

VENICE 2019
Art Biennial



P E R S O N A L
S T R U C T U R E S
Identities

PERSONAL STRUCTURES Identities

National Pavilion of Kiribati
National Pavilion of Mozambique
National Pavilion of the Republic of Seychelles



Colophon

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PERSONAL STRUCTURES

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KRETSCHMER LEE UHAN
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MORELLET NITSCH
ORLAKA PHIL PIAZZI
PLATT FERI RAINEIR
RIETMEYER SAKURAI
SASAKI SEO DEVRIES
SIEFNER WOLFF
KING KIN ZOUCAO
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Wolfgang Loop

Eternal Love



PALAZZO BEMBO
ART EXHIBITIONS



Introduction

Introduction

by the European Cultural Centre team

We, cultural entrepreneurs, philanthropists, mostly young people, who make things happen, who care, and even some paper-people, we as a collective group, we believe that there is a need for a dynamic organization, creating centres dedicated to the culture of Europe.

Centres, in different places of the world, devoted to cultural exchanges, meetings, exhibitions, creative projects, with Europeans and all others. To strengthen our cultural commons, to cherish our uniqueness and to learn about the beauty within our differences.

The ECC-Italy is part of the larger European Cultural Centre network. In addition, we continue to establish worldwide partnerships with other educational and cultural institutions, Museums, Foundations as well as with private initiatives.

At the start of our project, in 2002, our goal was to establish an open platform for artists, architects, creative people; individuals of all ages and nationalities as a way to investigate the most vital contemporary issues in our society in order to build a shared future.

Years have passed since the opening event of the European Cultural Centre and ever since then, the world has witnessed a large number of people crossing borders - seeking better living conditions and in most cases escaping drastic poverty and even war. Consequently, Europe and many countries of the world have been facing deep social and cultural challenges. People from very different cultures interacting with others, having an interesting influence upon each person's Identity.

Recognising this tendency of the world, to divide rather than unite, our awareness and experiences within and beyond this project force us to have a closer look at our own Identity. The creation of political and other borders is a psychological and cultural phenomenon. For all of us borders seem to have a powerful symbolic significance; Linking people's identities and their sense of belonging, to an imaginary group according to the borders we believe in. It is mainly through our surroundings, our self-created culture, our beliefs, that individuals define their own Identity. We use the awareness about and the belief in our Identity to give meaning to our life and to define our existence. By reflecting upon one's own Identity, people distinguish between the 'self' and the 'other' which expands to our sense of 'us' and 'them'. It is to wish for that we stay aware that the beauty is in the differences.

Today where words such as "culture" and "identity" play a vital role in shaping our awareness, the mission of the European Cultural Centre has become even more critical. By bringing together European cultures and creating a dialogue with many other different cultures of the world, we hope to stimulate a more conscious thinking unto the wider public about the fundamental concepts of Time, Space and Existence. The interaction amongst the different presentations within our exhibition allows for a more critical perspective on our lives, and the lives, the Identities, of others - inviting you to cherish our cultural commons and to embrace our differences.

The ECC-Italy presents their Biennial Art Exhibition "PERSONAL STRUCTURES - Identities", in two of its prestigious Palazzo's in the centre of Venice - Palazzo Bembo and Palazzo Mora and the Giardini Marinaressa.

"PERSONAL STRUCTURES - Identities", is the fifth biennial art exhibition hosted by the European Cultural Centre in Venice. For hundreds of years, Venice has been a place of cultural exchange and an important exporter of European culture. Venice, however, was chosen as the seat of the first European Cultural Centre not only for its historical importance, but also for a number of specific features that make it the ideal venue for the realization of the objectives of the ECC. Venice is a city with an extraordinary concentration of facilities and organizations dedicated to culture. It is the ideal place to come to understand who we are and how we are seen, a place for reflection, research and dialogue.

