



15^{ème} Biennale de la Mediterranée

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

The XV edition of the Biennial of young artists from Europe and Mediterranean will be characterized by a new format: a long journey through the Mediterranean that will involve different cities, as Thessaloniki, Rome and Casablanca, linked between them, who will organise events and workshop.

The present call is only dedicated to the selection of artists for:

- Thessaloniki: 7th October – 6th November 2011, Visual Arts (Urban Arts included), Applied Arts and Gastronomy.
- Rome: 18th -19th November 2011, Cinema and Literature.

The event is promoted by the Bjcem Association. For further information about the history of the Biennale, the Association and the Biennale 2011 please visit the website www.bjcem.org and www.sabreen.org

Please, read carefully to the following informations. You will find an introduction on the general theme of the event and then specific guidelines for each artistic disciplines.

Please refer to the technical form for the technical specifications

1. GENERAL THEME: “Symbiosis?”

The XV Biennale de la Mediterranée formulates its topic in the form of a question: *Symbiosis?*. Rather than reformulating the moral imperative at the heart of 'living together' (symbiosis), this project seeks to raise a number of questions, including:

- *How might we live together? Better, how to live together within different political modes of existence? How human self-fulfillment is advanced through symbiosis? Which are the informal means and channels that individuals act through? How is shared reality rearranged through expanded artistic practices?*

- *How does the recent march of political events in parts of the Mediterranean reorientate the conditions of living together in the Mediterranean basin? In what way the work of art can function as an inner mould of 'reading' the 'self' and the 'other'? What does technology and the new means of social networking promise?*

- *Are doubt and ambiguity, often associated with contemporary artistic practices, a means of generating a critical reflection on current distributions of roles and capacities, or are they rather a means of normalizing our schizophrenic engagement with the world?*

In that context, the notion of Symbiosis is regarded to define a renewed relationship with the 'other'; the 'other' might be transposed to nature and the rhetoric of viable development, to culture and the indefinite boundaries of art, to the materiality of the city that is being continually transformed, to the contemporary digital world, also radically transfigured, to the new economical and social crisis.

2. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

A) Visual Arts

- 3 good reasons to be part of this event:

The artists selected in visual arts will have the opportunity:

- to participate to a group show with 140 artists under 30, from 30 countries; the exhibition will be presented in Thessaloniki in different venues (for infos: www.bjcem.org) from the 7th October to the 6th November 2011, organized under the direction of the Makedonian Contemporary Art Museum; shipping of the artwork is provided by the organization;

- to publish their artwork in the common catalogue;
- to be invited for the opening of the event, staying for 3 days in Thessaloniki, participate to workshops and seminars, meet local and international artists and curators; all costs of travel and board and lodging are covered by the organization;

- Main selection criterias are:

The original interpretation of the theme “Symbiosis?”;
 The coherence of the proposed concept in relation to the actual trends of contemporary art;
 The capacity to raise questions and points of reflection in relation to the actual situation in the Mediterranean area.

Please, read carefully the following text, in order to get inspiration and better understand the curatorial framework of the exhibition.

“The “interrogative” theme “Simbyosis?” has to be considered in the specific frame of the visual arts as a question rich in significance. As all the questions, also this one opens an infinitive range of articulated possible answers, meditated and mediated by the language, in this case coincident with the forms of the creative expression and of the artistic production.

It’s therefore a multiform and various language, where signs and content are mixed up and that speaks to senses and mind inviting them to a wide and widespread reflection. Faced with the interrogative point Symbiosis? art can’t reply with assertive, closed and defined concepts. By its nature it defines instead a vast area of possibilities, a fluid landscape of visions, a sea of suspension in which answers are substituted by new questions, new openings toward the different possibilities of collective knowledge and sensitivity.

The suggested theme, focusing particularly on the issue of coexistence and on forms of common life, allows artists to question themselves on the actual world, reflecting in particular on the European continent and the Mediterranean basin. Territories that, in this particular moment, are crossed by intense and conflicting energies, optimistic pressures of the new revolutions and heavy pressures of new conflicts. On the one hand artists can look at the existence and the strength of communities, the principles of aggregation that bind them, the identity of groups, the real or virtual forms of cohabitation that regulate the tissue of the society, the utopias and projects on future, the constructive memory of the past; on the other hand they can focus on the elements of instability, tension, friction and lack of communication that rend the community, creating seemingly insurmountable barriers and distances. To look beyond, through, inside things and facts. To find new ways to understand the world in which we live. To propose new definitions of identity and otherness to suggest expressive practical and forms of communication that can break down the boundaries and embrace the differences”.

