for Madama Butterfly.

The Teatro La Fenice di Venezia's production of Madama Butterfly will run from 21 June to 2013 through 2016.

## Dates in 2013:

June: 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 28, 30

October: 12, 17, 20, 24, 27, 29, 31

Mariko Mori is an internationally acclaimed artist whose work has been acquired by museums and private collectors worldwide. Solo exhibitions of her work have been held in institutions such as the Royal Academy of Arts, London; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; the Prada Foundation, Milan, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York; the Serpentine Gallery, London; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo. Among her awards earned are the prestigious *Menzione d'onore* at the 47th Venice Biennale in 1997 (for *Nirvana*), and the 8th Annual Award as a promising Artist and Scholar in the Field of Contemporary Japanese Art, in 2001, from the Japan Cultural Arts Foundation.

In 2011, Mori founded the Faou Foundation with a mission to create a series of six site-specific art installations, spread across six unique ecological settings of the six habitable continents on earth. The Foundation's inaugural installation, *Primal Rhythm*, was unveiled on Miyako Island, Okinawa, in December 2011. Her second project, entitled *Ring*, will be installed in the pristine Visconde de Mauá, Resende, Brazil, to coincide with 2016 Olympic