"PERSONAL STRUCTURES - Identities" is an open forum for discussion to take place around the different expressions of contemporary art that break away from any ideological, political and geographical barriers. This exhibition shows an extensive combination of internationally established artists and artists whose works are less well-known. A cross-section of what can be seen as contemporary art today. The selected artists come from many different parts of the world, different cultures resulting in very different artworks. Visually, the artworks may appear very different, but all artists present their own subjective, personal expression of their reflection on the concepts Time, Space and Existence, they present their Identity.

The exhibition mainly presents recent artworks by living artists, either site-specific, specially made for this exhibition, or taken from the existing collection of the artist. Some rooms in the palazzos are dedicated to the presentation of a single artist, while other rooms will present a combination of projects and works. Strong statements give each of the rooms a very specific character. The

exhibition features a broad variety of artistic media; video, sculptures, paintings, drawings, photos and installations. Since the more than 200 participating artists originate from very diverse cultures representing over 50 countries and are also of very different age, the topics Time - Space - Existence are highlighted from unusual, very personal points of view.

The ECC-Italy's exhibition "PERSONAL STRUCTURES - Identities" shows the commonness and differences between Europeans in dialogue with works of non-Europeans. In addition, the exhibition stimulates a more conscious relationship from the spectator towards his daily surrounding aiming to increase the awareness of their own personal Existence, their own Identity, as human beings influenced by a specific culture within Time and Space.

"PERSONAL STRUCTURES - Identities" is a collective statement by all of us, including artists from more than 50 countries. It is in fact only through the synergy amongst people from Nigeria, Albania, Philippines, Russia, Italy, Brazil, Lebanon, Austria, China, France, USA, Mexico and the Netherlands in our team that this project was made possible. "Identities" is our statement of hope for a world where future generations have the chance to live their lives as free global citizens with the understanding that differences in our Identities are an important quality.

Cheryl Goldsleger

Augusta University

Vast Scale-Intimate Space

Common to all human beings is our temporary occupation of the earth. Throughout her career, Cheryl Goldsleger has explored the concept of place and how humans occupy interior and exterior spaces. As the way we inhabit the world continues to evolve, Goldsleger's interests persist, expanding from the study of architectural renderings to maps. Functioning not only as representations but also as concepts, maps, similar to lines drawn by the artist, represent the idea of a place.

Although Goldsleger's current works do not reference specific locations, they are also not imagined. *Vast Scale-Intimate Space*, her contribution to *Personal Structures-Identities*, presents three paintings *Tenuous*, 2019, *Coalescence*, 2019 and *Transient*, 2018 installed over a wall-covering created from a reverse printing of her drawing, *Independent*, 2015, reinforcing our shared existence within communal spaces.

Aided by a set of tools collected over time, she references geographical elements, the mathematical, and humankind's comfort with geometric forms. Her use of repeating motifs recalls modern landscapes and reinforces current reliance on systems and networks.

Capitalizing upon the provisions of a resist technique, Goldsleger selects a black ground for her paintings upon which jewel-toned colors highlight the beauty of connectivity, chaos, and order. Fluid lines traverse over one another, and meticulously rendered borders appear through them. Often sub-divided into smaller plots, they allude to humanity's ambition for ownership.

Goldsleger's use of an abstract vocabulary allows for multiple interpretations while conveying her sensitivity for the human experience. Her '*diagrammatic images*' also suggest natural and societal orders and serve as a reminder of the transitory realities present within contemporary society.

Curated by Shannon Morris



PERSONAL STRUCTURES - Identities

Our Identities are in constant change through Time and Space, formed by the personal experience of each of us.

PERSONAL STRUCTURES - Identities shows commons and differences in the expressions of the topics, Time, Space and Existence, creating a stimulating dialogue.

The exhibition presents a wide selection of works from artists, painters, photographers and sculptors as well as universities from all over the world. "Identities" as a subtitle was chosen because in our opinion, many works in this exhibition seemed a confrontation from the artists with themselves.

This publication accompanies the fifth edition of the Venice biennial art exhibition **PERSONAL STRUCTURES - Identities**, hosted and supported by the European Cultural Centre, in Palazzo Mora, Palazzo Bembo and Giardini Marinaressa, from May 11th to November 24th 2019.