

Latvia at the 53rd International Art Exhibition
La Biennale di Venezia
Title of exposition: "Fragile Nature"
Artists: Evelīna Deičmane and Miks Mitrēvics
Commissioner and Curator: Līga Marcinkeviča
Co-curator: Norbert Weber

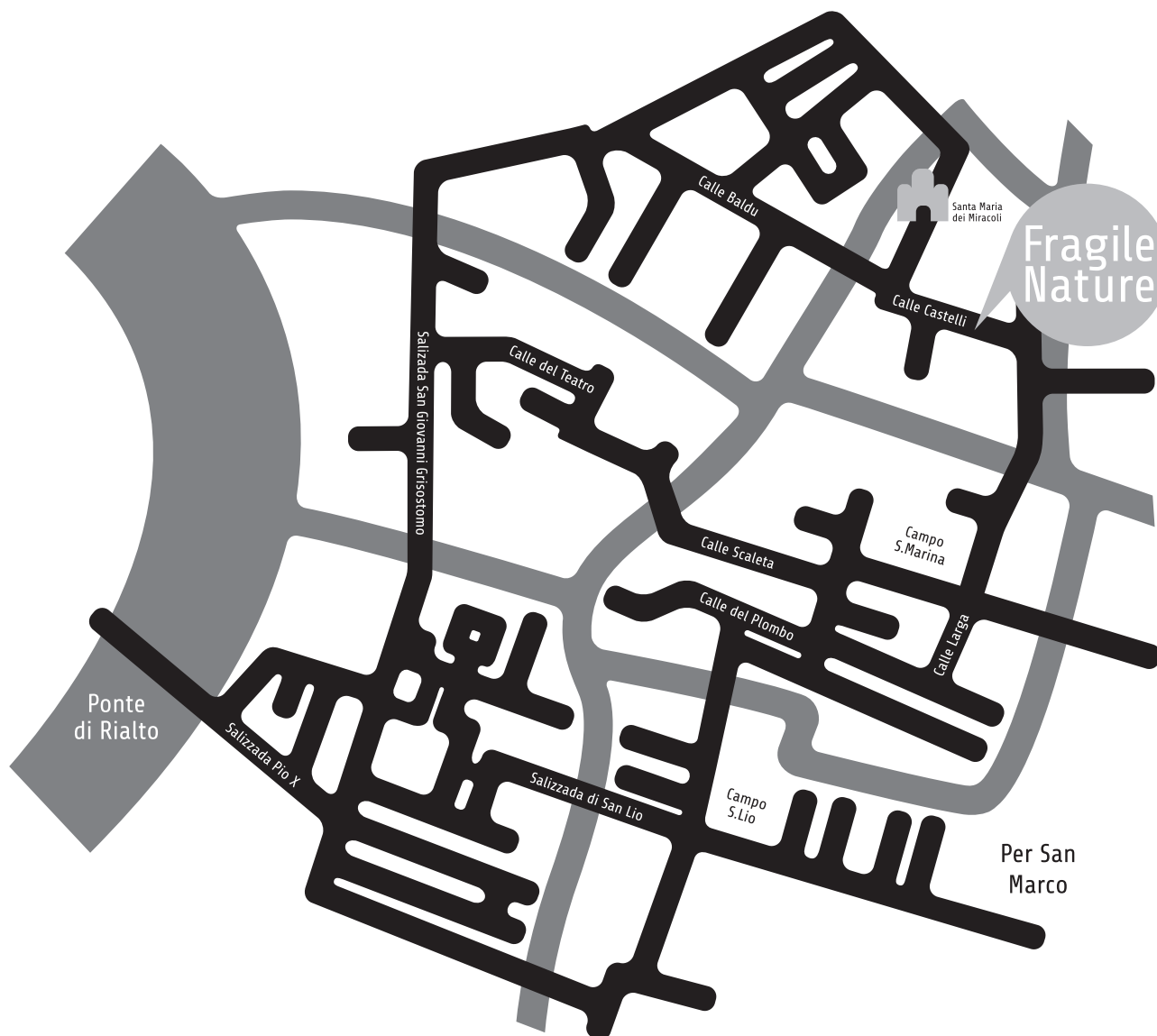


la Biennale di Venezia

53. Esposizione
Internazionale
d'Arte

Partecipazioni nazionali

Season Sorrow by Evelīna Deičmane Fragile Nature by Miks Mitrēvics



Exposition place: Spazio Ferrari, Calle Castelli, Cannaregio 6096/A, 30121 Venice
Inauguration: 5 June 2009 at 4.30PM
Press preview: 4 – 6 June 2009
Open to the public: 7 June – 22 November 2009
Opening hours: 10AM - 6PM, closed on Mondays