*Costanza Paissan, curator
 MACRO - Museo d’Arte Contemporanea Roma*

B) Applied Arts

- 3 good reasons to be part of this event:

The architects, designers and stylists selected in applied arts will have the opportunity:

- to participate to a group show with 45 artists under 30, from 30 countries; the exhibition will be presented in Thessaloniki in different venues (for infos: www.bjcem.org) from the 7th october to the 6th november 2011, organized under the direction of the University of Thessaloniki - Faculty of Architecture; shipping of the materials is provided by the organization; for fashion it is also expected a fashion show;

- to publish their projects in the common catalogue;
- to be invited for the opening of the event, staying for 3 days in Thessaloniki, participate to workshops and seminars, meet local and international talents and curators; all costs of travel, board and lodging expenses are covered by the organization;

- Main selection criterias are:

The original interpretation of the theme “Symbiosis?”;

The coherence of the proposed concept in relation to the actual trends of architecture, design and fashion;

The capacity to raise questions and points of reflection in relation to the actual situation in the Mediterranean area.

Please, read carefully the following text, in order to get inspiration and better understand the curatorial framework of the exhibition.

“Considering the most recent events, the question Symbiosis? is quite crucial. How many are indeed the shades connected to the sense of living together, of the many forms of life in common, spontaneous or dictated by emergency of social discomfort? Starting from this theme, it seems hard not to think about the changes ongoing in Northern Africa and in the Middle East and the following migration fluxes, an imposing phenomena that is necessarily determining a – although temporary – transformation of the landscapes in the Mediterranean basin.

In front of such events, architecture and, more in general, the activity of planning must be able to find answers, agile and flexible solutions that could quickly adapt themselves to the most various situations. And here the term Symbiosis can imply different facets: it can mean to live in contact, but also to collaborate, to keep a dialogue constantly open between the planners and the collectivity, the hosting places and cultures. Architecture, design and also fashion become therefore instruments for the definition of ideas, systems, social and cultural processes, linking planning to the sphere of interpersonal relations.

In this direction, the formation of heterogeneous working groups can be of help, if they are able to face matters determined by politics, economy, geography, the many fields of contemporary culture. This way, it is possible to act with extreme care and attention towards contexts even more distant from each other. In particular, a deep analysis of the area of action allows to individualize and strengthen the local specificities, such as materials, building techniques, social and cultural peculiarities.

When you find yourself acting in critical situations, due to conditions of more or less transitory uneasiness, it is more than ever important to imagine projects conceived as open combinations, willing to be interpreted, easily to be decomposed and reassembled on the basis of different exigences. It's a matter that, as far as architecture is concerned, extends itself also towards the need to build structures able to be inserted in residual spaces or urban interstices, able to reinterpret modalities and strategies of use of existing buildings or of entire passages of the city and of the landscape.

Architects and designer can deal with planning single works, but can also define themselves as agents of transformation of reality, encouraging the availability to participate and the inhabitants' creativity itself, in order to reinforce the sense of belonging towards the projects and the context”.

*Emilia Giorgi, curator
MAXXI Museum, Rome*

C) Gastronomy

- 3 good reasons to be part of this event:

The chefs selected will have the opportunity:

- to participate to a group event with food tasting with 13 talents under 30, from 13 countries; the event will be promoted in Thessaloniki during the Biennale, organized as a food festival in which will participate best greek chefs and food producer;
- to publish their recipes in the common catalogue;
- to be invited for the event, staying for 3 days in Thessaloniki, participate to workshops and seminars, meet local and international talents and professionals; all costs of travel, board and lodging are covered by the organization;

- Main selection criterias are:

The original interpretation of the theme “Symbiosis?”;

The coherence of the proposed concept in relation to the actual trends in gastronomy;

The capacity to raise questions and points of reflection in relation to the actual situation in the Mediterranean area;

- Please, read carefully the following text, in order to get inspiration and better understand the curatorial framework of the event.

Imagine taking a journey through our “disappeared” past civilization we might find that for thousands of years, the food used by man were the same ones used by us today. From the Neolithic to the ages of metals, from the Babylonians to Egyptians, Romans, Greeks, Etruscans, Phoenicians, all in different eras have the common need to eat and live together while enjoying the flavors of the table.

