

## **THE WINNING PROJECT WHICH WILL REPRESENT ALBANIA IN THE 57-TH EDITION OF THE ARTS BIENNALE OF VENICE, 2017**

The Ministry of Culture of Albania, on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016, selected the winner of the project which will represent Albania in the 57-th Edition of the Arts Biennale of Venice, 2017, with the project titled: “Occurrence in present tense”, submitted by Leonard Qylafi (Artist) and Vanessa Joan Müller (Curator).

This project was selected through expression of interest to an open call for proposals announced by the Ministry of Culture (5 October –1 December 2016) in its capacity as commissioner of the Albanian Pavilion. The international jury set up on this purpose and composed by: Marco Scotini, Julia Fabenyi, Flaka Haliti, Eleni Laperi, and Gëzim Qendro voted in majority for the “Occurrence in present tense” based on the judgment that this project meets all the criteria introduced in the open call.

The Jury found crucial that national Pavilion is represented by an artist that has the capacity to enact past history with contemporary views, research and practice. Qylafi brings into the exhibition paintings and personal documents by making a contrast between, individual stories and collective memory, in a political and yet a poetic approach. By creating its own temporality, Qylafi produces a strong and new iconicity that raises a lot of questions, making even more exciting the potential dynamics of narratives displayed.

### **THE ARTIST**

**Leonard Qylafi** is an Albanian contemporary artist (b.1980) working in different mediums such as; video, photography, music and painting. Qylafi studied Atelier of Painting in the Academy of Fine Arts in Tirana, Albania. He lives and works in Tirana, Albania.

### **THE CURATOR**

**Vanessa Joan Müller** is Head of Dramaturgy at the Kunsthalle Wien. She studied art history and film theory at the Ruhr University Bochum and holds a PhD in art history. She has published numerous essays and articles on contemporary art and theory. Vanessa Joan Müller lives and works in Vienna, Austria.

### **THE JURY:**

**Marco Scotini**, Art critic, curator and based in Milan. Scotini collaborates with art institutions, such as Flash Art. He has been the curator of many projects. His favorite themes are around art and politics, art and society. He has been the curator of many Biennials, such as in Italy, Prague, Berlin etc. Marco Scotini is the director of the Gianni Colombo archive in Milano, for which has curated the “Palazzo Reale” Exhibition in Milan, 2006.

**Gëzim Qendro**- Professor of History of Art in the “Polis” University. It’s one of the most distinguished personalities in the field of painting, film directing, and critics with a postgraduate study in the field of plastic arts. Author of “Socialist surrealism” book as well as other books: “The heroes are hungry”, He is a professor, art critic and has been Director of National Gallery for many

years.

**Eleni Laperi** is a visual art graduate of the Higher Institute of Arts in Tirana, today the University of Arts in Tirana. She is an art scholar, art critic and publicist.

**Flaka Haliti**, born in Pristina, Kosovo but lives in Munich, Germany  
She is co-author and author of various exhibitions in Kosovo and abroad. She is a PHD student in the Practice Program at Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna.

**Julia Fabenyi**, Director and Curator of Ludëig-Budapest Museum, Hungary. She is the chair of a board that selects projects for the Art and Architecture Venice Biennial for Hungary since 10 years now. She has been involved in Albania's recent developments in contemporary visual art, which was finalized with an exhibition titled "Ideale dhe vepra arti", a selection of works from the Ludëig Museum and exhibited in Albania's National Gallery from 24 June to 14 August 2016.

#### **Other Project Applicants:**

**"Don't know why are we dancing, but still doing it"**

Genti Korini (artist)

Nathalie Hoyos dhe Rainald Schumacher (curator)

**"Tregtari i skeletëve"/"The Merchant Of The Skeletons"**

Arbër Elezi, Lori Lako, Romeo Kodra (artist/curator)

**"Kapësja e ëndrrave" / "Dreamcatcher"**

Bujar Luca (artist)

Serge Plantureux (curator)