



## A TEMPORALITY

Mongolia Pavilion

at the 58th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia

A unique cross-disciplinary project entitled *A Temporality* marks the third appearance of Mongolia at the International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, showcasing the sculptural installations of Los Angeles based artist Jantsankhorol Erdenebayar (Jantsa) and an interactive sound performance by Mongolian traditional throat singers, accompanied by renowned German artist Carsten Nicolai, aka Alva Noto. The exhibition is curated by Gantuya Badamgarav, Mongolian art patron, who commissioned and organized the first and second Mongolia participations at the Biennale Arte 2015 and Biennale Arte 2017.

Mongolian ancestors have tracing back over 3 millennia maintained a nomadic lifestyle where developments and the accrual of tangible creations, such as literature and art, were impeded due to the constant need for movement. Because of this limited context, oral traditions emerged and evolved as a principal means of expression and passed down through generations. With the progression of time, techniques of oral expressions acquired unique and complex forms, which are now registered as intangible cultural heritage of humanity by UNESCO.

Originally, Mongolians practiced throat singing as a means of communicating with their inner selves, surroundings and animals. Sounds differed depending on the environment and evolved minds, bodies and spirits of the people emitting them. Nowadays, an interaction between human-beings and nature is severely attenuated. Instead, man-made environments have been superimposed over centuries of natural relationships, resulting in concrete blocks, glass, panels, and asphalts, becoming the focal points of interaction. Bearing in mind this alteration and the earlier works of the artist Jantsa, which have focused on the transformations and adjustments of living and non-living things, the curator Gantuya commissioned an artist to create sculptural installations to complement the brick-walled, interconnected cramped rooms of the old Venetian house. In addition, she invited renowned German artist Carsten Nicolai aka Alva Noto to join the project and perform together with Mongolian throat singers to transform and translate the ancient mediums of oral expressions into a contemporary art form by interacting with the space created by Jantsa.

Born into a family of artists, Jantsa holds bachelor's degree from Hunter College, New York and is currently completing the MFA Program at the University of California, Los Angeles, CA. Greatly aware of his roots, Jantsa has always been intrigued by Mongolian tales, riddles, and proverbs and the intellectual communicative mindsets that have been constructed by his predecessors. He investigates the transformations of socially constructed taboos, rituals, superstitions and habits, and creates dialogue between the past and present. By juxtaposing

contemporary works with the spirit of the old Venetian house, the sculptural installations of Jantsa will offer viewers moments of fleeting forgetfulness and reminiscence, where artists can interact with the space and objects, and perform by emitting abstract sounds using traditional throat singing techniques and electronic music. The sounds will be installed in the exhibition space throughout the 58<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia period.

*A Temporality* aims to impose an ephemerality of moments within our perceptions. A paradoxical mixture of forms, materials and sounds mean to question socially constructed mindsets, and investigate different forms of resistance.

**Exhibitors:** Jantsankhorol Erdenebayar, with the participation of Mongolian throat singers N.Ashit, Kh.Damdin, A.Undarmaa, D.Davaasuren, Ch.Bayarjargal and guest artist Carsten Nicolai, aka Alva Noto

**Commissioner:** The Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Mongolia

**Curator:** Gantuya Badamgarav and **Co-curator:** Carsten Nicolai aka Alva Noto

**Pre-opening preview:** 10.00-18.00, May 8-10, 2019

**Official opening:** 17.00-18.00, May 8, 2019

**Performances:** Interactive sound performances by Mongolian throat singers, accompanied by guest artist Carsten Nicolai aka Alva Noto, 18.00-18.40, May 8 and May 9, 2019 at Mongolia Pavilion and on 10 May, 2019.

**Opening timetable:** 10 am to 6 pm, from May 11 to November 24 2019 (closed on Mondays, except May 13th, September 2nd and November 18th 2019)

**Organizers:** Mongolian Contemporary Art Support Association in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Mongolia

**Supporters:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Coproduction Fund of the Goethe-Institut, MIAT Mongolian Airlines, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, ifa - Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, Art Space 976 Ulaanbaatar, Alaqai LLC, Galerie EIGEN + ART Leipzig/Berlin, Pace Gallery.

**Address:** Bruchium Fermentum, Calle del Forno, Castello 2093-2090 (150 meters from main entrance of the Arsenale, in direction to Campiello Tana and Fondamenta della Tana)

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