

Sustainability at Arte Laguna Prize: reuse as a form of art

Since 2016, with the **Sustainability and Art Prize**, Arte Laguna Prize has rewarded sustainable, original, and creative art with the aim of raising awareness within the local and international community towards environmental issues. Art is in fact a powerful means of communication that can interpret the problems of contemporary society. The creative world of artists thus becomes the engine for the dissemination of ecological and ethical principles, promoting awareness of the **Reuse Recycle Reduce** strategies and emphasizing the importance of artistic expression and creativity to convey social and cultural values.

For the 15th edition, Arte Laguna Prize collaborated with **Contarina Spa**, a company that has been dealing with waste management in 49 municipalities in the province of Treviso (Italy) since 1989 and the **Ca' Foscari Sostenibile** program of Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Among the 253 projects presented, the jury has identified a shortlist of 5 artists (Varvara Grankova, Daria Lo Giudice, Inge Miczka, Sandra Lapage e Florence Pinson – Ynden) and among these the Russian artist **Varvara Grankova** (Moscow, 1988) was chosen with her project "*Thingism*". The work deals with a central theme for sustainability, the production of things and in particular of clothing, which creates enormous volumes of waste, consumes resources and contributes to creating inequalities on a global level between production and of consumption areas, where people have opposing living standards. The artist investigates the relationship between objects, environment, and people, creating an imposing artwork that on the one hand satisfies the eye for the shades of color and the scenographic impact and on the other shocks for the volume of clothing produced by fast fashion brands that will quickly turn into waste. The work itself is part of the circular economy system and emphasizes all aspects of the 3R strategy (Reuse Recycle Reduce), as the garments used for the installation will be donated to local non-profit organizations.

In addition to the winning work, Contarina Spa has also decided to give a special mention to the Brazilian artist **Sandra Lapage** (San Paolo, 1974) for having been able to enhance and give new life to a type of "contemporary" waste that is increasingly present in our homes: coffee pods. The choice and the way in which a new guise has been given to this type of waste leads the user of the work to rediscover the vital force that still characterizes the material it is made of. The artist's works are also in line with the company's planning, which in the coming months will see the enhancement of the micro-collection of this niche waste.

The official award ceremony of the two artists will take place during the opening of the finalists' exhibition at the **Arsenale of Venice on October 2, 2021**. During the evening, the absolute winners of the 14th and 15th editions and the winners of all special prizes will also be awarded.

THE SPECIAL PRIZES

Every year Arte Laguna Prize collaborates with high-level international partners to offer artists opportunities around the world. Here are the artists chosen by the partners of the 15th edition:

ART RESIDENCIES

Basu Foundation for the Arts, Kolkata (India) - **Inti Guevara Rios** Bogotá, Colombia 1984

Fabrica, Treviso (Italy) - **Mohammed El Hajoui** Kelaa Des Sreghna, Morocco 1995

Espronceda, Barcelona (Spain) - **Yohy Suarez** La Habana, Cuba 1989 and **Lorenzo Papanti** Pisa, Italy 1989

Farm Cultural Park, Favara (Italy) - **Ermina Apostolaki** Athens, Greece 1987
Labverde, Amazon Forest (Brazil) - **Chuan-Lun Wu** Taiwan, China 1985

ART GALLERIES

Galerie Isabelle Lesmeister, Regensburg (Germany) - **Silvia Inselvini** Brescia, Italy 1987
Jonathan Ferrara Gallery, New Orleans (USA) - **Erwin Redl Gfoehl**, Austria 1963
Ki Smith Gallery, New York (USA) - **Fernanda Luz Avendaño** Santiago, Chile 1993
Capsule Gallery, Shanghai (China) - **Zai Nomura** Kobe, Japan 1979
Arles Gallery, Arles (France) - **Cyryl Zakrzewski** Poznan, Poland 1986

BUSINESS FOR ART

Agnese Design, Valdobbiadene (Italy) - **Lucia di Nicolantonio** Pescara, Italy
Sanitpharma, Milan (Italy) - **Lorenzo Mattioli** Rome, Italy 2002

FESTIVALS AND EXHIBITIONS

Art Stays Festival, Ptuj (Slovenia) - **Erwin Redl Gfoehl**, Austria 1963
Al-Tiba9, Algiers (Algeria) | Barcelona (Spain) - **Erwin Redl Gfoehl**, Austria 1963
Art Nova 100, Beijing (China)

- **Marco Bizzarri** (Chile)
- **Alexandre Erre** (New Caledonia)
- **Honey & Bunny** (Austria)
- **Francesca Leoni e Davide Mastrangelo** (Italy)
- **Lume Project** (Italy)
- **Laura Magnusson** (Canada)
- **Giorgia Maria Malandrino** (Italy)
- **Marshamstreet** (Italy)
- **Rebeca Mendez** (Mexico)
- **Anna Skoromnaya** (Belarus)

The **exhibition of the finalists** of the 14th and 15th edition will take place **from 2 to 24 October 2021 at the Arsenale Nord in Venice**, a great event where **240 works** from all over the world will be displayed in **4,000 square meters** of exhibition space to celebrate **15 years of Arte Laguna Prize**.

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