

Getting ready for Venice!

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26/04/2019

Already from 11 May the 58th International Art exhibition Venice Biennale will be opening to public. The significant art event that this year is under the title of “May you live in interesting times” as usual will take place in the Gardini and Arsenale of Venice, however a very special accent has been placed on collaborative or satellite projects. A total of 79 national pavilions and 21 collaborative projects will be on view at the exhibition. For the first time Pakistan, Madagascar and Ghana will be participating in the Biennale, while the satellite projects are going to surprise by retrospectives and contemporary projects of world-acclaimed artists.

In preparation for the Venice Biennale, Arterritory.com offers you an insight into the guide of some national pavilions and satellite projects!

NATIONAL PAVILIONS

AUSTRALIA



Title: ASSEMBLY

Artist: Angelica Mesiti

Curator: Juliana Engberg

Venue: Giardini

Australian artist's Angelica Mesiti video installation "ASSEMBLY" experiments with such techniques as polyphony, cacophony, harmony and dissonance. Her main interest is focused on the association and movement between different verbal and non-verbal languages.

The inspiration of "ASSEMBLY" has been a poem by Australian writer David Malouf. It has been transformed into a soundtrack, thus, through linguistic expressions of various levels Angelica Mesiti explores the differences and power of group communication.

In her work the artist Angelica Mesiti usually researches the boundaries and capabilities of performance art, as well as video art through which she draws attention to how culture manifests itself in communicative but non-linguistic ways. She has participated in many group exhibitions and has organised solo shows around the world. Until 12 May her solo exhibition "Quand fair c'est dire" is on view at *Palais de Tokyo* in Paris.



Title: Birth V

Artist: Kris Lemsalu

Curators: Andrew Berardini, Irene Campolmi, Sarah Lucas, Tamara Luuk

Venue: Giudecca

To broader audience Kris Lemsalu is known as a provocative mixer of fantasy and reality, who often violates the imaginary boundaries of “correct art”. In the Venice Biennale she will welcome visitors with a work entitled “Birth V”.

The immerse installation refers to a shamanic, fantasy and imagination filled world, however the core of the piece are questions about life and its meaning. The artist Kris Lemsalu has invited a whole creative team – writers, curators, artists and friends – to participate in the making of this project.

Kris Lemsalu is one of the most vivid figures of Estonian art. She is

fascinated by the research of worldly themes and performance elements. She has participated in a number of major exhibitions around the world, including *Frieze New York* in 2015.

GHANA

Title: Ghana Freedom

Artists: Felicia Abban, John Akomfrah, El Anatsui, Ibrahim Mahama, Selasi Awusi Sosu, Lynette Yladom-Boakye

Curator: Nana Oforiatta Ayim

Architect: Sir David Adjaye OBE

Venue: Arsenale

For the first time ever the Ghana national pavilion will be open to public at the Venice Biennale. To celebrate this fact, Ghana has invited a team of great professionals to design the project. As a result of the exchange of ideas of the curator Nana Oforiatta Ayim and architect Sir David Adjaye, six artists of different generations from Ghana have created works on the subject of freedom and its importance in today's life. Patron of the exhibition is the President of Ghana Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo. Together with Ghana, for the first time this year the national pavilions of Madagascar and Pakistan will also be open in Venice Biennale.

SWITZERLAND



Title: Moving Backwards

Artists: Pauline Boudry and Renate Lorenz

Curator: Charlotte Laubard

Venue: Giardini

Especially for the Venice Biennale the artist duo Pauline Boudry and Renate Lorenz have created an impressive installation titled “Moving Backwards”, that reflects on the political situation today. Having examined circumstances, both artists study the power of resistance movements, guerrilla techniques, postmodern and urban dance and the elements of queer culture. “Moving Backwards” is an alternative weapon in the fight for political justice.

The artist duo Pauline Boudry and Renate Lorenz have been working together since 2007, creating installations and films that include performance elements. In the recent years they have organised a series of important solo shows all around the world.