Cereals, pulses, milk and spices were the same for everyone, only the difference of cultures has turned these raw materials into different cheeses, breads of all shapes and into all kinds of oils.

It's amazing to think that these tastes were handed down for thousands of years and arrived intact to our days or at least until a few years ago.

Today the globalization, fusion of cultures and food let us forget the importance of cooking healthily and classic, preventing our palate to convey to the brain sensations of ancient cultures. Everyone knows that certain foods are healthier than others, that the orange is rich in vitamin C, that fish is rich in Omega 3 and so on. However, we are no longer able to create a real dish that creates a physical connection, forgetting that we are in complete symbiosis with what we eat; in fact we "are what we eat."

We should be able to find raw materials and have the pleasure of turning them into a classic and elegant dish, using our imagination and following our desires. Food is our life, as seed for the plant. Food unites us and gives us well-being, but seasonal produce must be used, to enjoy the best of it's natural scent, color and shape, to come in contact with it's beneficial effect. The smell of an apple for example has relaxing properties and can lower blood pressure, all this just smelling!

We grew up with the idea that seedless oranges are much more comfortable to eat, but foods are now hybridized and genetically altered to make our lives easier! But are we sure we made the right choice? The content of proteins and enzymes in the apple seed, for example, is higher than many foods for which we pay a lot of Euros and has also owned by antibacterial and infectious

In conclusion to be creative is good, but let's not forget the traditions, use the grains and cheeses as the main source and value the real founder of life, the seed, which represents union and life that must blossom. Stick to it, even if it's a plant, it's still a form of life.

*Alessandro Montedoro, Executive Sous Chef
Suzhou Marriott Hotel*

D) Cinema

- 3 good reasons to be part of this event:

The authors and directors selected will have the opportunity:

- to show their movies or similar in a group event with 30 talents under 30, from 30 countries; the event will be promoted in Rome from the 18th to the 19th November 2011, organized with the participation of the relevant independent cinema productions, in the venue of MACRO Testaccio, part of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Rome;
- to publish their films in a common catalogue with dvd and on a dedicated website;
- to be invited for the event, staying for 2 days in Rome, participate to workshops and seminars, meet local and international talents and professionals; all costs of travel and board and lodging are covered by the organization;

- Main selection criterias are:

The original interpretation of the theme “Symbiosis?”;

The coherence of the proposed concept in relation to the actual trends in cinema;

The capacity to raise questions and points of reflection in relation to the actual situation in the Mediterranean area;

- Please, read carefully the following text, in order to get inspiration and better understand the curatorial framework of the event.

The question of “Symbiosis?” stresses the ontological meaning of the term; the concept of living together (συν = together; βίος = life) based on the necessity of the parts to understand each other, though still remaining contradictory. In substance, we are not only asking ourselves whether it is possible to live together, but how to do so. And therefore how can art grasp this concept? The condition

that allows a symbiotic relationship is the existence of an intermediary space between the parts, whose philosophical origin is in the concept of a void or interval and art, due to its very nature, succeeds in “bringing to life” this space/non-space, a liminal place par excellence, in which there is no movement from one part to the other but one single exit where both parts meet.

Cinema’s potential in storytelling, vision and performance it is well suited to represent this third space. Nowadays knowledge and technology allow artists to explore this broader concept of symbiosis, forcing the media to push beyond the boundaries of use and work in a new liminal zone: the endless possibilities of new forms of art are experimented in machinimas or Alternate Reality Games (ARGs), which use 3D technology, computer graphics and videogames, or also Cinema 2.0 in which a film is created by internet users, thus exploring the countless potentialities of new forms of art. The theme of living together also allows to work out on the boundaries and conflicts that characterise the relationship with the otherness, working on both the form and the contents of works. Stories of immigration and assimilation, of adversity and triumph that revolve around the countries of the Mediterranean, almost as if this itself were another possible third space in which the parts may live together.

Technology allows cinema to go outside the movie theatre and enter the jumble of this other possible spatial interval of creativeness that is the internet. These considerations drive artists, filmmakers and fans of multimedia to cross the borders of the film experience to create more far-reaching visual works, re-imagining creative and productive processes in view of the change that is today emancipating the audiovisual field from the rituality of the classical relationship between the parts. This seems to be the most impelling requirement for the younger generations of artists that can, by no means, abstain from exploring the parts, the contradictions and the voids of cinema.

