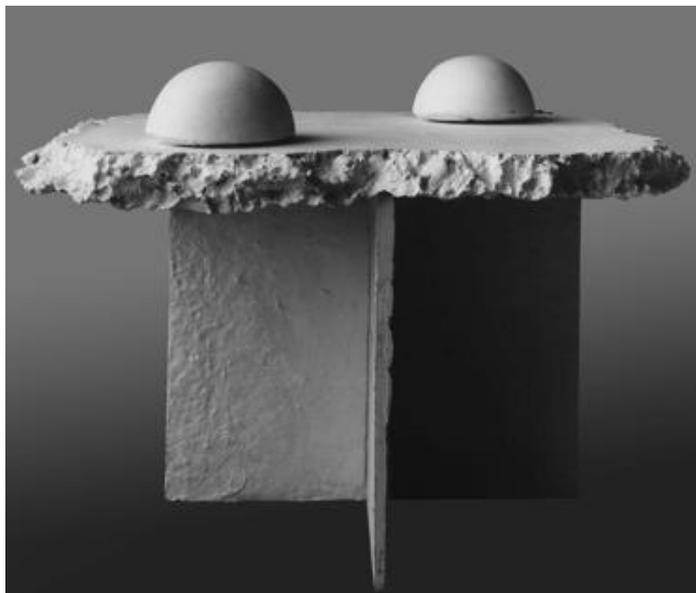


THE PROJECT FOR THE 58TH INTERNATIONAL BIENNALE IN VENICE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY STANISLAV KOLÍBAL

October 1, 2018 – Stanislav Kolíbal (1925) will represent the Czech Republic at the next International Biennale in Venice, which will begin on May 11, 2019. The expert jury has selected his project out of 23 others in the tender.

“I am happy to be chosen, although it came at such an advanced age of mine. I am honoured to show my work in the Czech and Slovak Pavilion at such a prestigious display of art as the Venice Biennale. I see my participation as a challenge and firmly believe that I will be able to present the essence of my work of many years in a combination of my older works and brand new ones in a project responding to the space designed by architect Otakar Novotný. I am very much looking forward and thank to the international jury for having selected my design,” says Stanislav Kolíbal.

The jury was satisfied with the general standard of the participating projects. By opting for Stanislav Kolíbal, it has acknowledged the lifetime work of this pioneer of Czech avant-garde art, who has spoken in a modern and contemporary language for seven decades continuously influencing even the youngest generation of artists.



STANISLAV KOLÍBAL, THE TABLE, 1965, 83x120x95 CM, PLASTER

“Kolíbal’s design enhances the masterful architecture of the Czechoslovak Pavilion by architect Novotný and responds, in terms of concept, to the curators’ theme of the next Biennale, i.e. art as a possible answer to the complexity of our times.

The modesty of Kolíbal's vocabulary is an antidote to the poignant wish expressed in Ralph Rugoff's main theme, exploring an ironic twist contained in an ancient curse of "may you live in interesting times". So is the humility of Kolíbal's art and his artistic position: reticent stance, yet passionate and engaged, a belief in art as an active form of liberation and emancipation, simultaneously rebellious, resistant and consensus-seeking, a negotiation of forms and ideas, conversing paradigms, norms and world's perceptions. Kolíbal's exhibition proposal offers a journey through an artistic mind, emphasizing the construction of an independent voice where the aesthetic and the political are intertwined in a faithful and uncompromising expression of the "interesting times": the post-war, the post-1989 and the current development of art.

"Stanislav Kolíbal's work stands ground at any international exhibition, but its significance is also specifically local. The political situation in Czechoslovakia made it impossible to appreciate his work from the mid-1960s when it was done, so a presentation of Kolíbal at the Biennale is a chance to amend this fact and pay a tribute to the work, which has continued in the following generations," adds Penelope Curtis, Director of the Gulbenkian Museum in Lisbon and a member of the jury.

Stanislav Kolíbal will cap the presence of the wide generation spectrum of Czech artists, who represented the Czech Republic in the past Biennales, such as Dominik Lang (b. 1980) in 2011, Zbyněk Baladrán (b. 1973) in 2013 and Jiří David (1956b.) in 2015.

Members of the jury

Adam Budak, Venice Biennale Commissioner for the National Gallery in Prague

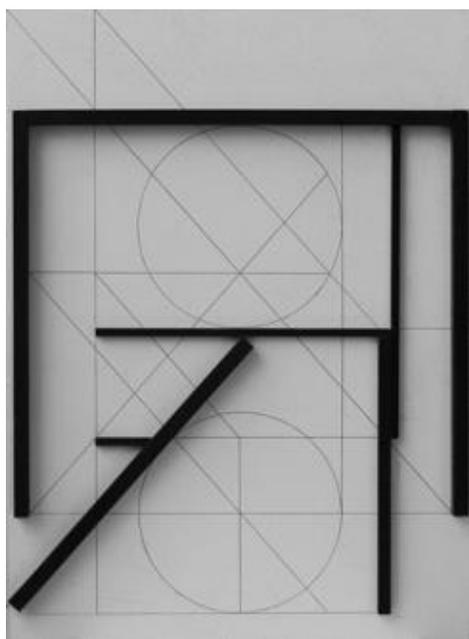
Penelope Curtis, Director of the Gulbenkian Museum in Lisbon

Jiří David, artist and Czech representative at the 56th International Biennale in Venice

Helena Provazníková, representative of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic

Otto M. Urban, Director of the Collection of 19th-century Art, the National Gallery in Prague

Hilke Wagner, Director of the Albertinum Museum, The Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden



STANISLAV KOLÍBAL, BLACK AND WHITE PROMPTS, 2014, 80x58x4 CM, WOOD, STUCCO, IRON, DRAWING



STANISLAV KOLÍBAL AT HIS EXHIBITION IN THE NGP DRAWING AFTER DRAWING, 2015

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Twenty-three artists participated in the open tender invited by the National Gallery in Prague. The jury has selected the projects by Matthew Witkovský and Jan Švankmajer for the imaginary 2nd and 3rd places, respectively.

Every year, the Venice Biennale attracts more than half a million international visitors. The first exhibition took place in 1895 and Czechoslovakia first participated in the Biennale in 1920. The Czech and Slovak Pavilion by architect Otakar Novotný from 1926 is one of the most valued structures in the Giardini di Castello premises.

Press

<http://vpn.ngprague.cz:8010/PRESS/>

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