



la Biennale di Venezia

57. Esposizione
Internazionale
d'Arte

Partecipazioni Nazionali

influenza.

theatre of glowing darkness

Kirstine Roepstorff.

Danish Pavilion

Danish Pavilion

57th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia
May 13 – November 26, 2017



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Developed by visual artist Kirstine Roepstorff, the exhibition project *influenza. theatre of glowing darkness* challenges us to embrace darkness as a positive force of healing, transformation, and empowerment. The exhibition will explore the metamorphosis that occurs between the destruction of the known and the embrace of the new. Darkness dissolves form and can be seen as the void out of which all things arise.

The exhibition's title, *influenza*, contains dual meaning: in Italian it means "to influence," and in most languages it's also a common viral disease. If flu—as metaphor for the 21st century condition—is spread through social contact, its antidote may also be found in its own logic of person-to-person transmission: each individual's ability to make affective choices, the grassroots power to influence change. *influenza* is conceived as both symptom and cure.

influenza. theatre of glowing darkness consists of an immersive spatial theatre experience and a structural intervention in the pavilion and surrounding gardens.

Darkness

When everything was just floating energy in complete darkness...

Maybe you remember, which choices you made here?

And what you chose to rehearse and to learn in this life?

How much did you dare to risk in order to grow?

How much darkness did you absorb?

Do you remember?

theatre of glowing darkness is a large-scale installation that uses darkness, light projections, glass, sound and a recorded dialogue between three imaginary positions: Dark River, Midwife, and Seed, to explore darkness as a condition of healing and reconciliation, an integral part of the natural cycle of death and rebirth. Roepstorff's mystical darkness promotes awareness that individuals can change by applying new ways of thinking.

Using the pavilion itself as a sculptural form, the artist has physically deconstructed the building's borders to mediate with her surrounding landscape intervention; national territory is opened up to foreign elements: windows and sections of walls are removed, so there are no longer limits between inside and outside, culture and nature, art and the world. Re-engineering the surrounding garden so that the landscape raises and encroaches into the gallery space, Roepstorff has re-conceived the pavilion as a locus of regeneration, heralding a dawning era.

The exhibition is accompanied by a booklet with contributions by Angela Rosenberg, Sepake Angiama, Solvej Helweg Ovesen and Ute Meta Bauer. The four contributors form the Consortium for the exhibition project, and have acted as a "sounding board" for the artist throughout the projects development. They were asked to respond to the topics of the project through texts that take the form of essays or more abstract forms of prose.

Duration of *theatre of glowing darkness*: 32 minutes.

Biography and selected exhibitions

Born in 1972, Kirstine Roepstorff lives and works in Fredericia, Denmark. She graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen. Roepstorff's artistic practice consists primarily of mixed media collages pointing out existing power relations, and critically investigating the history and failures of political ideas. By editing and decomposing original materials, her work generates new contexts that open up spaces for negotiation and new narratives. Roepstorff's practice is situated in those "in-between" spaces of negotiation.

Selected solo exhibitions: Andersen's Contemporary, Copenhagen, DK (2016); Kunstverein Göttingen, DE (2014); Kunstpalais Erlangen, DE (2013); Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Kunstmuseum Basel, CH (2010); The National Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Oslo, NO (2010); Galerie am Taxispalais, Innsbruck, AT (2010)

In recent years, Kirstine Roepstorff has created several large-scale public art projects, including "Kolding Hospital" at Sygehus Lillebælt (2017); "The Gong" for Dokk1 in Aarhus, DK (2015); and "Klangfrø" for the Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics at the University of Copenhagen, DK (2014). Her work is included in the permanent collections of Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA; The Saatchi Gallery, London, UK; National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo, NO; National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen, DK among others.

The Danish Arts Foundation and La Biennale di Venezia

The Danish Arts Foundation Committee for Visual Arts Project Funding is the Commissioner of the Danish pavilion and has appointed the artist Kirstine Roepstorff to represent Denmark at the 57th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia. The Committee consists of Gitte Ørskou (chair), Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussen, Bodil Nielsen and Jacob Tækker.

Press Information

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Press conference: May 10, 12pm at the Danish Pavilion

Opening: May 11, 11.30am at the Danish Pavilion

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