



Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva

Silentio Pathologia

Pavilion of the Republic of Macedonia

55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia

Preview Dates: Wednesday 29th, Thursday 30th and Friday 31st May 2013
Exhibition Dates: Saturday 1st June – 24th November 2013
Opening Times: Tuesday – Sunday: 10.00h – 18.00h

Launch & Press Event: Friday 31st May at 15.00h

Location: **Scuola dei Laneri**, Fondamenta del Gaffaro, Santa Croce 131, Venezia
Vaperetto: Piazzale Roma (Lines 2, 1, 41, 42, 51, 52)
San Toma (Lines 2, 1)
Traghetto: Sant'Angelo – San Toma (07.30h – 20.00h)

Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva has been selected by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia to represent the **Republic of Macedonia** at the 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia.

Elpida presents a major new installation work, ***Silentio Pathologia***, at the **Scuola dei Laneri**, commissioned by National Gallery of Macedonia Director, Halide Paloshi and working with National Gallery curator Ana Frangovska.

Silentio Pathologia draws upon her original proposal to the Macedonian Ministry of Culture, which reflects upon the movement, migration and impact of medieval plagues through Europe (and city states such as Venice) and considers contemporary concerns about international migratory illnesses such as coronavirus. This ambitious work will include pure woven silk, silkworm cocoons, albino rat skins, curtains of steel sheet and possibly, subject to permissions, live rats. Drawing upon her established and highly regarded practice of extended periods of working and embellishing multiple objects into large-scale art installations; Elpida presents a signature artwork for the 55th international Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia.

“What drives Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva? She has an almost sacrificial capacity for hard work, combined with a rare lack of squeamishness. There is an intense desire to find a fragment – somewhat like a fractal – that can be duplicated and endlessly spun into material.” (Alison Wilding, exhibition pamphlet, *We are Shadows*, published by Unit 2, London Metropolitan University, 2008)

Hadzi-Vasileva completed her MA in Sculpture at the Royal College of Art, London in 1998 and currently lives and works in Brighton, England. She has exhibited extensively and realised numerous commissions nationally and internationally, in gallery spaces, museums and within the public realm, most recently Pied à Terre Restaurant,

Continues....



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London; Gloucester Cathedral, Gloucester; Towner Gallery, Eastbourne; Kilmainham Gaol Museum, Dublin, Ireland; ArtSway's New Forest Pavilion at the 51st Venice Biennale and Public Room, Skopje, Macedonia.

"It is a slowly evolving, carefully considered and constructed body of sculpture. These and other of Hadzi-Vasileva's large-scale works involve repetitive, physical labour by the artist over extended periods of time. She gives herself to the material, and the material gives back. She gives the work the time it needs – and then quietly but insistently asks for the time of the viewer too." (James Lingwood, Co-Director of Artangel, introduction to Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva's website, 2013)

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Press Contact:

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Editor's Notes:

The National Gallery of Macedonia is organising the national pavilion of The Republic of Macedonia at the International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia for the sixth time (previous artists include: Svetiva, Shumkovski, Vangeli, Nanevski and Zero), confirming The National Gallery of Macedonia as experienced producers and organisers well acquainted with all aspects of a successful presentation in this administratively complex, but most significant visual arts festival in the world. www.nationalgallery.mk

Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva produces works, which are carefully balanced between the beautiful and the brutal (this can be paradoxical), and between transcendent and abject. She aims to make work that challenges and inspires the viewer and resonates with the surroundings. She usually employs locally significant or sourced materials, following personal and in-depth research responding to the physical site and utilising forms of repetition and manipulation. She chooses to use both scale and surprise to challenge the viewer to see the locality (and the world) differently.

Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva is also currently developing a new commission for MIMA and Engage as part of the Alexandra Reinhardt Memorial Award Artist Residency and a new work for the artSOUTH project at Mottisfont Abbey.

Visit: www.elpihv.co.uk for more information

Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva is represented by The Artists Agency (www.theartistsagency.co.uk)

The Pavilion of the Republic of Macedonia is funded by the **Ministry of Culture of Macedonia** and is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through **Arts Council England**.

The Pavilion of the Republic of Macedonia is also supported by:

- The Major of Kavadarci, Region of Tikves, Macedonia; IGM Trade, Macedonia; Detal Veld, Macedonia; Mepos Operativa, Macedonia; Tikves Vinery, Macedonia; Prof Dr P. Tzenov, The Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Sericulture and Agriculture Experiment Station, Vratsa, Bulgaria; Pero Bojkov, Architect; Gill Hedley, Curator; Mark Segal (The Artists Agency) and David Leggett, Taxidermist.
