



Pavilion of the Republic of Kosovo
at the 59th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

PRESS RELEASE

Artist: Jakup Ferri

Curator: Inke Arns

Commissioner: Alisa Gojani Berisha

Organization: The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Kosovo

Venue: Arsenale (Sale d'Armi), Venice

Website: pavilionofkosovo.com

The Republic of Kosovo is taking part for the fifth time in the International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia with a major solo exhibition of Jakup Ferri, opening on 23 April 2022 and running through to 27 November 2022.

The Kosovo Pavilion will be curated by Inke Arns, director of HMKV Hartware MedienKunstVerein in Dortmund, Germany (www.hmkv.de), and the presentation will take place in the Arsenale.

With *The Monumentality of the Everyday*, Jakup Ferri presents a large-scale site-specific installation displaying paintings, embroideries and carpets. While Ferri's works can be reminiscent of children's books, folk art, and so-called outsider art, his real inspiration comes from all kinds of otherworldly microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, fungi, archaea) as seen through an electron microscope.

The figurative paintings and embroideries are based on the artist's (slightly) surreal drawings depicting everyday life involving animals, children, acrobats and utopian architecture. There are poetic interactions between people, creatures and objects,

looking at each other and thus creating silent dialogues and suggesting new ways of communication between species.

The hand-woven abstract carpets with geometrical patterns, on the other hand, are based on Jip Ferri's (the artist's son) avatar designs from the computer game Animal Crossing. Ferri who for his textile works collaborates with women from Albania, Kosovo, Burkina Faso and Suriname considers carpet-making and embroidery as techniques of coherence and community building.

The Kosovo Pavilion at the Biennale Arte 2022 is commissioned by Alisa Gojani Berisha, Curator at the National Museum of Kosovo

- ENDS -

Team

Architecture

Studio Nitsche, Munich

Team: Philipp Nitsche, Johannes Boscher, Daphne Schorn

Coordinator & Local PR: Engjëll Berisha

Graphic designers: Diellza Veligi, Lira Gjiko

Embroidery and carpet manager: File Kola, Suzana Hoxha

International PR: Close Encounters PR, Nadia Fatnassi

German speaking media relations: Kathrin Luz Communication

Carpenter: Schreinerei Hans Schmidt, Munich

Painter: Ronny Völter Malerei Meisterbetrieb, Forstern

Paint supply: Rudolf Hensel GmbH, Börnsen

Light design: Claes Schwennen, Berlin

Installation: Skender Xhukolli

Bios

Jakup Ferri (1981, Pristina, Kosovo, based in Pristina and Den Haag) is a contemporary artist and professor at Pristina Art Academy. He studied at Pristina Art Academy and Rijksakademie in Amsterdam. In 2003 he received two prestigious awards in Pristina: the Muslim Mulliqi Prize and the Artists of Tomorrow Award. In 2008 he received the Buning Brongers Award in Amsterdam. He has been an artist-in-residence at numerous places, including the International Studio and Curatorial Program New York, Kultur Kontakt Austria. In addition to private collections, his work is also part of the collection of Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest. Ferri's work has been shown extensively at international (solo and group) exhibitions in museums and galleries, festivals and biennials, including Istanbul Biennial, Taipei Biennial, Cetinje Biennale, Kunsthalle Fridericianum; De Appel Amsterdam; The National Gallery of Kosovo, Ljubljana Biennial of Graphic Art, Art Rotterdam, The Centre for Historical Re-enactments, Johannesburg, South Africa, The Horse Hospital, London, De Hallen Haarlem, KW Institute for Contemporary Art Berlin...

Inke Arns, PhD, director of HMKV Hartware MedienKunstVerein in Dortmund, Germany (www.hmkv.de). She has worked internationally as an independent curator and theorist specializing in media art, net cultures, and Eastern Europe since 1993. After living in Paris (1982-1986) she studied Russian literature, Eastern European studies, political science, and art history in Berlin and Amsterdam (1988-1996) and in 2004 received her PhD from the Humboldt University in Berlin. She has curated many exhibitions – at the bauhaus dessau, MG+MSUM Ljubljana, Gallery EXIT Pejë, KW Berlin, Museum of Contemporary Art Belgrade, CCA Glasgow, CCA Ujazdowski Castle Warsaw, HMKV Dortmund, La Panacée Montpellier, HKW Berlin, Muzeum Sztuki Lodz, La Gaité Lyrique Paris, MMOMA Moscow, BOZAR Brussels, NCCA Yekaterinburg, exportdrvo Rijeka, a.o. She is the author of many articles on contemporary art, media art and net culture, and has edited numerous exhibition catalogues and books. In 2021-2022 Visiting Professor at the Münster Art Academy. 2022 Curator of the Pavilion of the Republic of Kosovo (artist: Jakup Ferri), 59th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia. (www.inkearns.de)

Alisa Gojani Berisha (Born in Prishtina, Kosovo 1979, lives and works in Prishtina) is a curator at the National Museum of Kosovo since 2006-present, Acting National Museum Director 2019. Studied at the University of Prishtina, Faculty of Fine Arts. Part of study visits abroad with the main focus on Museum Management IVLP, USA, Moving Museums UCL, UK, etc and presented workshops related to exhibitions and

public inclusion, adviser and consultant in BMN for access and inclusion. During her career she has been involved not just in participating but also managing international conferences and programs inside and outside the museum as well in the creation of the exhibitions and interactive educational programs with children; students and people with disabilities including a new sensation of Tactile Assess for visual impaired people, activities that have increased capacity of presentation at the National Museum and new methods have involved a wider audience in the Museum. Her main contribution is in promotion and interpretation of the culture and heritage with a new contemporary approach.

About the Kosovo Pavilion

The Republic of Kosovo has been participating at the International Art exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia with a national pavilion since 2013. Past presentations were composed of solo presentations of work by Petrit Halilaj (2013), Flaka Haliti (2015), Sislej Xhafa (2017) and Alban Muja (2019).

Press Inquiries

Nadia Fatnassi

International PR

+33 652 086 908

nadia@closeencounters.fr

Engjëll Berisha

Coordinator & PR

engjellberisha.jr@gmail.com /

kosovopavilion59@gmail.com

+383 49 218 423