



In the Beginning ... the Word became flesh

Pavilion of the Holy See

Biennale Arte 2015

Arsenale di Venezia – Sale d’Armi nord

5-8 May 2015 Vernice

9 May – 22 November 2015

Press Conference

April 9th 2015, 11.30am

Sala Stampa Vaticana – via della Conciliazione, 54, Roma



The Holy See participates this year for the second time at the *Biennale d’Arte di Venezia*, with a Pavilion inspired by the New Testament. *In the Beginning ... the Word became flesh* is the theme chosen by the Commissioner Card. Gianfranco Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture, at whose request the theme of the “Beginning” has been developed, passing from the 2013 edition’s reference to *Genesis* to that of the Prologue of the *Gospel of John*. Curated by Micol Forti, the structure of the Pavilion is articulated around two essential poles: firstly, the transcendent Word, which is “in the beginning” and which reveals the dialogical and communicative nature of the God of Jesus Christ (v. 1-5); and then the Word made “flesh”, body, bringing the presence of God in humanity, especially where it appears injured and suffering (v. 14). The encounter of these “vertical-transcendent” and “horizontal-immanent” dimensions is the heart of the research. The two “tables” of the Prologue of John’s Gospel are the basic inspiration for the artistic creations of three artists, who have been chosen after a long selection, in light of some precise criteria: the consonance of their own journeys with the chosen theme, the variety of the techniques used, their internationality, diversity and geographic and cultural provenance, and above all the open and evolutionary nature of their work. Monika Bravo (1964) was born and raised in Colombia, and today lives and works in New York; the Macedonian Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva (1971), currently lives and works in London; the photographer Mário Macilau (1984), was born and raised in Maputo, Mozambique, where he lives.

The catalogue of the Pavilion, edited by Micol Forti and Elisabetta Cristallini, (Italian-English – Gangemi Editore), together with an introductory essay by Gianfranco Ravasi focusing on the theme of the Pavilion, contains texts by Micol Forti, Elisabetta Cristallini, Ben Quash, Octavio Zaya and Alessandra Mauro.

Criteria of sobriety and economy have guided the project and installation of the Pavilion, realised by architect Roberto Pulitani; the costs are entirely sustained by Sponsors who have made this important project possible.

The official inauguration of the Pavilion takes place in the presence of His Eminence Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi on Friday 8 May, at 4.30pm.

A specific App will be provided inside the Pavilion for more information to the public, while has already been activated a Twitter account for a further dialogue: @PadVat_Biennale.

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Images of the Holy See’s Pavilion may be downloaded from the following link: <http://ftp.labiennale.org>.
Account: biennale2015 - Password: biennale2015.