

French Pavilion
at the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia



DEEP SEE BLUE SURROUNDING YOU/ VOIS CE BLEU PROFOND TE FONDRE

A project by artist Laure Prouvost
Curator: Martha Kirszenbaum

For the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, the Minister of Culture and the Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs have appointed artist Laure Prouvost to the French Pavilion. Winner of the prestigious Turner Prize in 2013, the French artist with an international career - currently based between London, Anvers, and a caravan in the Croatian desert - has chosen the curator Martha Kirszenbaum to accompany her for this project for the French Pavilion: DEEP SEE BLUE SURROUNDING YOU/VOIS CE BLEU PROFOND TE FONDRE. It will open in Venice at the Giardini of the Biennale from May 11 to November 24, 2019.

The cornerstone of Laure Prouvost's artistic project DEEP SEE BLUE SURROUNDING YOU/VOIS CE BLEU PROFOND TE FONDRE is a fictional film. It takes the form of an initiatory journey, a joyous saga filmed over the course of a road trip through France — from the Parisian suburbs to the north of France, from the Palais du Facteur Cheval to the Mediterranean Sea — and finally to Venice. The film, which is full of dialogue and idioms that are representative of Laure Prouvost's work, is performed by a dozen characters encountered throughout the journey, of different ages and backgrounds, with specific performance skills, including magic, dance and music.

A sculptural installation *in situ* enriches and develops the themes of the film, inside and outside of the Pavilion, using typical processes of the artist's practice, such as leftover objects from the film, resin, clay, glass, plants and water vapour. Performances punctuate the life of the Pavilion, interacting with the architecture and objects on display.

The liquid state is a source of inspiration for the concept of DEEP SEE BLUE SURROUNDING YOU/VOIS CE BLEU PROFOND TE FONDRE, offering a metaphorical immersion into the stomach of a tentacular animal, and echoes the very context of Venice, a floating city built on water and by water.

The catalogue, edited by Flammarion, is a monograph that takes the form of an atlas, exploring and deepening Laure Prouvost's artistic practice by means of the Venetian project. The graphic design of the Pavilion and the catalogue is the work of In The Shade Of A Tree.

The French Pavilion at the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia is produced by Institut français, in close collaboration with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture. The executive production is carried out by ARTER.

DEEP SEE BLUE SURROUNDING YOU/VOIS CE BLEU PROFOND TE FONDRE benefits from the support of numerous partners who wished to engage themselves in the project for the French Pavilion at the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia: the Fondation des Artistes ; Les Abattoirs, Musée – FRAC Occitanie Toulouse ; LaM – Lille Métropole Musée d'Art Moderne, d'Art Contemporain et d'Art Brut ; Cité internationale des arts ; Galerie Natalie Obadia ; carlier | gebauer ; Lisson Gallery.

Images available :



Laure Prouvost
Courtesy of Alexandre Guirkingier



Laure Prouvost, film still, HR video, 2019
Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Nathalie Obadia
(Paris - Brussels), carlier | gebauer (Berlin) &
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Press contacts:

Brunswick Arts

frenchpavilion@brunswickgroup.com

Institut français

Director of communications and sponsorship

Jean-François Guégnanno

jeanfrancois.guegnanno@institutfrancais.com

