



UniCredit Venice Award: the five countries entering the final round of the Contemporary Arts Prize

Milan, Monday 16th May. **The UniCredit Jury**, made up of members of the Scientific Committee – Walter Guadagnini, Luca Massimo Barbero, Lorand Hegyi, Angelica Nollert – as well as UniCredit's Top Management, **have now announced the five finalists of the UniCredit Venice Award**, selected on the basis of their innovation and creativity, based on the following motivations:

“When weighing up all the candidacies, the pavilions identified are those which – for various reasons – best reflect the spirit of the Award. The choice is in fact meant to underline the quality and the originality of the entire exhibition project, both in terms of the works on show and the critical choices underlying them. Of particular interest in all five of the Pavilions chosen was the choice of working across the borders between various different artistic disciplines and of addressing themes bound up in the everyday experience of the world, albeit from highly diverse points of view.”

The UniCredit Venice Award is the contemporary arts prize set up by the Group and which involves **eight Countries** of Central and Eastern Europe in which the UniCredit Group is present: **Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Serbia and Turkey.**

The five finalist Countries are:

for **Croatia** the artist Antonio G. Lauer, also known as Tomislav Gotovac, and the BADco Collective, selected by the curatorial committee What, How and for Whom/WHW, with the project “One Needs to Live Self-Confidently...Watching”: an installation of films and photographs that reflects on ways of observing, underlining the manipulatory power of images, capable of changing the gaze through which reality is observed.

For **the Czech Republic and Slovakia**, there is the artist Dominik Lang and the curator Yvona Ferencová, with the project “The Sleeping City”. The title is also that of a work by Jiří Lang, Dominik's father and Czech sculptor, who came to the fore in the 1960s but whose fame then waned. Dominik, conversing with his father's sculptures, which have been left “asleep” and imprisoned in his studio, creates a display that his father was never able to create, intervening on the classical spaces of the Czech Pavilion.

For **Estonia**, the artist Liina Siib and the curator Johannes Saar, with a project entitled “A Woman Takes Little Space”: a large site-specific installation, a house with six rooms linked together conceptually, which through video and photography, with real portraits of women, examine women's condition in contemporary Estonian society.

For **Serbia**, the artist Todosijevic Dragoljub Raša and the curator Zivko Grozdanic, present the project “Light and Darkness of Symbols”: an installation of objects, photographs and newspapers which make direct reference to the general ILLUMInations concept of the



Venice Biennale. The artist reconsiders the identity of the Serbian Pavilion, examining the relationships between form and content, symbol and message, in a journey through the world of ideas, with all its lights and shadows.

For **Turkey**, the artist Ayse Erkmen and the curator Fulya Erdemci present the project entitled Plan B: an installation which describes a complex and ineluctable relationship between Venice and water. The project transforms a room in the Arsenale into a great water purifier, which draws in liquid from the canal and – after passing it through a complex circuit of tubes and filters (in which visitors get caught up in an trip over) – emits clean water once more into the canal.

The last appointment in this contest will be held on **Friday 3rd June 2011** at **Palazzo Grassi** in Venice, with the announcement of the winning project, which will be awarded a form of recognition worth **€150,000**, thus allowing the work to be included in the **UniCredit Collection**. The project will then be given on **long-term free loan** to an important contemporary art museum in the artist's country of origin.

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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