PERSONAL STRUCTURES Reflections

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Venice 2022 Art Biennial

Palazzo Mora Palazzo Bembo Marinaressa Gardens

Reflections
11.72 - 4.62
2002



Foreword

The Personal Structures project was initiated in 2002 and was conceived as an itinerant open platform, where artists can present their work, thoughts, and research in exhibitions, symposia, and publications. After some years of travelling around the world, from Asia to North America and Europe, the project found its home in Venice, Italy, where the first edition of the Personal Structures exhibition took place in 2011.

Venice, as a crossroads of cultures and important exchanges in history, has always been of inspiration for people from all over the world, impressed by the uniqueness of the city: the cultural heritage, the local traditions, and the peculiar natural environment of the lagoon.

Over the years, Venice has become a reference point for the latest developments in art. Renowned art and culture institutions, museums, exhibitions, and galleries live together on this small island, a place where the past, the present, and the future coexist.

This is where the European Cultural Centre set its first satellite and developed the project into biennial contemporary art and architecture exhibitions, workshops, cultural events, educational programmes and activities.

Every two years, visual artists, photographers, academic institutions, and cultural entities are invited to present their works reflecting on the fundamental topics of Time, Space, and Existence, by revealing their viewpoint on contemporary art.

By giving space to a diverse and growing number of participants, our project aims to continuously stimulate new and in-

clusive dialogues. Art is an essential part of our culture to unlock new ideas and experiences, which should be open to all. All ECC venues will keep their doors open and free access, giving the opportunity to discover innovative projects, explore historical Venetian buildings and experience public spaces in the city.

The sixth edition of Personal Structures 2022 has been possible thanks to the collaboration and contribution of the heterogeneous group of participants who took part in this year's exhibition.

During these years we have learned to support each other, to listen, to empathise with those who were close and far from us. We helped each other, with the hope and the responsibility to change the future.

The artistic contribution of each participant, through different languages, media, and topics, is significant and inspirational to initiate those reflections.

The hard work and dedication of all the ECC team has been essential for the realisation of this event. Young international professionals, who are sharing a common passion for art and culture, each one with a diverse story and expertise, have organised a unique exhibition and programme.

We are grateful for the continuous support and enthusiasm of all the partners involved.

We thank everyone who took part in this project, for the joint efforts, persistence, hope, vision, trust, and passion that made Personal Structures 2022 possible.

European Cultural Centre Team

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Introduction

Personal Structures turns to its sixth edition, this year, taking place in the iconic venues of Palazzo Bembo, Palazzo Mora and Marinaressa Gardens, located in the heart of Venice, from the 23rd of April until the 27th of November 2022.

Throughout its seven months, the exhibition is complemented with a series of conversations, performances, and workshops.

The ECC art biennial features a wide selection of artworks from internationally-renowned to emerging artists, photographers, worldwide academic and cultural institutions, with more than 200 participants.

Art interacts with the spaces, creating interesting dialogues and unique narratives. In Palazzo Bembo, many site-specific installations are presented, offering an immersive experience. Furthermore, the architectural features and the Venetian elements of Palazzo Mora enhance the concepts that lie beneath each exhibited project. The Marinaressa Gardens welcome installations and sculptures that tune into the natural environment, turning the public space into an organic mixed-art installation and an open air sculpture park.

This year, the exhibition revolves around the concept of reflections, perceived both as the image created from a mirrored surface as well as a thought, idea, or opinion. The theme is presented with a double reading and value: physically, as a phenomenon of the visible, and mentally, as a thought resulting from a

meditative action. As envisioned by the ECC curatorial team, the act of reflecting carries the potential to foresee possibilities and the responsibility of imagining a better future.

In this historical moment more than ever, it is essential to be able to imagine a sustainable future, in a present that requests more responsible and conscious actions, both individually and collectively. We believe it is important to *reflect* by expressing one's ideas, feelings, experiences towards the outside, to a community of individuals, to reflect on what is reflected, in order to create a virtuous circle.

In an increasingly multicultural and *liquid* society, in the definition of the sociologist Zygmunt Bauman, where *the belief* that change is the only thing permanent and that uncertainty is the only certainty, there is a need to identify the present, by relating to the people and the surrounding environment, enhancing empathy as a tool for collective transformation.

Artists and intellectuals have always looked at society and incidents, suggesting interpretations or proposing different points of view. In *Personal Structures - Reflections*, the artists reflect through their works of art, different themes and current issues, such as climate change, environmental and social sustainability, ethnic and gender equality. Hence, the exhibition imprints and suggests realistic and utopian art-driven alternatives, where the audience has the opportunity to relate with.





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Palazzo Bembo







Georgii Uvs & Ellen Nash

ARTIST GEORGII UVS AND CURATOR ELLEN NASH

MESOZOIC. Let's start over!. During 2021, artist Georgii Uvs and curator Ellen Nash prepared a large-scale series of paintings called *Circle 9* for the project *Personal Structures* in Venice in 2022.

Uvs admits that he never specifically comes up with themes for his works. Information comes to him and burns him until he splashes it onto the canvas. Uvs calls himself a conductor who is obliged to convey information to humanity through his artistic skill.

According to Dante Alighieri, the 9th circle is the center of Hell where traitors are thrown to. This is how Uvs felt in 2021. People betrayed their home, the planet which nurtured and gave life to our civilization. As a result, we live like betrayers in hell. We have endangered species of plants and animals, environmental pollution and climate change. Also Covid, self-isolation, depression and fear of the future.