*Gaia Tridente,
Head of Programming, Europe
RomeFictionFest*

E) Literature

- 3 good reasons to be part of this event:

The authors selected will have the opportunity:

- to perform their readings in a group event with 40 talents under 30, from 30 countries; the event will be promoted in Rome from the 18th to the 19th November 2011, organized with the participation of relevant independent publishing companies, in the venue of MACRO Testaccio, part of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Rome;
- to publish their text in a common book and on a dedicated website;
- to be invited for the event, staying for 2 days in Rome, participate to workshops and seminars, meet local and international talents and professionals; all costs of travel, board and lodge are covered by the organization;

- Main selection criterias are:

The original interpretation of the theme “Symbiosis?”;

The coherence of the proposed concept in relation to the actual trends in writing;

The capacity to raise questions and points of reflection in relation to the actual situation in the Mediterranean area;

Please, read carefully the following text, in order to get inspiration and better understand the curatorial framework of the event.

Writing is a multiform body that creates a symbiosis between author and reader through the language that aggregates some aspects of life and art who live together. Language is the only bridge that can be established between different artistic species. Language means word, but also those voiceless aspects, gestural as an archaic expression, a neologism or a literary invention that give a corporeity to narrative fluency. Writing is a narrative hybrid made up of stories, music, art, life who belonging to the many worlds in which today we live (together).

In drawing up the text, we find the knowledge inserts in the word, translating into it meaningful segments. What is important for those who are involved in the construction of a written history, that find strength only in words, is to come into the lexical, grammatical and syntactical expression, identifying with it enough to make it independent.

It is the power of storytelling, that find in the modern world, among the twittering of Twitter and hundreds of pages long novels equal validity of content and narrative effectiveness, in a hyper-fast world where in whole regions of the earth the story of the reality is spread in different media communication, based in the same way on the strength of the word: as in the case of the Mediterranean, where it all begins with the story of the violent repression of the Maghreb countries, overflowing in the multimedia when shifts the focus on the flight and war, becomes art when extols everything and it's possible to imagine in another form the totality of the events.

Art finds in the word its forma mentis to give a start to the expressiveness, especially in a world where, through the updated status on social networks and through the blogging, we tell about ourselves. A beginning of everything, which inevitably follows the research of more information where also the other forms as photographs or videos go wild. The artist becomes his word: a symbiosis from which everything starts.

*Francesco Gavatora, blogger
social media manager, Scuola Holden Torino*

3. RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Participation requirements

Artists from 18 to 30 years old, living or coming from Palestine can apply for the selection without distinctions. In the selection process will be given priority to artists that have never attended the event. Artists that have participated in more than one edition of the event can't apply for the selection. The participation is free of charges.

2. Selection procedures

The selection of participants will be carried out by local and national juries of experts in different areas. Each jury will select the artists on the basis of works presented. The decisions of each jury is final and not subject to appeal. They will be documented in a report, presenting the reasons of the choice of artists. Quality of work and the bearing on the guidelines will be basic selection criteria.

3. Modality of Participation

In order to participate in the Call for participants should present the following materials:

- curriculum vitae and portfolio, with the personal data of the artist or the members of the group, portfolio;
- a completed and signed application form;
- the technical form filled in;
- useful documentation as videos, sketches, images, etc.

4. Return of the material

The material sent by the artists in their application will not be returned to them.

5. Acceptance of the rules

The presentation of the candidature of the artist automatically implies the complete acceptance of the present regulations and the approval of reproduction of the pictures, visual and video of the selected works in the informational and promotional materials related to the event or the artists.

6. Obligations of the organisation

The Bjcem Association and the local organisers will take care of artworks sending and insurance, artists participation (flights, borad and lodging), artworks set up. No fee will be provided for the participation.

7. Rights of the organization

The participants agrees to non-exclusive right of the BJCEM, only for promotional and non commercial use, to publish and duplicate images, videos texts and other form of documentation of the selected artists and artworks. These productions will be promoted under the logo of the Biennial 2011.

8. Terms and place of applications submission.

All material can be sent also in digital copies.

AGREEMENT TO PROCESSING PERSONAL DATA

Taking note of the previous informative and referring to the normative discipline in relation with the processing of personal data.

I agree

I do not agree

to the processing for the purposes described at point 1 of the informative.

to the communication of same data to categories of subjects indicated on point 4 of the informative,

to the transfer of data abroad as indicated on point 5 of the informative.

Data subject Name and Surname

(legible signature or scanned signature)

N.B. the performance of the agreement to the processing of personal data is necessary to participate in the event.

For further information, please contact: (nahida@sabreen.org)