Supported by:
Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, State Culture Capital Foundation
Execution: Society "Biennale - 2005"
Co-commissioner in Italy: Paivi Tirkkonen, Arte Communications

Concept of the exhibition

The exposition is featuring two separate mixed media installations by artists Evelīna Deičmane and Miks Mitrēvics. Semantically charged title of the exhibition marks the outline of the concept and a possible way to interpret it, at the same time providing space for an individual reading of each art work.

The understanding of nature here transcends the narrow realms of flora and fauna, being elevated to a new, ontological level where we can speak of the order of things, the frailty of peace and the short-lived states of human existence. Lability, vagueness of thinking, dependence on circumstances and disposition to fallacy are the characteristic features of human condition. These qualities are potentially present also when interpreting the exposition and it is up to the viewer to define the extent that they take place.

The curator Līga Marcinkeviča underlines the necessity to keep a corridor for thinking which would be not pledged to prewritten texts and prefixed ideas. Therefore the exposition invites to be actively open and to exploit personal experience.

Artworks

Following the common ideological setup of the biennale, artists Evelīna Deičmane and Miks Mitrēvics are designing micro-worlds which bear several formal resemblances to our world. Miks utilizes well known, even archetypical characters such as the sea, sand, recreation and longing, while Evelina's work is impressing not only due to its sophisticated gear-wheels' mechanism, but also thanks to its acoustic qualities, allowing to recognize familiar sounds, like crunching snow. These elements are used, on the one hand, to enforce the deeply personal stories that artists are willing to tell, and, on the other hand, to encourage the viewer to understand, recall or image something.

It is hard to say what kind of effect these installations will eventually produce. The only thing we can know for sure is that the outcome will depend not only on the artists, but on the local context and the visitors of the exhibition – they are the main actors here, as the curator admits. Therefore it is worth considering that both installations are featuring skylines, urging to proceed not only physically, but also mentally through one's preconceptions. "Don't believe the first thing that comes into your mind," says the curator.

Description of the art works

Miks Mitrēvics' installation *Fragile Nature* is composed of various scenes in miniature, exploring manifold manifestations and perceptions of the sun and human ambitions to create complicate structures in order to represent it. Artificial light, being a part of the installation, is operating as a source of energy to run various devices. The scenes staged by the artist appear fragile and sketchy, and thus they are in opposition to numerous miniature "worlds" which try to be true to scale and try to accurately copy reality. The installation is based upon experience, memories and yearning and it demonstrates the metaphysical uncertainty of human lives.

Evelīna Deičmane is researching the process of surviving the winter and the amount of human energy necessary to deal with the coldness. She is putting questions: How much energy does one need to survive a cold winter? What kinds of sound are heard? Is it heavy breathing? Is it caused by crunching snow or by whetting knives? How long can one roll a ball of snow until it grows so large that it is beyond one's capability to budge it any further? The installation *Season Sorrow* comprises several particles – idea, sound, personal stories and emotions. Some invisible motor that is aided by gear-wheels spins these notions, thus creating the specific visual meaning of her work and the melancholy typical of temporary conditions.

Information on artists

In recent years, Evelīna Deičmane and Miks Mitrēvics have frequently attracted attention at international events such as the Biennale of Sydney, the exhibition *Buket* at NCCA in Moscow and the *Manifesta 7* in Rovereto. Both represent the best of the young artists, who have recently graduated from the much-praised Department of Visual Communication at the Art Academy of Latvia in Riga. However neither are making media art in the narrow sense of specializing in so-called "new media". Rather, they both succeed in activating a versatile repertoire which transforms their ideas into convincing and suggestive images.

