



la Biennale di Venezia

55. Esposizione  
Internazionale  
d'Arte  
Partecipazioni nazionali

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THE SLOVENIAN PAVILION  
AT 55TH INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION,  
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA,  
PRESENTS THE WORK OF JASMINA CIBIC  
FOR OUR ECONOMY AND CULTURE

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1 June – 24 November 2013

PREVIEWS: 29 – 31 MAY 2013

MEDIA/PROFESSIONAL VIEW: 3 – 6 PM, 30 MAY 2013

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The Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana and Škuc Gallery are proud to present the work of Jasmina Cibic at the Slovenian Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia, the 55<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition. Cibic's project entitled **FOR OUR ECONOMY AND CULTURE** is curated by Tevž Logar, artistic director of Škuc Gallery, Ljubljana.

Currently based between London and Ljubljana, Jasmina Cibic is one of a new generation of Slovenian artists whose practice, although acutely conscious of a specific national political, cultural and artistic lineage creates a very distinctive language of its own. Whilst she clearly shares and addresses some of the same theoretical and political concerns present in the work of other artists from a post-communist Europe, Cibic operates within a global rather than nationalized discourse. Her work is generally site and context specific, performative in nature and employs a range of activity,

media and theatrical tactics to redefine or reconsider an existent environment or space. She has specifically conceived works in 'non-places' such as airports, waiting rooms or aircrafts, which are characteristically anonymous, transitory and without any established identity or fixed nationality. As a result they evoke a very singular relationship with the visitor/spectator - something that is key to Cibic's artistic investigations.

Cibic's presentation for the Slovenian Pavilion, *FOR OUR ECONOMY AND CULTURE*, continues her interests and methodologies and takes the curatorial directive of the 55<sup>th</sup> 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.

Into this context, Cibic places a variety of elements, which further examine modes of exchange, reception and constructions of identity. These include two films, shot on official state locations, which underwent numerous redesigns concurrent with national cultural and political imperatives. The films present philosophical and architectural theories of purpose, form, function and aesthetic priorities through, in one, a staged interview between a (male) architect and (female) journalist, and in the other, a recreation of a 1957 parliamentary debate set up to decide which artworks might be suitable (i.e. nationally representative enough) to 'decorate' the newly built People's Assembly. In each film, the re-imagining and re-contextualising of such issues, dramatizes not only the power paradigms inherent in systems of authority, but also the explicit contradictions present in the transmutation of a national identity from past to present, place to place.

*FOR OUR ECONOMY AND CULTURE* also features a series of historical and contemporary paintings of flower arrangements drawn from the official art collection of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia. Such paintings are routinely selected to decorate the current government offices, literally framing MP's as they hang behind their heads and presenting a particular ideal of state image. By utilising these apparently neutral and decorative images within the context of her installation, Cibic further articulates her interest in art as 'souvenir' a token of national identity. As a further framing device, the interior of the pavilion will be entirely covered with wallpaper carrying obsessively repetitive scientific illustrations of an endemic Slovene beetle, a 'failed' national icon that has almost been completely exorcised solely because of its ideologically charged name, *Anophthalmus hitleri*.

Of her practice, Cibic says: 'I am interested in exploring the architectural apparatuses of the exhibition space itself, the ideological constructs behind such a space, the operative mechanisms that define its character and values as well those that frame the works' reception. I want to construct theatrical interventions and events, *mise-en-scènes*, which open up a dialogue between their origin and the place in which they are ultimately received. The idea of the spectator as an accidental or even 'faux' tourist fascinates me, as does the way that an artwork within a specific often displaced architectural framework, becomes a souvenir object par excellence – a fetish of the original experience'

*FOR OUR ECONOMY AND CULTURE* will be accompanied by an extensive publication, and further presents a conference in Autumn 2013.

The publication will include in-depth texts by Lina Džuverović, Dr. Nika Grabar, Dr. Petja Grafenauer, Tevž Logar, Dr. Suzana Milevska, and Dr. Jane Rendell and also feature a range of visual material and documentation of the project itself.

The conference, convened by curator and writer, Lina Džuverović in collaboration with Jasmina Cibic and Tevž Logar, aims to further explore key themes raised in the presentation and further contextualize the project within an international framework of contemporary art and theory.

The Slovenian Pavilion at the 55<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

Website of the artist: [www.jasminacibic.org](http://www.jasminacibic.org)

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

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

- Full Artist Biog/CV, Curator and Commissioner Biographies available on request
- PROJECT LAUNCH RECEPTION:  
7 May 2013, 6.30 – 8.30 pm  
Calvert 22 Foundation  
22 Calvert Avenue  
London E2 7JP  
UK  
  
RSVP: [press@slovenianpavilion.net](mailto:press@slovenianpavilion.net)  
Contact: Manca Bajec  
Tel: 020 8806 6567
- SLOVENIAN PAVILION OPENING RECEPTION:  
30 May 2013, 7 – 10 pm  
Address details below  
RSVP: [info@mgml.si](mailto:info@mgml.si)
- Special performance for Slovenian Pavilion Opening Reception:  
30 May 2013, 4 – 7 pm
- Details of the Autumn conference to be announced

## MUSEUM AND GALLERIES OF LJUBLJANA: PRODUCER

The institution Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana was established in 2009. By holding exhibitions and compiling collections of museum objects, of archive and library materials and of other documentary materials, modern and contemporary works of art as well as contemporary art practices, the Institute provides access to public cultural goods and engages in international exchange.

[www.mgml.si](http://www.mgml.si)

## ŠKUC GALLERY: CO-PRODUCER

Škuc Gallery has been operating since 1978 as part of the ŠKUC Cultural Centre, one of the pillars of non-governmental culture in Slovenia. In these years of operation, Škuc Gallery has become a prominent international art center for exhibitions, various art events, publishing and documentation. Škuc Gallery has developed into an art production centre and since 2000 it has also started to represent its artists at international art fairs.

[www.galerija.skuc-drustvo.si](http://www.galerija.skuc-drustvo.si)

## 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](http://www.aplusa.it)

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### SLOVENIAN PAVILION ADDRESS:

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

Contact: Aurora Fonda  
Tel/Fax +39 041 8501468  
E [info@plusa.it](mailto:info@plusa.it)

### 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

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