LATVIA



Title: Saules Suns

Artist: Daiga Grantiņa

Curators: Inga Lāce and Valentinas Klimašauskas

Venue: Arsenale

“Saules Suns” by internationally acclaimed Latvian artist Daiga Grantiņa is a multi-centred landscape that unfolds around several suns, several sources of light traversing manifold materials and shapes. As if the scene of some cosmological dawn, it opens itself up as a site and moment for the generation of possibilities. The diversity of the shapes that appear across the landscape is strengthened by the multitude of possible perspectives and paths through the installation.

Daiga Grantiņa uses a wide range of everyday materials, from the synthetic to the organic, often inverting and trespassing beyond the limits of their traditional uses. She bends metal into spirals, casts light into shadow, fluffs cotton into fuchsia purple blossoms.

AUSTRIA



Title: Discordo Ergo Sum

Artist: Renate Bertlmann

Curator: Felicitas Thun-Hohenstein

Venue: Giardini

The work “Discordo Ergo Sum” by Austrian artist Renate Bertlmann is a site-specific installation designed especially for the Austrian pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

In the title of the work, the artist has rephrased the famous idea “Cogito Ergo Sum” (I think, therefor I am) by philosopher Descartes, thereby seeking to remove the supremacy of intelligence and describe herself within her rebellious worldview. In continuing the modulation and change of the “Cogito Ergo Sum” principle, Renate Bertlmann has included an inscription “Amo Ergo Sum” (I love, therefor I am) in the architecture of the Austrian pavilion. Renate Bertlmann is the first woman to represent Austria in the Venice Biennale with a solo show.

Renate Bertlmann is one of the most powerful and significant Austrian feminist artists who studies feminine and masculine forms and ideas in her works. In 2017 she became the winner of *Grand Austrian State Prize*.

CZECH AND SLOVAK REPUBLIC



Title: Stanislav Kolíbal: Former Uncertain Indicated

Artist: Stanislav Kolíbal

Curator: Dieter Bogner

Venue: Giardini

The representation contemporary art of Czech Republic at the 58th Venice Biennale is entrusted to Stanislav Kolíbal, a Czech avant-garde art pioneer. Especially for the biennial he has created a project consisting of two works. The “territorial drawings” displayed outside constitute a dialogue with the architecture of the Czech and Slovak pavilion (architects Otakar Novotny), while the “wall drawings” include references to all stages of Kolíbal’s career. The exhibition also displays the artist’s white sculptures from the 1960s and four installations from the 1970s.

Stanislav Kolíbal is a fundamental representative of the Czech modern art. In the 1960s he was one of the leaders of “UB 12” art group and in his work he has always spoken through a geometric, illusory language.

GERMANY



Artist: Natascha Süder Happelmann (Natascha Sadr Haghghian)

Curator: Franciska Zolyom

Venue: Giardini

The Hungarian-German artist Natascha Sadr Haghghian has adopted the pseudonym of Natascha Süder Happelmann especially for the Venice Biennale, deliberately breaking the boundaries of “eastern” and “western” cultures, as well as variations of the pronunciation of her real name. For the creation of multimedia work, she has invited to participate professionals from different art spheres. As a result, a total of architecture, sound, sculpture and installation has been created, with the main objective of interest in social and political conflicts.

The work of Natascha Sadr Haghghian mainly relate to research on the relations of politics and social world and she often practices in the fields of installation, performance, text and sound art.

GREAT BRITAIN



Artist: Cathy Wilkes

Curator: Zoe Whitley

Venue: Giardini

The artist representing Great Britain, Cathy Wilkes, has created a completely new work for the Venice Biennale, which includes sculptural installations and objects, as well as paintings. In the process of making these works, Wilkes has been experimenting with a variety of medias and materials, and collecting “found things” and artist “treasures”. Her works often resemble vision of unusual interiors and places, and meditate on the essence of love, the coexistence of life and death.

