

Press release



la Biennale di Venezia

54. Esposizione  
Internazionale  
d'Arte

Partecipazioni nazionali

**ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION**  
**at the 54th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia**  
**4th June – 27th November 2011**

**Official opening on Friday the 3rd June 2011**  
**at the presence of the President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner**

**Commissioner: Magdalena Faillace**  
**Curator: Rodrigo Alonso**  
**[www.argentinaenvenecia.com.ar](http://www.argentinaenvenecia.com.ar)**

**Argentine Pavilion**

Venue: Artiglierie, Arsenale

Artist: Adrián Villar Rojas

Exhibition: *"El asesino de tu herencia"* ("The Murderer of your Heritage")

Opening: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 at 12.15 **4pm**

**Group exhibition "Memoria y Libertad en el Arte Argentino del Siglo XX"**  
**("Memory and Freedom in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Argentine Art")**

Venue: Ca' Giustinian

Artists: Roberto Aizenberg, Carlos Alonso, Luis Fernando Benedit, Antonio Berni, Oscar Bony, Juan Carlos Distéfano, León Ferrari, Raquel Forner, Nicolás García Urriburu, Carlos Gorriarena, Guillermo Kuitca, Marta Minujín, Luis Felipe Noé, Emilio Pettoruti, Xul Solar, Marcia Schwartz, Lino Enea Spilimbergo, Pablo Suárez.

Opening: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 at 6 pm

**Signing of the agreement for the permanent Argentine Pavilion in the Arsenal**

Venice, June 2011 - The 54th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia is going to mark an important milestone in the long history attesting the unwavering participation of Argentine art in the Biennial, since it was the first Latin American country to be included in this international exhibition in 1901.

**On the 3<sup>rd</sup> June, at the presence of President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, it will be signed the official agreement between the Fundación Exportar and la Biennale di Venezia, that will let Argentina have its permanent Pavilion in the wonderful 500-square-meter spaces of the "Sale d'Armi" at the Arsenal, through their cession to Argentina for the next 22 years,**





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thanks to the farsighted decision of the Ministry of Defence and the City of Venice, sponsored with resolution by the Biennale itself.

In a restoration project due to get underway shortly, the cornerstone of what will be the permanent Argentine Pavilion in the "Sale d'Armi" of the Arsenal will soon be put in place. The new space will be a permanent space for the communication of Argentine visual arts and architecture.

To celebrate the signing of such a relevant agreement, the Argentina's participation in this 54<sup>th</sup> edition of the Art Biennale has been significantly increased. Besides the presence, at the national Pavilion, of Adrián Villar Rojas, a young artist from Rosario who is stunning the international art world with monumental works and unconventional materials, the Argentine delegation has been further enriched by the visit of the President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, along with a group of artists.

Argentina exhibits at the Ca' Giustinian with the "*Memoria y Libertad en el Arte Argentino del Siglo XX*" ("*Memory and Freedom in 20th Century Argentine Art*") collective show, a testimony that pays tribute to the Venice Biennial and Argentina's longstanding participation therein, as well as to the forthcoming permanent Pavilion.

**This intense exhibition at the Ca' Giustinian** features works by fundamental 20<sup>th</sup> century Argentine artists. The attempt is to represent Argentine socio-cultural reality with its violent clashes, at time nostalgic immigration, and strong sense of social commitment that led many Argentine artists to produce work that addresses the struggle against social inequality and repression during military dictatorships. Despite the magnitude of the murder, disappearance and exile at the hand of the most recent of these dictatorships, it was not able to silence the images of artists who continued to attest to the violations of human rights suffered for decades. Today, some of those artists are leading figures in the visual arts, such as Luis Felipe Noé, Carlos Alonso and León Ferrari.

This exhibition includes a masterpiece by Antonio Berni, the greatest social painter in Argentine history. Berni, who is honored in this show, received an award at the 1962 edition of the Venice Biennial. In keeping with the firm and unwavering human rights policy of President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner's administration, social issues figure prominently in this show.

It was in part the return to painting of those years but mostly the recovery of hope and confidence in an increasingly democratic country that offered Argentine artists, intellectuals and other creators manifold possibilities. The 21st century is witness to the process of recomposing a young but prolific, analytic and highly conscious art history that reflects on the past while keeping its eye on the future.

