

An Event-Filled Biennale

The sixth edition of the **International Biennale of Contemporary Art in Florence**, which will take place from 1st-9th December 2007, offers a rich calendar of collateral events.

The sixth edition of the **Florence Biennale of Contemporary Art** will take place at the historic Fortezza da Basso from 1st - 9th December, 2007. 840 artists coming from 76 countries will be exhibiting more than 2,500 artworks and there will be an extraordinary meeting of cultures, languages and diverse artistic styles. The actress **Anne Archer**, Ambassador of the association **Artists for Human Rights** is coming to Florence to award the Biennale for its support of the United Nations program "Dialogue between civilizations", to which the Biennale has officially adhered since 2001.

The Biennale will also see the presence of important artists: **Gilbert & George** will receive the "**Lorenzo il Magnifico**" prize for their career. In the 2005 edition, it was conferred to Christo and Jeanne-Claude and to Richard Anuszkiewicz and in 2003 to David Hockney. On the wave of the exceptional success dedicated to their work at the Tate Gallery in London, Gilbert & George will come to Florence together with **Tim Marlow**, Exhibitions Director of the White Cube Gallery London, founder of the *Tate Magazine*, and currently a collaborator on Channel Five, writing for important British newspapers such as *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent on Sunday*, *Art Monthly*, etc.

Gilbert & George will meet the 840 artists participating at the Biennale and visitors to the Biennale, as part of the rich calendar of conferences, meetings and video projections (one of which to be shown is a video directed by Gilbert & George themselves).

The art and life of **Frida Kalho** and of **Tina Modotti** will be presented in two conferences given by **Gregorio Luke**, past Director of the MOLAA of Long Beach and member of the International Jury of the Biennale.

Ars Electronica Center from Linz, Austria is a museum dedicated to digital art. They organize the *Prix Ars Electronica*, the *Ars Electronica Festival* and the *Ars Electronica Futurelab*. Ars Electronica will have a 300m² digital art and interactive video space at the Biennale where they will be inviting the visitors to enter into a virtual reality.

The **International Jury** that assigns recognitions and awards to the invited artists is composed of distinguished figures such Elza Ajzenberg, exhibition curator of the MAC, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sao Paolo, Brazil; Dominique Edouard Bachelier, art history professor and art critic, Paris; R.B. Bhaskaran, past President of Lalit Kala Akademi, India; Pasquale Celona, President of the Biennale,

Florence; Piero Celona, Vice president of the Biennale, Florence; Stefano Francolini, art historian and Restoration Director at the *Opificio delle Pietre Dure* Museum, Florence; Gregorio Luke, past Director of the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) Long Beach, California; David Rubin, curator of the San Antonio Museum of Art, Texas; Matty Roca member of AICA and President of the Arts Corporation in Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico; Rosa Tejada, educator at the Metropolitan Museum, New York; and Emmanuel von Lauenstein Massarani, Artistic Director of the Biennale, art critic, political ambassador and Artistic Director of the Parliament Museum in San Paolo, Brazil.

The Florence Biennale is organized by Arte Studio.

Calendar of Events

Saturday 1 December at 11.30am Opening Ceremony

Sunday 2 December at 5pm Maurizio Vanni and Gerfried Stocker will present "Hybrid moments", the Ars Electronica Center space at the Biennale

Monday 3 December at 5pm Conference on Tina Modotti given by Gregorio Luke

Tuesday 4 December at 5pm Gilbert & George will receive the "Lorenzo il Magnifico" award and, together with Tim Marlow, will meet the artists and public.

Thursday 5 December at 3.30pm "Let there be the light" conference given by David Rubin

Friday 7 December at 11.30am "Abstraction in sculpture" conference presented by Paul Lorenz

Saturday 8 December at 11.30am Lecture on Frida Kalho given by Gregorio Luke
at 3pm Anne Archer will introduce and present the *Artists for human rights Association* award to the President of the Biennale

Sunday 9 December at 3.30pm Award Ceremony

For further information: www.florencebiennale.org

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