Evelīna Deičmane (1978) lives and works in Riga, Latvia and Berlin, Germany. Her major fields of work are sound, video, photography and multimedia installations. In 2005 she had a solo exhibition "Breathing Prohibited" in Riga. Since 2003 Evelīna is participating in various international group shows.

Miks Mitrēvics (1980) lives and works in Riga, Latvia. His major fields of work are photography, video, sound and multimedia installations. Since 2003 he has organized solo exhibitions and participated in various international group shows. Miks has received several art awards, including Swedbank Art Award, Estonia (2008), East2East Commission, England (2006) and UNESCO-Aschberg Bursary, Austria (2006).

For more details see artists' biographies.

Contacts:

Līga Marcinkeviča, commissioner and curator: zliga@yahoo.com, info@biennale.lv

Miks Mitrēvics, artist: www.miksmitreivics.com, miks.mitreivics@gmail.com

Evelīna Deičmane, artist: evelinadeicmane@yahoo.com

Miks Mitrēvics

Artist

Born 1980 in Riga, Latvia

Lives and works in Riga, Latvia

Fields of work: Photography, video, sound, multimedia installations

E-mail: miks.mitreivics@gmail.com

Web site: www.miksmireivics.com

Education:

1999 - 2005 Art Academy of Latvia, MA Visual Communication

1998 - 1999 Centre for Creative Learning, Dept. of Photo

1992 - 1999 J. Rozental's Riga Art School

Solo exhibitions:

2007 *Collection of Persons*, Andrejsala, Riga, Latvia

2006 *Observer*, Space4 Gallery, Peterborough Museum, England

2006 *Somewhere nearby*, Latvian National Museum of Art, Latvia

2003 *Motel*, Solo exhibition (with K. Kursisha), RIXC Media Space, Riga, Latvia

Group exhibitions (selected):

2009 Purvitis Art Award Exhibition, Latvian National Museum of Art, exhibition hall Arsenal, Riga, Latvia

2008 Swedbank Art Award, Kumu Art Museum, Tallin, Estonia

Exposition d'art contemporain balte, Baltic Contemporary Art, Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris, France.

Is the Medium the Message?, Latvian Contemporary Photography, Andrejsala, Korpusu ceļš, Riga, Latvia

Manifesta 7. The European Biennial of Contemporary Art, Trentino – South Tyrol, Italy (exh. cat.)

L'art en Europe. European Contemporary Art, Domaine Pommery, Reims, France (exh. cat.)

Buket. Exhibition of Latvian Contemporary Art, National Centre for Contemporary Arts, Moscow, Russia (exh. cat.)

Time Will Show - Junge Kunst aus Lettland, Museumsberg Flensburg, Flensburg, Germany (exh. cat.)

2007 *Moment*, fashion, art&music event, Riga, Latvia

Contemporary Art from Latvia, European Central Bank, Frankfurt, Germany (exh. cat.)

Baltikum part I, Kalmar Art Museum, Sweden

2006 *The Art Disk Magazine*, DVD video compilation, US

PI 5, Video festival in Szczecin, Poland

Forgotten Moments, Project presentation, Künstlerhaus Buchsachsen, Innsbruck, Austria

2005 *Factory of Phantasmagoria*, Lodz, Poland

Kristaps luko, The alternative film festival, Riga, Latvia

rainis_2005.lv, The visual interpretation of Rainis's collection of poems

JUKAS, National Art Museum exhibition hall Arsenal, Riga, Latvia (exh. cat.)

2004 *riga line up*, Gonemo gallery, Eckernford, Germany

2 show, Contemporary Art Center, Vilnius, Lithuania (exh. cat.)

2003 *Illuminations*, Noass gallery, Riga, Latvia.

La Riga, Latvian Multimedia Art Exhibition, Milan, Italy

Autumn, National Art Museum exhibition hall Arsenal, Riga, Latvia

Grants/Scholarships/Awards/Commissions

2008 Swedbank Art Award Kumu Art Museum, Tallin, Estonia

2006 Diena Culture Award, Riga, Latvia

East2East Commission, Peterborough Digital Arts, England

2006 *UNESCO-Aschberg* Bursary, Künstlerhaus Büchsenhausen, Austria

YEARAWARD 2003, Visual arts (Best multimedia project), Latvia

Bibliography (selected):

2008 More delicately, more poetically, more personally, Newspaper "Diena", December 17th, p. 20.

Casually touching, "Manifesta 7" review, "Die Zeit", July 24th.

