



Pavilion of the Republic of Seychelles at the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

The Pavilion of the Republic of Seychelles, located in the Palazzo Mora, and carrying the generic title 'DRIFT', will feature the work of two Seychellois artists, George Camille and Daniel Dodin.

Galen Bresson is commissioning the National Participation on behalf of the Seychelles Government and Martin Kennedy has been appointed as Curator, with Ilaria Isola administering the exhibition.

The Biennale Arte 2019 will see the artists present separate but complementary exhibitions in adjacent rooms at the Palazzo Mora, in collaboration with the European Cultural Centre. Both exhibitions will respond to the overall Biennale Arte 2019 theme, which is 'May You Live in Interesting Times'.

Camille and Dodin will use sculptural and embossed forms, audio soundscapes, painting, found objects and projections to explore issues around 'fake' news, with the artists questioning how we can be sure of the authenticity of what we read, see and hear through the media.

Camille will create a room dominated by a paper tsunami which will surge through the exhibition space, rising and falling with urgent and graceful fluidity. The installation – completely white – might initially appear to present a blanched and bleached world, yet in the spirit of the Biennale Arte 2019 theme this world contains visually subtle messages on how we, as media consumers, know what we know, or rather think that we know what we know.

Camille's waves, suspended and supported, will physically connect with both horizontal demarcations, and will be covered with embossed forms which reflect the artist's signature iconography - leaves, fishes, mammals and reptiles. Such things are relatively unambiguous – unlike the news with its dangerous instability, and which constitutes our modern day perpetual tsunami of info-noise.

Within Camille's created environment we are submerged in the collective echoes of our collective selves.

Dodin's installation plan concerns a different kind of drift – the journey of the ordinary Seychellois through a sequence of events which could be considered banal or unimportant. The work, which will mix film created with overlaid collages of archive and contemporary material with objects and painting, raises questions about fate and determinism as well as historical exploitation and a lack of individual (and collective) power.

Dodin elects not to distance the condition of past countrymen and women from those currently alive, suggesting that the currents of progress are perhaps not what they initially seem.



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58. Esposizione
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The installation indicates the artist's admiration for the courage and fortitude of 'ordinary' people who are making their way through life as best they can. There is no doubt that the work will represent myriad and unknowable personal struggles, and that these are struggles which Dodin holds in high regard. His enormous respect for the working man or woman is perhaps the most significant element in this proposed work.

As the Biennale Arte 2019 Curator Ralph Rugoff has stated, 'An exhibition should open people's eyes to previously unconsidered ways of being in the world and thus change their view of that world.'

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