Cathy Wilkes is an Irish artist who mostly works in sculpture, painting and installation. In 2008 she was one of the nominees for the Turner Prize, while in 2017 she received the *Award of Maria Lassnig*.

GREECE



Title: Mr Stigl

Artists: Panos Charalambous, Eva Stefani, Zafos Xagoraris

Curator: Katerina Tselou

Venue: Giardini

With a three installation exhibition Greece will be represented in the Venice Biennale by Panos Charalambous, Eva Stefani and Zafos Xagoraris. The aim of the work “Mr Stigl” is not only to create a dialogue between art and its viewers, but also to encourage a conversation between the artists themselves. The created environment reflects the historical narrative, mixing it with personal interpretations and playing with lesser-known facts. “Mr Stigl” himself is a historical paradox, a constructive misunderstanding, a fantastic hero of an unknown story, who moves our knowledge further away from all the popular facts of history and draws attention to the peripheral processes.

PORTUGAL



Title: a seam, a surface, a hinge, or a knot

Artist: Leonor Antunes

Curator: João Ribas

Venue: Palazzo Giustinian Lolin

This year in the national pavilion of Portugal will be displayed works by the acclaimed artist Leonor Antunes. The exhibition entitled “a seam, a surface, a hinge, or a knot” will continue the Antunes’ research of interest in everyday objects and their transformation into abstract sculpture. The artist draws inspiration from the main cultural characters of Venice, such as architects and designers Carlo Scarpa, Franco Albini and Franca Helg. Leonor Antunes is one of the most vivid figures of Portuguese contemporary art, whose work is attributed to the reflections on sculptural manifestations of everyday objects. Using natural materials, she plays with aesthetic commonly used in modernism.

USA



Title: Martin Puryear: Liberty / Libertá

Artist: Martin Puryear

Curator: Brooke Kamin Rapaport

Venue: Giardini

Martin Puryear, one of the American artists who often returns to traditions, crafts and natural materials, will discuss freedom in a variety of ways in the context of Venice Biennale. Especially for the exhibition he has created a new sculpture and a monumental installation, while the thematic circle speaks upon freedom as an absolutely necessary form of life. The exhibition is a continuation of Martin Puryear's research, in which he observes abstract forms derived from global sources.

FRANCE



Title: Deep See Blu Surrounding You

Artist: Laure Prouvost

Curator: Martha Kirszenbaum

Venue: Giardini

In her latest project, French artist Laure Prouvost has focused on exploring three topics: firstly, it is a reflection around the concepts of generations and identities that join or draws a distance between us; secondly, it is the idea of exploring the language and the appropriation of it; thirdly, inspired by surrealism and utopias, Prouvost turns to escapist journeys to another perfect place. The exhibition “Deep See Blu Surrounding You” challenges the idea of displaying a flowing and globalised world in which mutual exchange, communication and various mismatches play a significant role. Laure Prouvost is one of the most acclaimed French contemporary artists and she is the third woman who will represent France in the Venice Biennale with a solo show.

SATELLITE PROJECTS

JANNIS KOUNELLIS. A RETROSPECTION



From 11 May to 24 November a retrospective by Greek artist, a representative of *Arte Povera* movement Jannis Kounellis will be on view at the *Fondazione Prada*. Developed in collaboration with *Archivio Kounellis*, the project brings together more 60 works from 1959 to 2016, from both Italian and it will be the first exhibition dedicated to the artists since his death in 2017. The show explores the artistic and exhibition history of Jannis Kounellis, establishing a dialogue between his works and the eighteenth-century spaces of *Ca' Corner della Regina*.

Throughout his artistic research Kounellis develops a tragic and personal relationship with culture and history, avoiding a refined and reverential attitude.

www.fondazioneprada.org

**BASELITZ ACADEMY AT THE GALLERIE DELL'ACCADEMIA
OF VENICE**



From 8 May till 8 September an ambitious retrospective “Baselitz Academy” of German artist Georg Baselitz will be on view at the *Gallerie dell’Accademia* in Venice. The exhibition will cover 60 years of the important painter.