Inside the Artiglierie, at the heart of the Arsenal spaces, **Adrián Villar Rojas** has developed for **the Argentine pavilion** a site-specific installation of a series of monumental clay sculptures based on the theories of multiverses, which state that many different universes could coexist at





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### **Argentine Pavilion**

Venue: Artiglierie, Arsenale

Press preview days: 31<sup>st</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011

Opening: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 at 12.15

Artist: Adrián Villar Rojas

Exhibition title: “*El asesino de tu herencia*” (“*The Murderer of your Heritage*”)

### **Group exhibition “*Memoria y Libertad en el Arte Argentino del Siglo XX*” (“*Memory and Freedom in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Argentine Art*”)**

Venue: Ca' Giustinian

Press preview day: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011

Opening: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 at 6 pm

Artists: Roberto Aizenberg, Carlos Alonso, Luis Fernando Benedit, Antonio Berni, Oscar Bony, Juan Carlos Distéfano, León Ferrari, Raquel Forner, Nicolás García Urriburu, Carlos Gorriarena, Guillermo Kuitca, Marta Minujín, Luis Felipe Noé, Emilio Pettoruti, Xul Solar, Marcia Schwartz, Lino Enea Spilimbergo, Pablo Suárez.

### **Signing of the agreement for the permanent Argentine Pavilion in the “Sale d’Armi” of the Arsenal at the presence of the President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 at 6 pm.

Ca' Giustinian - San Marco, 1364 - 30124 Venezia

### **For international media enquiries:**

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### **Notes to the editors**

#### **Fundación Exportar**

Fundación Exportar is a non-governmental organization whose mission is to assist the business community in its effort to efficaciously commercialize its competitive products internationally in order to initiate, expand or diversify exportation.

In its efforts to meet its goals, the Fundación has become a strategic partner of the Ministry of Foreign Relations, contributing to a number of its programs. In recent years, the Fundación has participated in a number of cultural projects that have afforded the international public greater knowledge of Argentina.

During the 54th International Art Exhibition, Fundación Exportar will sign an agreement with the Venice Biennale Foundation that will furnish Argentina with a pavilion for the term of twenty-two years.





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the same time. They could be seen as material manifestations of alternative universes (multiverses), an apparition that contests our everyday notions of the world and reality. These volumes erected like monuments could also be a possible transfiguration of our present or even a glimpse into a potential prospect. Past, present and future merge in them disarticulating any sense of temporality.

Still, Villar Rojas sees his production as an alternative to the image of traditional Latin American art, linked to simplicity and ready-mades. For this reason, he embarks on ambitious and complex projects, which intend to hold a conversation with the works of his international peers at the same level of potentiality and risk. Nonetheless, he does so by recovering craftwork, which is very distant from the multiple possibilities provided by current technological resources.

In the past years, clay, cement, wood and sackcloth have become his trademarks. Such materials have confined him in complicated production processes, which require a work team made up by engineers, craftsmen and other types of experts. A great part of the attractiveness in these works lies in the peculiar confluence between a contemporary proposal and an evidently anti-technological and rudimentary medium. At the same time, there is in them an exaltation of senses, physical transformations and textures, which set them apart from the industrial finishing and its anonymous and cold connotations.

This exhibition, entitled "*El asesino de tu herencia*" ("*The Murderer of your Heritage*"), is curated by Rodrigo Alonso. It will take place in a 250-square-meter space near the Arsenal. This will be the first time that the Argentine delegation is physically located in the international exhibition.

*Adrián Villar Rojas* (Rosario, 1980) studied Fine Arts at the University of Rosario, Argentina. His work has been exhibited at international venues such as Serpentine Gallery (London), CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts (San Francisco), Galería Kurimanzutto (Mexico, DF), Akademie der Künste (Berlin), Galería Ruth Benzacar (Buenos Aires), Museo de Arte Moderno de San Pablo (Brazil), X Bienal de Cuenca (Ecuador), II Bienal del Fin del Mundo (Ushuaia) and II Trienal Poligráfica de San Juan (Puerto Rico), among others. During 2011, he will also exhibit at Galería Luisa Strina (Sao Paulo), Jardin des Tuileries (Paris) and 12<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Biennial.

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#### **Argentine Participation**

**54th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia**

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