



ARTEART PRIZE LAGUNA 11.12

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WORLD TOUR WITH 110 ARTWORKS: 6TH ARTE LAGUNA PRIZE FINALIST ARTISTS ANNOUNCED

Press release

20th February 2012 – The finalist artists who will **show** their artworks in the **collective exhibition** of the 6th International Arte Laguna Prize at the **Arsenale of Venice from 17th March** have been announced. This extremely charming location, that since 2009 has become the “house” of the Arte Laguna Prize, is the essence of Venice, where history blends with future development among culture, art and production.

The Arte Laguna Prize is the only Prize in Italy and Europe able to obtain such a high number of applications, the **artworks participating in the sixth edition are 7,840**, almost a thousand more than the last year’s subscriptions. Moreover, **the origin countries of the artists has grown up to 105**, with an increase, over the six editions, of Japanese, Chinese but also Indian and Polish artists.

We can analyse the geographical areas where the sixth edition finalist artists come from: first place for **European Countries** with **38%**, followed by **34% of Italy**, the **East** reaches a good share of **20%** and finally we find **North and South America with 8%**.

As every year, the prize establishes itself not only as a favoured observatory on the situation of art, but also as an interesting testimony reflecting the social and politic reality worldwide. This year there has been a strong participation of artists coming from many of those countries which, in a more or less direct way, have been reached by the revolutionary wave of the Arab Spring, almost as to reaffirm the role of art as privileged interpreter of the social and politic reality that surrounds us.

Moreover, it doesn’t surprise that exactly the countries that are in the middle of what we can define a real technology boom such as China, India and Korea, are the origin places of the great part of the artists who participated in the new section dedicated to virtual art, or of the artists who, in the sculpture section, presented the most complex installations from a multimedia point of view. Arte Laguna is a prize that with growing precision is becoming interpreter of the contemporary zeitgeist.

This year the jury, presided by Igor Zanti, curator and art critic of Milan, and composed by Alessio Antonioli, Chiara Barbieri, Gabriella Belli, Iliaria Bonacossa, Soledad Gutierrez, Kanchi Mehta, Ludovico Pratesi, Maria Savarese, Ralf Schmitt, Alma Zevi, has selected **a really heterogeneous group of artists**, which goes from the **19-year-old Chinese Amelia Zhang**, finalist for the virtual art section, to the **sixty-year-old Birgit Østergaard** Danish textile artist specialized in luminous sculpture, and **Frank Herholdt**, photographer with south-African origins who has been living most of his life in London.

The 110 finalist artworks will be on display at the collective exhibition, the opening will be on Saturday 17th March at 8 pm. In this gala event the works of art and the announcement of the winners will be the protagonists.

The exhibition can be visited until 1st April and **on the opening Sundays** there will be the “**Arte Laguna Sunday Talks**”, three important appointments open to the public with free entrance, where guided tours, free debates, dialogues with new media experts and discussions on the connection between the world of art and the business world will take place.

AGENDA 6° ARTE LAGUNA PRIZE:

PRESS CONFERENCE and PREVIEW OF THE EXHIBITION

Friday 16th March, 2.30pm – Venue: Cà Farsetti, San Marco, 4136 30124 Venezia

OPENING EXHIBITION and AWARD CEREMONY

Saturday 17th March, 6 pm - Venue: Nappe of Arsenale, Venice

APPOINTMENTS: "ARTE LAGUNA SUNDAY TALK"

Free entrance. Venue: Nappe of Arsenale, Venice

- Sunday 18th March, 10.30 am: **Guided tour with the curator Igor Zanti and debate.**

The meeting between gallery managers of Arte Laguna network and artists will follow.

- Sunday 25th March, 10.30 am: **Art production with new media**

Close examination on art world created and enjoyed in the network.

Speakers: Mario Gerosa editor in chief of the AD magazine, works for years on virtual art; Domenico Quaranta is an art critic and curator, he focused his research on art in networked spaces, from the Internet to virtual worlds; Igor Zanti curator of the Prize. Presides the meeting Valentina Tanni, art's critic and journalist expert of digital art

- Sunday 01st April, 10.30 am: **Business men: new patrons for art**

What means today invest on contemporary art? A meeting with business men, banks, critics and curators