A few weeks before sending art works to Venice, Uvs and Nash rewrote and developed a radically different project concept. Artist and Curator decided that we have a chance. A chance to start over.

Despite the torn and split world, the curator of the main project of the 59th Venice Art Biennale, Cecilia Alemani, in her letter to the artists, asked to strive for optimism and celebrate art and its ability to create alternative cosmologies and new conditions of existence.

Uvs created a series of works *Mesozoic* in 2016-2017. These are bright layers of color on the canvas, consisting of a continuous color line, reminiscent of Mesozoic landscapes.

The Mesozoic is an era of tectonic, climatic and evolutionary activity. At this time, the formation of the main contours of

modern continents and mountain building on the periphery of the oceans take place. By the end of the Mesozoic era, the main part of the species diversity of life approached its modern state.

Uvs' activity is metaphysics, a battlefield where the answers to the questions of human existence go beyond all conceivable experiences and forms. The artist never knows what awaits him at the end of this transcendental experience. He works alone, giving himself completely to the question. Uvs paints his works without touching the canvas, or with any artistic instruments. He keeps the technique of applying paints on his canvas a secret.

Uvs uses an ultraviolet pigment, which gives a sucking effect of the depth of work under the UV light. His art works are twofaced. Like in nature, they have sunset and sunrise, day and night. Sometimes, what the artist hides under ordinary lighting to protect his viewer, comes to life under UV light.

Uvs' art is like a crown of thorns, sometimes it can scratch very painfully. But the artist exposes his soul to the colors, and that is why they are revealed to him with such sincerity. The colors that the artist uses certainly matter - they are not giving the opportunity to understand ambiguously. The colors that the artist uses in the series *Mesozoic* are bright, pure, cheerful. Green color has always personified life, health, wisdom. Yellow and orange are the colors of the sun, the source of life on earth.

Curator Ellen Nash and artist Georgii Uvs filled their project *MESOZOIC. Let's start over!* with hopes for a better future.

While we still have a chance, let's start over! Ellen Nash



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Mesozoic, 2016 Georgii Uvs





Organizers





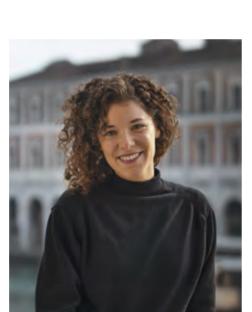
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Claudia Piovan



Elena Volpato



Vittoria Mastrolilli

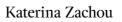


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Valeria Romagnini



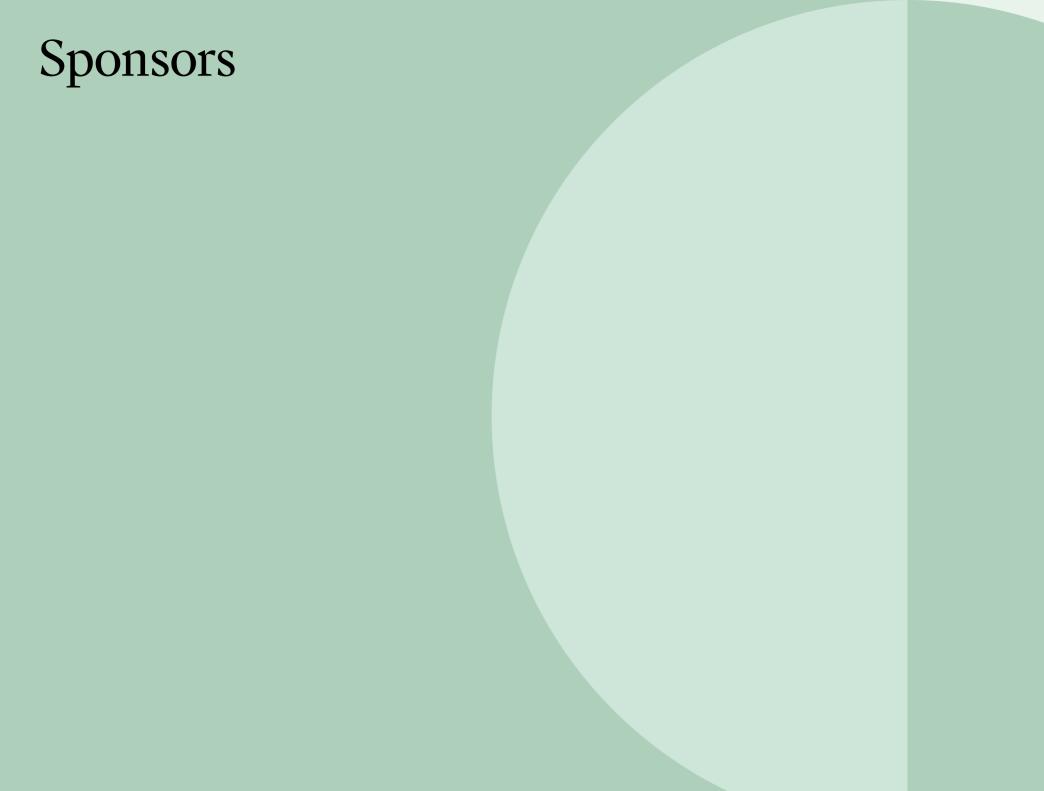




Suzanne Van der Borg



Yuki Gomez





























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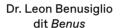


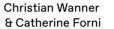














































































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THEO





Dr. Michael Graeve **European Cultural Centre Media Partners**





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