



JASMINA CIBIC PRESENTS A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE:

"WE'VE KNOWN ALL ALONG IT WOULD BE HARD TO PUT ANYTHING ON THESE WALLS"

4 – 7pm, 30 May 2012

GALLERIA A+A, SLOVENIAN EXHIBITION CENTRE
SAN MARCO, CALLE MALIPIERO 3073, (NEXT TO PALAZZO GRASSI), VENEZIA 30124

THIS PERFORMANCE FORMS PART OF A SPECIAL PROGRAMME OF EVENTS
TO LAUNCH THE PROJECT FOR OUR ECONOMY AND CULTURE

SLOVENIAN PAVILION, LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA, THE 55TH INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION
1 JUNE – 24 NOVEMBER 2013

Two of Slovenia's leading actor/dance performers, Primož Bežjak and Gregor Luštek, will take part in a specially conceived performance to launch Jasmina Cibic's presentation for The Slovenian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale. Bežjak and Luštek will enact the hanging of artworks drawn from the official art collection of the Slovene parliament, which form a central part of Cibic's project. In a subtle choreographed routine, echoing the real-life movements of museum officials as they position artworks, this performance will bind together all the elements that make up the complex web of Cibic's pavilion installation.

Bezjak and Luštek will be dressed in an 'official uniform', created by Slovenian designer Sanja Grcić, and represent the omnipresent, omniscient guardians or custodians of art, further reinforcing the notion of major art institutions as elite art depositories. The design of the 'uniforms' is strongly reminiscent of 1950s officialdom, emphasizing Cibic's preoccupation to a specific 'heroic' era of modernism and foregrounding this period's strong ideological charge. To add force to this, the pattern of the material used to create the uniforms, consists of multiple illustrations of an endemic Slovenian beetle, *The Anophtalmus Hitler* and reflects the design of the wallpaper used to cover the entire interior of the pavilion, so that our visual field is saturated. The beetle's problematic moniker (designated in 1937 by German collector, Oscar Scheibel, in 'honour' of Adolf Hitler) resonates with specific meaning and ensured - not surprisingly - that it failed to be adopted as a national icon. Coupled with the suggestive choreography, the performance poetically questions both the role of officials and the power of uniform, stamping the subjected/subjugated bodies with symbols of the institutional apparatus in general and reflecting particular regimes of power. It also exposes the legitimisation and mechanisms of producing and shaping knowledge through a selection of works drawn from a specific art history canon.

This specifically delegated performance offers the key that unlocks the reading of the whole installation and becomes Cibic's final act in foregrounding complex and entrenched ideological mechanisms whilst showing that their operations can no longer be taken for granted.

For further press information, images and interviews, please contact:

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana and Škuc Gallery present the work of Jasmina Cibic at the Slovenian Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia, the 55th International Art Exhibition. *For our Economy and Culture* is curated by Tevž Logar, artistic director of Škuc Gallery, Ljubljana.

Cibic's presentation for the Slovenian Pavilion, *For our Economy and Culture* takes the curatorial directive of the 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia: *The Encyclopedic Palace* as a starting point to further explore systems and hierarchies of knowledge and presentation.

Using the architectural specificity of the Slovenian Pavilion, a repurposed private residence, and referencing state architectural strategies, Cibic will create an immersive multi-media installation that appropriates the entire space and explores issues around national representation and framing.

The Slovenian Pavilion at the 55th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia has been produced by the Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana and co-produced by Škuc Gallery, Ljubljana. The commissioner is Blaž Peršin. www.slovenianpavilion.net

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in Ljubljana, Slovenia in 1979, Jasmina Cibic studied at the *Accademia di Belle Arti*, Venice, Italy, before receiving an MA in Fine Art at Goldsmiths College, London, 2006. She is the recipient of prestigious awards including Bevilacqua la Masa (Venice 2002, 2005), The Trend Award for outstanding achievements in visual art in Slovenia, (2011) and Catlin Commission Award, (London, 2011).

Recent projects and exhibitions include: *Borderline*, Joanneums Museum Graz; *The Object of the Spectacle*, Galerija Škuc, Ljubljana; *U3 – 6th Triennial of Contemporary Art*, curated by Charles Esche, Museum of Modern Art Ljubljana; *The Secret of the Ninth Planet*, California College of the Arts, San Francisco; *Percorsi d'Arte*, Museum of Modern Art, Bologna and *Tourists Welcome*, Ljubljana International Airport. Forthcoming exhibitions include *U3- 7th Triennial of Contemporary Art*, (June 2013) curated by Nataša Bachelez-Petrešin, MSUM, Ljubljana and an artist's project for the 30th Biennial of Graphic Arts in Ljubljana, September 2013) curated by Dr. Petja Grafenauer. www.jasminacibic.org

ABOUT A+A GALLERY: SLOVENIAN PAVILION

A + A | Slovenian Exhibition Centre has operated in Venice since 1998 and is one of the first transnational forums dedicated to the promotion and development of Slovenian culture and identity for the 21st century. In the course of its operation, A plus A has been primarily collaborating with the Ministry of Culture, promoting a multitude of international projects with partners such as the European Union. It is the official seat of the Slovenian Pavilion at the international Venice Biennial. www.aplusa.it

SLOVENIAN PAVILION ADDRESS:

Galleria A+A, Slovenian Exhibition Centre
San Marco, Calle Malipiero 3073,
Venezia 30124, Italia (next to Palazzo Grassi)

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HOW TO REACH US:

Vaporetto line 1, destination to S. Marco, Lido
(from P.le Roma or Ferrovia), stop: Sant' Angelo
Vaporetto line 2, destination to S. Marco
Giardinetti (from Tronchetto or P. le Roma),
stop: San Samuele

OPENING TIMES:

Preview days:
May 29 to May 31, 2013 – 10 am to 8 pm

First week of the Biennale:
June 1 to June 7, 2013 – 10 am to 8 pm

June 7 to November 24, 2013
Contact the gallery for opening times

SLOVENIAN PAVILION
AT 55TH INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION,
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA

FOR OUR ECONOMY AND CULTURE

1 JUNE – 24 NOVEMBER 2013

Artist: Jasmina Cibic

Commissioner: Blaž Peršin, Director of Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana

Assistant Commissioner: Marija Skočir, Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana

Curator: Tevž Logar

Curator's Assistant: Vladimir Vidmar, Škuc Gallery

Architecture Consultant: Mateja Šetina

Visual Arts Consultant: Manca Bajec

FINANCED BY:



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Oscar Wilde

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