European Contemporary Art Biennale "Manifesta 7", Visual Arts Magazine "Studija", August/September, p. 32-39.

Hundred times upwards downwards, Newspaper "Kultūras Forums", July 25th, p. 1-2.

Latvian signs at the exhibition "Manifesta", Newspaper "Diena", January 27th, p. 13.

Time Will Show, Visual Arts Magazine "Studija", April/May, p. 26-31.

Latvian Stories, Newspaper "Kieler Nachrichten", February 22nd, p. 21.

2007 ... this needs to be always proven, "Kultūras Diena", Newspaper "Diena", February 9th, p. 6.

Diena's Annual Culture Award 2006, Newspaper "Diena", January 27th, p. 13.

2006 The future is bright for innovative artist, "The Evening Telegraph", Peterborough, June 13th.

Weltschloss Buchsachsen, "Die Neue", Tirol, April 25th.

Somewhere in the forest and the city, "Izklaidē", Newspaper "Diena", January 20th, p. 24.

Trivially about yearning, "Kultūras Diena", Newspaper "Diena", January 21th, p. 6-7.

To make a person 10 cm shorter, Newspaper "Neatkarīgā", January 19th, p. 11.

2005 Return of the esthetical power, Newspaper "Diena", April 8th, p. 15.

2004 My sacred and intimate interests, Visual Arts Magazine "Studija", June/July, p. 15-25.

2003 Six, honest and open, Newspaper "Forums", October 3rd-10th, p. 2-3.

2003 The Motel and the Wolves, Post-Medium Interpretation, Newspaper "Forums", June 20-27th, p. 5.

Evelīna Deičmane

Artist

Born 1978 in Riga, Latvia

Lives and works at Riga, Latvia and Berlin, Germany

Fields of work: Sound, video, photography and multimedia installations

E-mail: evelinadeicmane@yahoo.com

Education:

2007 Art Academy of Latvia, Visual Communication

2005 Berlin Art University UDK, Department of Experimental Media

2003 Berlin Art University UDK, Department of Visual Communication

1999 Riga College of Applied Art, Department of Environmental objects design

Solo Exhibitor:

2005 *Breathing Prohibited*, Gallery Noass, Riga

Exhibitions:

2008 *Manifesta 7*, European Biennial of Contemporary Art, Trentino-South Tyrol, Italy

HBC, Gallery HBC, Berlin, Germany

M-ZZZ, Gallery Langhans, Prague, Czech Republic

Jeune Creation 2008, Paris, France

Ein Leben Lang, Gallery NGBK, Berlin, Germany

Buket. Exhibition of Latvian Contemporary Art, National Centre for Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia

Time Will Show, Museumsberg Flensburg, Flensburg, Germany

2007 *Triennial of Young Artists*, Tallin, Estonia

Skan, International exhibition of sound installations, Riga

Mobile Museum, Andrejsala, Riga

The Baltics Part I: Contemporary Art of Latvia, Kalmar Art Museum, Sweden

BooM, Andrejsala, Riga

Riga Review, Gallery NGBK, Berlin, Germany

Katoptron (Direction of the Mirror glance), 2nd Moscow biennial for Contemporary art, Moscow, Russia

2006 *Skaņu mežs*, International adventurous music festival Andrejsala, Riga, Latvia

15th Sidney Biennale, Sidney, Australia

Melting, Gallery NewYorkRioTokio, Berlin, Germany

Feuerzeug, Gallery Schweiss Laden, Berlin, Germany

Rundgang, UDK Exhibition space, Berlin, Germany

2005 *(Un)Dressed Body*, Giedre Bartelt Galerie, Berlin, Germany

Jukas, Exhibition Hall Arsenal of the State Museum of Art, Riga, Latvia

2004 *Nature. Environment. Man. 2004*, Exhibition Hall Arsenal of the State Museum of Art, Riga, Latvia

2003 *2 Show*, Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania