



## Pavilion of KIRIBATI at the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

### Pacific Time - Time Flies

In Kiribati language **Ana tai te Betebeke - E biribiri te tai**

In the great vastness of the Pacific Ocean, the tiny island countries are barely noticeable on the map. One of these islands is the Republic of Kiribati, consisting of 33 paradise atolls with wonderful beaches. However, the rising ocean level caused by climate change is threatening the existence of Kiribati. The islands are in danger of disappearing into the Pacific Ocean forever.

The Republic of Kiribati Pavilion at the 58<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia reflects the endangered existence of the island country of Kiribati and the time we live in. According to Plato, in contrast to the impermanent nature of our world and objects within our world, forms and ideas are permanent. In the Kiribati Pavilion, you can see interlaced group artworks by 29 artists from different generation and genres of art. The presented art genres are: video, photography, interactive animation, performance, ready-made and installation. The artistic elements used in the artworks include sound, colour, light, space and material. The artist Kaeka Michael Betero uses photography and videos to represent the threat to homes and inhabitants. His authentic and genuine approach shows reality as it is. The Kairaken Betio Group uses dance to communicate their passion for life, dance and tradition. The elements of their performance are rooted in tradition in connection to modern performance approaches. Daniela Danica Tepes, a visual artist, connects all the artworks into an interactive installation in the form of a room in a Kiribati house, where the threat of inundation is ever present as the waves have already covered more than half of the window height. The room is filled with traditional items used by Kiribati inhabitants. The interactive installation turns on when visitors enter the room. As they move around the exhibition space, they awaken animated otherworldly dancers who mimic the visitors' movements. This art project discusses the issue of climate change and is designed as a reflection between the artwork, human presence and space.

COMMISSIONER Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kiribati, Pelea Tehumu

CURATORS

Kautu Tabaka

Nina Tepes

## EXHIBITORS

Kaeka Michael Betero

Daniela Danica Tepes

Kairaken Betio Performance Group; Teroloang Borouea, Neneia Takoikoi, Tineta Timirau, Teeti Aaloo, Kenneth Ioane, Kaumai Kaoma, Runita Rabwaa, Obeta Taia, Tiribo Kobaua, Tamuera Tebebe, Rairaua Rue, Teuea Kabunare, Tokintekai Ekentetake, Katanuti Francis, Mikaere Tebwebwe, Terita Itinikarawa, Kaeua Kobaua, Raatu Tiuteke, Kaeriti Baanga, Ioanna Francis, Temarewe Banaan, Aanamaria Toom, Einako Temewi, Nimei Itinikarawa, Teniteiti Mikaere, Aanibo Bwatanita, Arin Tikiraua.

## OPENING OF THE PAVILION OF KIRIBATI

10<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at Palazzo Mora at 17:00 presentation of the Republic of Kiribati and art project with Curators and Artist

10<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at Palazzo Mora at 18:00 opening with a banquet

## LOCATION

European Cultural Centre, Palazzo Mora, Strada Nuova 3659, Venice

## ORGANISER

Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kiribati

## COORDINATOR

Institute ERGO SUM, Institute for Contemporary Art and Culture

## COLLABORATORS

Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kiribati

Kiribati National Cultural Centre and Museum

Institute ERGO SUM, Institute for Contemporary Art and Culture

Global Art Affairs Foundation

European Cultural Centre

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

Dr. Karl H. Koch, Honorary Consulate of Kiribati in Brussels

Mr. Michael Ravell Walsh, Honorary Consulate of Kiribati in UK

AVA Academy of Visual Arts Ljubljana and dean Pepi Sekulich

## SPONSORED BY

VIDEA production

RPS

TIVA

## PRESS CONTACT

Nina Tepes [nina.tepes@institute-ergosum.org](mailto:nina.tepes@institute-ergosum.org)

## WEB PAGE

<http://institute-ergosum.org/kiribati-pavilion-2019/>

## FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/kiribatipavilion/>