The Painter, sculptor and graphic artist Georg Baselitz is a pioneer of Neo-

expressionism who completely refused any abstraction, consciously working in a raw style and using a palette of sharp colours. Thus the artist instilled and depicted direct, sometimes even harsh feelings. In prasing the German expressionism Baselitz returned a human figure and its dynamic representation in the centre of the painting.

The major retrospective of works by the renowned German artist Georg Baselitz, will be the first exhibition by a living artist to be presented at [the Gallerie dell'Accademia](#) in Venice. The exhibition, curated by Professor Kosme de Barañano, will trace the periods and critical junctures in the artist's extraordinary 60-year career through paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures. A special feature of the exhibition will be a cycle of rarely seen works exploring Baselitz's relationship with Italy and the academic tradition.

www.gallerieaccademia.it

LUC TUYMANS. SOLO SHOW AT PALAZZO GRASSI

As part of the cycle of monographic shows dedicated to major contemporary artists, launched in 2012, from 24 March, 2019 till 6 January, 2010 the first personal exhibition in Italy of Belgian painter Luc Tuymans will be on view at *Palazzo Grassi*.

Curated by Caroline Bourgeois in collaboration with the artist, the show is entitled 'La Pelle' (The Skin), after Curzio Malaparte's 1949 novel. It includes over 80 works from the Pinault Collection, international museums and private collections, and focuses on the artist's paintings from 1986 to today.

Considered as one of the most influential painters of the international art scene, Luc Tuymans has contributed throughout his career to the rebirth of this medium in contemporary art. His works deal with questions connected to the past and to more recent history and address subjects of our daily lives through a set of images borrowed from the private and public spheres – the press, television, the Internet. The artist renders these images by dissolving them in an unusual and rarefied light; the slight anxiety that

emanates from them is able to trigger – according to the artist himself – an ‘authentic forgery’ of reality.

www.palazzograssi.it

PHILIPPE PARRENO AT ESPACE LOUIS VUITTON VENICE



From 11 May till 24 November in the *Espace Louis Vuitton Venice* a new installation by French artist Philippe Parreno will be on view. The Installation is dedicated to exploration of sustainable developments of micro-organisms.

With this new futuristic work of art, Parreno creates an unusual experience in which memories of the past converge with the subversive present and future, actualising questions about reality. Perception has conceded to a stimulating process that promotes the invention of new forms and understandings by ignoring categories of rational mind and the usual ways

of things.

eu.louisvuitton.com

GROUP SHOW MARE NOSTRUM



From 8 May till 24 November an exhibition entitled “Artists Need to Create on the Same Scale that Society Has the Capacity to Destroy: Mare Nostrum” will be on view at the *Santa Maria delle Penitenti Church*. The exhibition features 73 artists of international backgrounds whose works are in response to environmental crisis in the age of climate change.

The neon work of the same title by Luren Bon has served as a source of inspiration for the exhibition. Some of the artists participating are Alex Katz, Jonas Mekas, Cindy Sherman, Christian de Boschnek and others.

www.labiennale.org

CHARLOTTE PRODGER IN VENICE



From 11 May till 24 November a collaboration project between Scotland and Venice will be displayed at the Arsenale Docks. The exhibition “Scotland + Venice presents Charlotte Prodger” is a solo show by the winner of the Turner Prize 2018 Charlotte Prodger.

Prodger presents a new single channel video arisen from her investigation in the theme of “queer wilderness” and will be exhibited in a meticulously conceived installation.

The exhibition is curated by Linsey Young with Cove Park, an international residency centre based in Scotland where Prodger spent a period engaged in a series of research and production residencies. The resulting piece will be also brought on a national and international tour.

www.labiennale.org