

Syrian Arab Republic Pavilion

at the 58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia

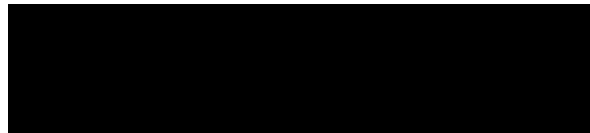
Press Release



La Biennale di Venezia

58. Esposizione
Internazionale
d'Arte

Partecipazioni Nazionali



Syrian Civilization is Still Alive

Commissioner and Curator:

Emad Kashout

May 11th - November 24th, 2019

Venues:

San Servolo Island, Venice

Chiesetta della Misericordia, Campo dell'Abbazia,
30121 Cannaregio, Venice

Participants:

Abdalah Abouassali

Giuseppe Biasio

Giacomo Braglia

Ibrahim Al Hamid

Chen Huasha

Saed Salloum

Xie Tian

Saad Yagan

Primo Vanadia

Opening of the Pavilion:

San Servolo Island, Friday, May 10th at 6.00 p.m.

Syria played a crucial role in the foundation of both Christian and Islamic art. Due to its geographical position, Syria was often invaded, and the whole region was subject to unrest. Consequently, the natural development of arts was interrupted, and they almost disappeared until the beginning of the last century. The flourishing of European art had an impact on the earliest stage of Syrian artistic trends, namely realism and documentary impressionism.

Then, in the 1930s and 1940s, thanks to the introduction of art in the educational curriculum, French teachers in schools, and the travels of Syrian artists to Europe, an exceptional interest in the arts arose in Syria. The multiplicity of art trends was apparent in what came next, that is, the pioneering stage of Syrian visual arts, which can be described as the stage of entrepreneurship, or of modernity. These trends illustrate the intellectual formation of

the artists from the early phase of Syrian visual arts, and their historical relevance is also highlighted. Syrian visual arts reflect a vibrant experience. This is also due to the fact that Syria did not officially adopt or encourage a specific trend. Syrian artists tend to research, experiment, and innovate, inspired by the rich, creative heritage of their own civilization as well as of others. The diversity of background of the Syrian artists, and the breadth of their connection with other artistic experiences around the world, through their participation in international art forums, have contributed to the unique art of this region. During half a century, Syrian artists have participated in the Venice Biennale; among them, there are two important exponents of Syrian visual arts, namely Fatih Almoudares, and Louay Kayali.

Since 2007, Syria has been pleased to take part with its own pavilion in this important international event together with international artists who have adopted a variety of approaches. In this edition, special thanks

go to the artists of the Syrian motherland: **Saad Yagan**, whose painting focuses on the presence of humanitarian; **Ibrahim Al Hamid**, inspired by local traditions; **Abdalah Abouassali**'s realism, and **Saed Salloum**'s abstraction, looking at surreal worlds. With their participation in Syrian Civilization is Still Alive, the invited artists embrace the dialogical dimension of their works beyond national borders. **Giuseppe Biasio**'s passion for informal style and the great masters of the past - like Caravaggio and Bacon - stands side by side with **Giacomo Braglia**'s "fresh" and new view of our world with its paradoxes and contradictions, while two Chinese artists, **Chen Huasha** and **Xie Tian**, with their "emotional journey" address the adjustment difficulties experienced by foreigners in the countries that host them. Finally, a young photographer from Palermo, **Primo Vanadia**, with his careful and sensitive spirit for landscapes and light, emphasizes the fascinating visual power of his homeland.

Hours

Tuesdays to Sundays
11.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Closed on Mondays

(except May 13th, September 2nd and November 18th 2019)

Pre-Opening

May 8th, 9th, 10th from 11.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

To request press materials and images

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