



**UniCredit Venice Award:  
the Serbian artist Dragoljub Raša Todosijević  
wins the Contemporary Arts Prize**

Venice, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011. Today at Palazzo Grassi, **the winner of the UniCredit Venice Award** was announced, in the presence of Gianni Franco Papa, Head of the CEE Division UniCredit, Jean Claude Mosconi, Head of Artistic and Cultural Advisory UniCredit, and Walter Guadagnini, Chairman of the “UniCredit for Art” Scientific Commission.

The winner **Dragoljub Raša Todosijević** was selected by the UniCredit Jury, made up of members of the Scientific Commission – Walter Guadagnini, Luca Massimo Barbero, Lorand Hegyi, Angelika Nollert – as well as UniCredit’s Top Managers on the basis of his innovation and creativity, citing the following motivations:

*“The Jury decided to attribute the award to the Serbian artist Dragoljub Raša Todosijević. The exhibition manifests a profound vision of history and of the challenge to ideologies in Central Eastern Europe, one which is communicated through a strong personal approach. At the heart of his works there lies the moral engagement of the contemporary artist. His artistic praxis bonds together past and present, and reflects his authentic participation in the contemporary discourse – stated **Walter Guadagnini, Chairman of the “UniCredit for Art” Scientific Commission.** Like many artists of his generation, his aesthetic thinking has been shaped on the basis of his critical approach to Balkan history and politics. The whole pavilion features a coherent installation, involving retrospective elements as well as recent works, meaning that the installation is in fact an open process”.*

The winning project will be awarded a form of recognition worth **€150,000**, thus allowing the work to **be included in the UniCredit Collection**. The work will then be **given on long-term free loan to one of the most important Serbian contemporary museums**.

The UniCredit Venice Award is the contemporary arts prize set up by the Group in February 2011, and which in this first edition attracted candidacies from **eight Countries from Central Eastern Europe** where UniCredit is present: **Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey**.

The final selection was made from five of the above Countries: **Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Serbia and Turkey**.

The **Unicredit Venice Award** underlines once more the support and commitment to culture and the very future of contemporary art shown by the Group: always on the avant-garde, and a key player in the evolution of the international artistic scene.

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