FINALISTS OF THE SIXTH EDITION

Painting: Fabio Adani (Italy), Li Xiao Yan & Lin Boli (China), Andras Calamandrei (Switzerland), Xiwen Chen (China), Gregory Decock (France), Enzo Distinto (Italy), Matteo Fato (Italy), Cristina Gardumi (Italy), Beatrice Gelli (Italy), Walter Giordano (Italy), Elena Giustozzi (Italy), Inguna Gremzde (Latvia), Michael Hirschbichler (Austria), Patricia Jagicza (Hungary), Gaia Lionello (Italy), Baojun Liu (Taiwan), Elisa Maccioni (Italy), Manuel Fernando Mancera Martinez (Spain), Elena Mantovani (Italy), Nir Mazliah (Israel), Hui Har Ong (Singapore), Anna Pont Armengol (Spain), Jessica Rimondi (Italy), Michael Rotondi (Italy), Giovanni Saldi (Italy), Kenjiro Shimizu (Japan), Krzysztof Turlewicz (Poland), Ming-Ren Wang (Taiwan), Guangchen Xue (China), Jianqing Ye (China)

Sculpture and Installation: Joëlle Allet (Switzerland), Altrosguardo (Italy), Margarida Alves (Portugal), Maddalena Ambrosio (Italy), Abdullah Alrozi (Palestine), Philippe Bataille (France), Simone Bubbico (Italy), Paul Chisholm (UK), Francesco Del Conte (Italy), Valentina De' Mathà (Italy), DeVecchi/Iera/Paulon (Italy), Hannah Honeywill (UK), Ingrid Hora (Italy and German), Kumiko Kato (Japan), Amale Freiha Khlal (Lebanon), Taebeom Kim (Japan), La luna al guinzaglio/Il Salone dei rifiutati (Italy), Muñoz Leire (Spain), Antoanetta Marinov (Italy), Marta Masternak (Poland), Birgit Østergaard (Denmark), Ri Ren (China), Rui Sasaki (China), Kohshi Shimada (Japan), Jiwan Noah Singh (USA), Donatella Spaziani (Italy), Toru Takeuchi (Japan), Tina Ting Zhang e Ling Xia Luo (China), Lia Wei Qiang Zhang (China) ZimmerFrei (Italy)

Photographic Art: Jacqueline Aeberhard (Switzerland), Meral Açar (Turkey), Furuta Akihiro (Japan), Greg Allum (UK), Valeria Anzolin (Italy), Aniello Barone (Italy), Rosanna Borgo (Italy), Verena Brandt (Germany), CETROBO (France), José Luis De la Parra (Spain), Claudio Gobbi (Italy), Dina Goldstein (Israel), Faraz Habiballahian (Iran), Frank Herholdt (South Africa), Jiménez Jesús (Mexico), Soyoun Kim (Korea), Penny Klepuszewska (UK), Sebastien Koegler (France), Alexandre Maubert (France), Lorenzo Mini (Italy), Francesco Minucci (Italy), J. Ramon Moreno (Spain), Andreas Nestl (Italy), Fabiano Parisi (Italy), Lais Pontes (Brazil), Giovanni Presutti (Italy), Luciano Romano (Italy), Noga Shtainer (Israel), Simon Thorpe (Zambia), Schumann Torsten (Germany)

Virtual Art: Alan Bigelow (USA), Anni Garza (Mexico), Noah Pedrini (UK), Gianfranco Pulitano (Italy), Amelia Zhang (China)

Video Art: Andrea "Ebro" Barbarossa (Italy), Luis Bezeta (Spain), Stefano Cozzi (Italy), Kevin Gaffney & Sally-Anne Kelly (Ireland), Pieter Geenen (Belgium), Haleh Jamali (Iran), Shahar Marcus (Israel), Margherita Premuroso (Italy), Claudio Rivetti (Italy), Wenhua Shi (China)

Performance: Mara Cassiani (Italy), Christina Georgiou (Cyprus), minimum (Italy), Elena Tagliapietra (Italy), Stefano Tosoni - woozoo (Italy).

Under25: Setareh Azmoodeh (Iran - sculpture), Valerio Balzano (Italy - sculpture), Isotta Bellomunno (Italy - sculpture), Candace Couse (Canada - sculpture), Simon Cowell (Australia - painting), Alisia Cruciani (Italy - photography), Cyril Zakrzewski (Poland - sculpture), DiegoKoi (Italy - painting), Julia Frank (Italy - sculpture), Joey L (Canada - photography), Patricia March (Spain - painting), Tommaso Mori (Italy - virtual art), Giulia Panfili (Italy - painting), Andrea Pugiotta (Italy - photography), Murat Sayginer (Turkey - photography)

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