



Direzione Generale
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La Biennale di Venezia

58. Esposizione
Internazionale
d'Arte

Padiglione Italia

Italian Pavilion

58th International Art Exhibition
of La Biennale di Venezia
11 May – 24 November 2019

Neither Nor: The challenge to the Labyrinth
curated by Milovan Farronato

Enrico David, Chiara Fumai, Liliana Moro

Director General DGAAP and Commissioner Italian Pavilion
Federica Galloni

Neither Nor: The challenge to the Labyrinth is the title of the exhibition, curated by **Milovan Farronato** for the Italian Pavilion at the 58th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia in which three Italian artists are taking part, presenting completely new works along with ones from the past: **Enrico David** (Ancona, 1966), **Chiara Fumai** (Rome, 1978 – Bari, 2017) and **Liliana Moro** (Milan, 1961).

The Italian Pavilion will be inaugurated Friday May 10 at 12pm by the Minister of Cultural Heritage and Activities **Alberto Bonisoli** along with the President of La Biennale di Venezia **Paolo Baratta**, the Director General for Contemporary Art and Architecture and Urban Peripheries and Commissioner of the Italian Pavilion **Federica Galloni** and the curator **Milovan Farronato**.

The subtitle of the project alludes to “La sfida al labirinto” (“The Challenge to the Labyrinth”) a seminal essay written by Italo Calvino in 1962 that has been the inspiration for *Neither Nor*. In this text the author proposes a cultural work open to all possible languages and that feels itself co-responsible in the construction of a world which, having lost its traditional points of reference, no longer asks to be *merely* represented. To visualize the intricate forms of contemporary reality, Calvino turns to the vivid metaphor of the labyrinth: an apparent maze of lines and tendencies that is in reality constructed on the basis of strict rules.

Interpreting this line of thought in an artistic key, *Neither Nor* – whose Italian title, *Né altra Né questa*, already uses the rhetorical figure of the anastrophe to disorientate – brings up to date an artistic project of ‘challenge to the labyrinth’ that takes Calvino’s lesson on board by staging an exhibition whose layout is not linear and cannot be reduced to a set of tidy and predictable trajectories. The lines of approach and interpretations offered to visitors are multiple and copious, so that the exhibition gives them the chance to play an active role in determining the route they will take and thereby confronts them with the result of their own choices, accepting doubt and uncertainty as inescapable parts of knowledge.

The calendar of cultural events includes a series of talks in which the artists Enrico David and Liliana Moro and the philosopher Marco Pasi will take part. The filmmaker Anna Franceschini has

been entrusted with the documentation of the exhibition, which takes the form of an experimental short film with the title *Bustrofedico* ('Boustrophedon'). Produced by In Between Art Film and Spazio Gluck, it will be shown in Venice at the end of the exhibition.

A programme of educational activities aimed at the young students of academies and dance schools, promoted by the General Directorate for Contemporary Art and Architecture and Urban Peripheries (*DGAAP*) of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, will also be organized. The series of meetings, curated by Milovan Farronato, Stella Bottai and Lavinia Filippi, will be held in the spaces of the Italian Pavilion.

A major contribution to the realization of the Italian Pavilion has come from Gucci and FPT Industrial, main sponsors of the exhibition, and from the main donor Nicoletta Fiorucci Russo. Special thanks go to all the other donors, whose names are listed in the colophon, as they have also made a fundamental contribution to the project; we are grateful as well to the technical sponsors Gemmo, C&C-Milano and Select Aperitivo, which have provided generous support with their equipment.

The exhibition will be open to the public from Saturday 11 May to Sunday 24 November 2019.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

www.beniculturali.it

www.aap.beniculturali.it

www.neithernor.it

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ITALIAN PAVILION

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