

Daiga Grantina – Saules Suns

The Pavilion of Latvia
at the 58th International Art Exhibition
La Biennale di Venezia, Venice Art Biennale
May 11—November 24, 2019

The Latvian Pavilion at the Venice Art Biennale 2019 will host *Saules Suns*, a new site-specific installation by the artist Daiga Grantina that has been jointly curated by Inga Lāce and Valentinas Klimašauskas.

In her practice, Daiga Grantina uses a wide range of everyday materials, from the synthetic to the organic, often inverting and trespassing beyond the limits of their traditional uses to create associative formations that both conceal and reveal, directing the viewer's gaze in manifold ways.

The sources of inspiration for this new installation were light and simultaneity. *Saules Suns* is a multi-centred landscape that unfolds around several suns, several sources of light traversing manifold materials and shapes. As if the scene of some cosmological dawn, it opens itself up as a site and moment for the generation of possibilities. Our sense of these possibilities is strengthened by the multitude of potential paths and perspectives through the installation.

Grantina bends metal into spirals, casts light into shadow, and fluffs cotton into fuchsia purple blossoms. However, it is not that the piece is about these materials themselves, but rather that with the help of these elements something is expressed. Through her own unique manner of expression, her language, the artist communicates and shapes the world, offering alternatives to the current state of affairs. This seems particularly significant given the current environment of heightened populism and 'fake news', within which verbal means of communication tend to fail. Her work reminds us of art's fundamental characteristic – its capacity to constitute an alternative language beyond words and stories – which is especially important in this moment as well as, of course, in the context of the Biennale.

The curators of the Latvian Pavilion, Valentinas Klimašauskas and Inga Lāce, are excited to work with Daiga Grantina, an artist they admire for her ability to combine materials in unexpected ways. By bringing together the synthetic and the organic in arrangements reminiscent of life forms and molecular structures, she develops sculptural installations that read like three-dimensional scores for imagined vibrational patterns, their scattered elements radiating vivid colours.

The team behind the Latvian Pavilion this year is composed of commissioners Zane Čulkstēna and Solvita Krese, curators Inga Lāce and Valentinas Klimašauskas, architect Dagnija Smilga (ĒTER), graphic designer Toan Vu-Huu (Studio Baldinger•Vu-Huu), project director Alexey Koshkin and coordinator in Venice Alessandro Zorzetto. The project has been organized by the Kim? Contemporary Art Centre and the Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art.

Latvia has participated in the International Art Exhibition since 1999. The organizers of the Latvian Pavilion 2019 would like to express their gratitude to the general supporters of the project – The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, Jānis Zuzāns, SIA Alfor and Galerie Joseph Tang – as well as to the supporters of the exhibition: Magnetic Latvia, Delfi, Arctic Paper, Krassky Interior Showroom, Magnum NT, Mousse and Pēteris Viņķelis.

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