



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE



Chairmanship of Cyprus
Council of Europe
November 2016 - May 2017

Présidence de Chypre
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novembre 2016 - mai 2017

CULTURAL SERVICES

14.8.08.2

VENICE BIENNALE 2017

Participation of Cyprus in the 57th International Art Exhibition (13 May – 26 November 2017)

www.labiennale.org, www.cyprusinvenice.org

The next Venice Biennial of Visual Arts will take place between 13 May and 26 November 2017 (Preview 10, 11 and 12 May). The Board of the **Biennale di Venezia** has appointed **Christine Macel** as **Director of the Visual Arts Sector**, with specific responsibility for curating the **57th International Art Exhibition**.

Christine Macel was born in Paris in 1969. Since 2000 she has been Chief Curator at the Musée national d'art moderne – Centre Pompidou in Paris, where she founded the museum's contemporary art department. She was the curator of the French Pavilion at the Biennale Arte 2013 (Anri Sala) and the Belgian Pavilion at the Biennale Arte 2007 (Eric Duyckaerts).

For the 57th edition of the exhibition, entitled **Viva Arte Viva**, Macel develops her humanist vision for art, as the most precious part of the human being in a world full of conflict. She sees art as the ideal place for reflection, individual expression, freedom and fundamental questions, while emphasizing the crucial role of the artist in contemporary debates. *Viva Arte Viva* is also an expression of the passion for art and for the state of the artists who invent, through their lives and practices, their own universes, injecting vitality into the world we live in.

For this next edition of the Biennial, Cyprus will be presenting an exhibition project curated by **Jan Verwoert**. The curatorial selection process was entrusted to the Advisory Committee for the Selection of Artists and Works of the Ministry, comprising a number of independent art professionals in Cyprus.

I. CURATOR

Jan Verwoert is a critic and writer on contemporary art and cultural theory, based in Berlin. He is a contributing editor of *frieze* magazine and his writings have appeared in different journals, anthologies and monographs. He is a professor for theory at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts, he teaches at the Piet Zwart Institute Rotterdam and is a visiting professor at the Royal Academy, London. He is the author of *Bas Jan Ader: In Search of the Miraculous*, MIT Press/Afterall Books 2006, the essay collection *Tell Me What You Want What You Really Really Want*, Sternberg Press/Piet Zwart Institute 2010,

together with Michael Stevenson, *Animal Spirits — Fables in the Parlance of Our Time*, Christoph Keller Editions, JRP, Zurich 2013 and a second collection of essays entitled *Cookie!*, published by Sternberg Press/Piet Zwart Institute 2014. He was a member of the jury for the Turner Prize 2015.

II. EXHIBITION PROJECT

Jan Verwoert articulates his ideas for the next Cyprus Pavilion at the Venice Biennale of Art as follows:

“Colour once was key to politics and trade in the Mediterranean. As pigments were used for fabric dyeing, medicine, painting and cosmetics, industry and culture alike were dependent on being supplied with colour. The most contentious substance, however, was alum, the chief colour binding agent. Rome was at pains to ban alum trade with the East to curb Constantinople's influence. Yet, despite threats and embargos, around 1500, the agent was still circulating via particular channels: the Venetian trade network, including Cyprus.

The Cyprus Pavilion exhibition will take this historic example as a point of departure for invoking the spirit of unstoppable exchange — in the key of living colour, under the sign of painting. The exhibition will be dedicated to the idea that painting has the power to be the home and host to an exchange of living colours. Painting will be the guardian spirit: the medium to set the stage, key, tone and atmosphere for exchanges to be carried out in other media, as for instance in writing, poetry readings, discursive events, screenings or performances.

Some of the best conversations about the colours of life (political concerns, desires, memories, fears, joys and pains) can be had while looking at the sea, sky, mountains, fire — or paintings with similar elementary depth. Today, however, most elementary debates seem locked down around apocalyptic scenarios of cultures at war (West vs East). We rarely speak about what it could mean for life to continue and for our exchanges to actually create a future. In this spirit, the exhibition takes a stand against the false securities of catastrophic thought, for the vibrant insecurities of life and trade of ideas, delivered with a boost of fresh colour, via painting and its sister arts.

First of all, the open call therefore goes out to artists dedicated to working in the medium of painting who would be ready to open up this practice and let it be the host — the conceptual and atmospheric framework — for exchanges conducted in other media.

Further to this, the open call goes out to artists (and writers) who would be happy to be guests of this host and bring the living colours of their poetry and discourse to the table.”

III. OPEN CALL

The artist(s) representing Cyprus in the exhibition will be selected through an Open Call process by the appointed curator. Those who wish to take part in the selection process are called to make a submission containing: **1) Curriculum Vitae, 2) Samples of previous work, and 3) Statement of Intent/Participation proposal.**

Terms of Application:

1. The Statement of Intent/Participation Proposal should clearly illustrate the breadth and scope of ambition by the candidate(s) for the pavilion of Cyprus at the 57th Venice Biennale,

- preferably in English. The final project will be developed in conversation between the selected participants and the curator.
2. Visual material (incl. performance documentation), texts, poetry or any other material may be submitted in hard copy or in digital form.
 3. Candidates may submit an application individually or on the basis of a collective project. More than one participant may be selected for the exhibition. The competition is open to trans-disciplinary projects.
 4. **Applications should be submitted by Monday, 12 December 2016, 12:00 noon, to the following address: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE, Cultural Services, 27 Ifigenias Street, 2007 Nicosia (Room 113, 1st Floor).**
 5. The cover of the envelope should necessarily include the indication “**Venice Biennale 2017**”, as well as the **name(s) and contact details of the applicant(s)**.
 6. Applications can also be submitted via e-mail, at info@cyprusinvenice.org. Reception confirmation will be sent.
 7. There are no age restrictions to apply.
 8. Candidates must hold a connection to Cyprus in order to apply, whether it is through nationality, birth, origin, residency, or through their given line of research.
 9. The selected artist(s) will be announced in the Cypriot Press and online at www.cyprusinvenice.org, www.moec.gov.cy/politistikis_ypiresies, as well as on the Cyprus Pavilion Facebook page www.facebook.com/cypruspavilion. Submitted materials may be collected within one month following the announcement.

*For enquiries please contact the Culture Department of the Ministry of Education and Culture:
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