

Subversion to Red

PRESS RELEASE



La Biennale di Venezia

58. Esposizione Internazionale d'Arte

Partecipazioni Nazionali

PAVILION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA AT THE 58TH INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION - LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA

The Pavilion of the Republic of North Macedonia at the 58th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia presents **Subversion to Red**, a solo exhibition by the artist **Nada Prlja**. Commissioned by **Mira Gakina**, the director of the **Museum of Contemporary Art Skopje**, the project is curated by **Jovanka Popova**, in collaboration with **Tevž Logar** and **Artan Sadiku**. The Pavilion is realised with the support of the **Ministry of Culture of the Republic of North Macedonia** and the additional support of other organisations, companies and individuals.

In response to **May You Live In Interesting Times**, selected by the curator **Ralph Rugoff** as the theme of the Biennale Arte 2019, **Nada Prlja's** project **Subversion to Red** provocatively stimulates the search for alternative forms of art and socio-political formations, by revisiting specific concepts and societal models from the past. The interdisciplinary exhibition, in which **installation and performative practices co-exist**, exemplifies the Macedonian artist's highly particular theoretical and visual approach in the world of art today.

Related to **Rugoff's** concerns about current conditions, **Nada Prlja's** project encourages a return to the 'forgotten' notions of idealism and ideology, as a form of motivation in contemporary society. It proposes a re-reading and de/re-construction of the postulates of **Marxist** theory and **Leftist** thought, in order to seek their compatibility with today's society, by introducing **subversive qualities** and the playfulness of the artist's practice, as a way of indirectly influencing reality.

In dialogue with the historically and culturally significant architecture of **Palazzo Rota Ivancich**, which reflects an era in decline, the exhibition evokes manifold new meanings. The project employs a variety of **artistic and non-artistic methodologies**, including an **experimental live art event Red Discussion 2**, featuring several contemporary thinkers and curators engaged in transformative practices, including **Charles Esche**, **Maurizio Lazzarato**, **Vlad Morariu**, **Chantal Mouffe**, **Laura Raicovich** and **Artan Sadiku**. They will jointly seek to find exit strategies from the current conditions of social precariousness, exploitation and violations, by defining alternative conditions to the "interesting times" in which we live.

Official opening
and Press Preview
8th May 2019 at 6.30 pm
following
Performative Artwork
Red Discussion 2
8th May 2019 at 7 pm

Venue
Palazzo Rota Ivancich
Calle del Remedio
Castello 4421
Venezia
(close to The Fondazione
Querini Stampalia)

Exhibition dates
11.05 - 24.11.2019
10 am - 6 pm
(closed on Mondays)

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Full media pack
and press images
www.2019northmacedonia-labiennale.art

The exhibition also includes the installation **Subtle Subversion**, that **redefines a series of historically significant artworks** from the 1960's that sought to escape from the strict framework of socialist realism through their modernist approach. The selected works are from the collection of **MoCA Skopje**, a collection of art and a museum both founded on the **notion of solidarity**, one of the key postulates of leftist thought and a key aspiration of this project.

The exhibition **Subversion to Red** does not support radical revolution and instead proposes that change can come through artistic actions and the subversion of theories, an approach that fosters the idea that everything is connected and amalgamated. The project is accompanied by an **Artbook** designed by the artist, entitled **Subversion to Red**, with essays by key theorists and curators, including a transcript from **Red Discussion 1**, featuring **Dave Beech, Hannah Black, Gail Day, Mark Fisher, Vlad Morariu** and **Nina Power** (performed at **Calvert 22 Foundation**, London).

Artist: Nada Prlja works primarily in the media of installation, live art and art in public space and she deals with the complex situations of inequality and injustice in societies, ranging from political to economic issues. Combining different media, her works are **multi-layered, site or condition-specific**, as exemplified by the projects **Advanced Science of Morphology**, Marble Arch, London, 2006, **Foreign Language for Beginners**, 8th Manifesta, Murcia, 2010, **Peace Wall**, 7th Berlin Biennale, 2012.

Her works have been exhibited at prestigious museums, galleries and exhibitions, including **Kunsthalle Krems**, **MoCA Skopje**, **White Cube**, London, **5th Moscow Biennale** (Film Program), **Palais de Tokyo**, Paris, **Lewis Glucksman Gallery**, Cork, **Hong-Gah National Museum**, Taipei, **28th International Printmaking Biennale**, Ljubljana, **Zacheta National Gallery of Art**, Warsaw. She graduated from the **Academy of Fine Arts** in Skopje and holds an MPhil degree from the **Royal College of Arts** in London. She currently lives and works between London and Skopje.

Commissioner: Mira Gakina is the director of **MoCA Skopje**, a curator and an art historian. She holds a PhD in Art Management.

Curator: Jovanka Popova is a curator at **MoCA Skopje** and at **press to exit** project space. **Curatorial collaborator: Tevž Logar** is an independent curator, he curated the **Slovenian Pavilion** at the **Biennale Arte 2013** and he was Head of Field Research for **NSK State Pavilion** in 2017.

Red Discussion 2 participants:

Charles Esche is the director of the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven, a curator and a researcher. **Maurizio Lazzarato** is a sociologist, philosopher, independent researcher and one of the editors of **Multitudes**. **Chantal Mouffe** is a political theorist. She holds a professorship at the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Westminster. **Vlad Morariu** (moderator) is a curator, researcher and a lecturer at Middlesex University. **Laura Raicovich** is a writer and art worker, former president and executive director of the Queens Museum, New York. **Artan Sadiku** is a researcher and theorist with a PhD in philosophy. He is theorist collaborator of **Red Discussion 2**.

The performance takes place on **May 8th at 7.00 pm** following the official opening of the Pavilion at **Palazzo Rota Ivancich**.

The Pavilion is realised with the support of

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