

**Bosnia and Herzegovina Pavilion
at the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia**



Danica Dakić

Zenica Trilogy

Danica Dakić, representing Bosnia and Herzegovina at the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, will present a major solo exhibition of new work titled *Zenica Trilogy* at Palazzo Francesco Molon Ca' Bernardo in Venice. The exhibition will be on view from 11 May until 24 November, 2019. The official opening ceremony of the Pavilion of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be on May 9 at 6pm.

The artist was invited by an international curatorial team consisting of Anja Bogojević, Amila Puzić, and Claudia Zini appointed by the commissioning institution Ars Aevi Museum of Contemporary Art Sarajevo.

The participation of the Pavilion of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia is supported by the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, whose expert commission appointed Ars Aevi Museum of Contemporary Art Sarajevo to manage the Pavilion of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Venice. The project is also supported by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, Center for Contemporary Arts / pro.ba, Klassik Stiftung Weimar, and the Foundation for Cinematography Sarajevo.

The artist's new film installation *Zenica Trilogy* was realised with protagonists from the cities of Zenica and Sarajevo. The project is the result of collaboration with photographer Egbert Trogemann, producer Amra Bakšić Čamo, and composer Bojan Vuletić.

Zenica Trilogy will present three video works: *Čistač/The Cleaner*, *Zgrada/The Building*, and *Scena/The Stage*, as well as *Zenica Mapa/The Portfolio* – a print portfolio, reflecting on the contemporary post-transition reality in the Bosnian-Herzegovinian city of Zenica. Once one of the largest and most important industrial and modernist projects in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the urbanization and demographic developments of the so-called city of “mud and steel” were driven by the steelworks “Željezara”. The period after the Bosnian War (1992–95) left Zenica facing high rates of unemployment, extreme air pollution, as well as a general feeling of resignation among the population.

“In her approach to the Bosnia and Herzegovina Pavilion project Danica Dakić investigates the heritage of modernity, from Bauhaus to the utopian paradigms of international and Yugoslav socialist modernism. It exemplifies her search to reactivate utopian potentials by establishing a poetic relationship to the Bosnian post-war reality. Taking a cue from Walter Gropius' Total Theatre (1926/27) and extending it to a space for social activation, the dividing lines between stage and audience, the real and the imagined city, are dissolved. In dialogue with the grand architecture of the listed Palazzo Francesco Molon Ca' Bernardo exhibition venue *Zenica Trilogy* will generate complex new meanings”, the members of the curatorial team explain.

In her artistic practice, the Sarajevo-born artist Danica Dakić reflects on the poetics of human existence while collaborating with protagonists who often come from the invisible sections of societies. Using the media of photography, video, and installation, her work is based on performative and collaborative processes that explore concepts of cultural memory, language, and identity as well as their ongoing changes and utopian potentials. Taking architecture, a historical place, or images from (art) history as a starting point, together with the participants she creates stages on which individual images and narratives emerge that are far removed from political, social, and economic prerogatives.

“*Zenica Trilogy* addresses social and individual responsibility in the context of contemporary Bosnia and Herzegovina. In my mother tongue the word “Zenica” evokes the image of the pupil of the eye - a metaphor for something precious as well as a focal point. Together with the protagonists, I set out to investigate the possibilities and impossibilities of a transition between utopia and dystopia, between the past and the future”, says artist Danica Dakić about the new work.

Over the past twenty years Danica Dakić’s work has been exhibited at numerous international exhibitions. She first presented one of her most well-known works, *El Dorado*, at Documenta 12 in Kassel (2007). She has exhibited at the Istanbul Biennial (2003 and 2009), the Biennale of Sydney (2010), the Liverpool Biennial (2010), the Kyiv Biennale (2012), the Bienal de São Paulo (2014), and the Bienal de Cuenca (2016). Her solo exhibitions have been presented by major art institutions including Kunsthalle Düsseldorf (2009), Generali Foundation, Vienna (2010), the Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb (2010), Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2011), MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main (2013), Lehmbrock Museum, Duisburg (2017). Her works are held in the collections of the Centre Pompidou (Paris), the Generali Foundation (Salzburg), the Museum of Contemporary Art MACBA (Barcelona), the New National Museum of Monaco NMNM, and the Klassik Stiftung Weimar amongst others. Danica Dakić is a professor at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. She lives in Düsseldorf, Weimar, and Sarajevo.

The exhibition *Zenica Trilogy* will be accompanied by a catalogue with contributions by Ulrike Bestgen, Dunja Blažević, Anja Bogojević, Ana Janevski, Amila Puzić, and Claudia Zini.

Exhibition venue

Palazzo Francesco Molon Ca’ Bernardo
Sestriere San Polo 2184/A
30125 Venice, Italy

Opening Time

Tuesday to Sunday
10am – 6pm

Official opening

9 May 2019 at 6pm

Press Contact

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Find out more about the Pavilion of Bosnia and Herzegovina and download the full press kit at: www.labiennalebih.com

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