



**Pavilion of Argentina
at the 58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia**

PRESS RELEASE

El nombre de un país - “The Name of a Country”

Artist: Mariana Telleria

Curator: Florencia Battiti

Commissioner: Sergio Baur

Pavilion of Argentina, Sala d’Armi, Arsenale

May 11 to November 24, 2019

Opening and special press tour: Wednesday 8th May, 4 pm, Sala d’Armi

With her project *El nombre de un país* (“The Name of a Country”), Santa Fe-born artist Mariana Telleria was elected, via an open call process, to represent Argentina at the 58th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, accompanied by curator, art historian and educator Florencia Battiti.

For the first time ever, the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, through the Directorate of Cultural Affairs, effected a public and open call of distinct federal nature, receiving 68 proposals of Argentine artists from different parts of the Country.

El nombre de un país abridges each and every sediment pertaining to Mariana Telleria’s conceptual and operational world. Composed of seven monumental sculptures that act up as a punk, Frankenstein-esque bestiary, this project presents itself as a support for an intuitive transformation of things; as an archive of desacralized meanings where religious iconography, rubbish, fashion, spectacle and nature share the same horizontal hierarchy.

"With these sculptures I am interested in taking off from the form itself of every object that orbits around these big structures; what I’m trying to point out is that the only natural thing’s actually the chaotic coexistence between living and inert objects, between culture and nature, between order and destruction. Each thing has its own soul, its formal imprint and its material history. There is tragedy in everything but in everything there is also life," says the artist.

In words of the curator, “when Telleria’s artworks set up a network between things and their imaginary worlds, she’s actually proposing unforeseen connections between the multiple signifiers of our culture (the sacred, the domestic, the urban, the natural), lightning up, by friction or by mere contact, new gleams of meaning.”



Mariana Telleria

Born in Rufino, Santa Fe Province, on October 19, 1979. In 1998 she moved to Rosario to study Fine Arts at the National University of Rosario (UNR).

She carried out site-specific projects, installations, individual and collective shows in various cities as well as in private and public institutions in Argentina and abroad. Among them are: Ficción primitiva, galería Ruth Benzacar, Buenos Aires (2018); Dios es inmigrante, BIENALSUR, Museo de la Inmigración, Buenos Aires, (2017); Repetition, Boghossian Foundation, Brussels (2016), "Tumba del soldado desconocido", Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Buenos Aires (2015), Las noches de los días, Museo Municipal de Bellas Artes Juan B. Castagnino, Rosario (2014), Some artists' artists, Marian Goodman Gallery, New York (2013), Queremos ver, Espacio Contemporáneo Fundación Proa, Buenos Aires (2013), El primer momento de la existencia de algo, River Plate Stadium. Ensayo de Situación II, arranged by the Art Department of the UTDT, Buenos Aires, (2013), Los ángeles, galería Ruth Benzacar, Buenos Aires (2013), The Ungovernables, New Museum Triennial, New York (2012), Mortal Kombat, Museo de Arte Moderno, Buenos Aires (2011), El nombre de un país, Galería Alberto Sendrós (2009).

She works and lives in Rosario, Argentina.

Florencia Battiti

Born in Buenos Aires on August 18, 1965. She is a curator, art critic and professor of contemporary Argentine and Latin American art. Since 2000 she serves as Chief Curator of the Parque de la Memoria, where she is responsible for the Public Art Program and the curation of the exhibition hall in which, for the first time in Argentina, shows by Bill Viola, Alfredo Jaar and Anish Kapoor took place. She is a professor on the MA in Curatorial Practices at Tres de Febrero University (UNTREF) and on the Art Department at the Torcuato Di Tella University (UTDT). Her field of study focuses on Argentine and Latin American art of the 20th and 21st centuries with a particular emphasis on the articulations between artistic practices, political practices, memories and human rights. In 2016 she won the Radio France Internationale & Radio Cultura Prize for the Promotion of the Arts in the Public Management/Institutions category for her Curatorial Program of the Parque de la Memoria. She is currently Vice President of the Argentine and International Association of Art Critics (AACCA) and a member of the curatorial committee of the BIENALSUR, International Contemporary Art Biennial of Latin America, promoted by the Tres de Febrero University.

She works and lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The exhibition is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Argentina.

OPENING:

Wednesday 8th May, 4 pm, in the Pavilion of Argentina, Sale d'Armi, Arsenale

Tomás Ferrari, Ambassador of Argentina in Italy and Sergio Baur, Director of Cultural Affairs from the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship will open the exhibition in the presence of the curators.

For further information and images about the exhibition at the Pavilion of Argentina, please contact:

Lucas Gioja

Embassy of Argentina in Italy

oja@mrecic.gov.ar

