



FONDATION PRINCE PIERRE
DE MONACO



PRESS RELEASE

The Joycean Society, a Collateral event of the 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia

45th INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART PRIZE

Spazio Punch, Giudecca 800/0, Venice

On the occasion of the 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia, the Fondation Prince Pierre de Monaco presents *The Joycean Society* as Collateral Event, a new artistic project by Dora Garcia, winner of the International Contemporary Art Prize (PIAC), at the Spazio Punch on the island of Giudecca.

This new artwork, unveiled at the exhibition, has been produced thanks to the grant for the production of new artwork, awarded to Dora Garcia, the winner of the 45th PIAC (2013) for *The Deviant Majority* (2010).

The PIAC is given out every third year by the Artistic Advisory Board after consulting international art world professionals (art critics, curators, researchers, collectors, directors of institutions or independent spaces, etc.) who put forward a number of potential laureates. It concerns all forms of contemporary art. Dora Garcia's work was put forward by the art historian and curator Agustin Perez Rubio.

The winner is awarded 40,000 Euros, including 20,000 Euros to produce a new piece, to be presented during a major international artistic event. The official awards ceremony takes place in Monaco in fall.

The PIAC Artistic Advisory Board is presided over by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Hanover, with Abdellah Karroum as artistic director and Marie-Claude Beaud (director of the Nouveau Musée National de Monaco) as vice-president. The jury includes five permanent members: Michel Enrici (art historian and critic), Lorenzo Fusi (exhibition curator), Maria Lind (director of the Tensta Art Center in Stockholm), Chantal Pontbriand (art critic), Philippe Rahm (architect and teacher), as well as a guest member for the 2013 edition, Hou Hanru (independent exhibition curator).

About the PIAC, the artistic director Abdellah Karroum has said: "Today, the meaning of an exhibition must be considered within the context of global artistic production issues. By choosing to support the production of a new artwork by Dora Garcia and to show it at the Venice Biennale, the Fondation Prince Pierre de Monaco intends to confront the choice of its Artistic Advisory Board with international artistic productions, and to assert its Jury's decision. This project is a commitment to engage in a debate of ideas and in particular to highlight the "usefulness" of art in the world. Beyond the material reward, the PIAC program supports artists in the production process of a new artwork but also in reflecting on the conditions of production of their exhibition."

Created thanks to the funds provided for the production of new artworks awarded to Dora Garcia for the 45th PIAC, *The Joycean Society* is a film about a book club dedicated to James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*, a society made up of students, admirers and connoisseurs of what is often said to be "the most difficult book in the world".

Amputated and rewritten books, a film shot in a book club, a wallpaper made of drawings of fragments of notebook pages: these are the elements of artistic vocabulary Dora Garcia uses in *The Joycean Society* to explore the relationship between the reality of the readers' experience, perception and the fictions this reality refers to.

The project, conceived as an intervention that turns the exhibition space into a space of interpretation, invites visitors to use all their senses of perception as readers, listeners and viewers, to live an experience in which the artistic subject is affected by the object of the artwork and by its translation on many different levels.

The exhibition space, in the old breweries of Venice on the island of Giudecca, is an open structure throughout, allowing a circular reading that echoes the form of Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*, which has neither beginning nor end.

This project is in line with Dora Garcia's conceptual approach, a method that leads the artist to collaborate with groups of intellectual activity practitioners who work on the boundaries of the understanding of language and on their effects in the field of fiction. Thus, to carry out her project for *The Joycean Society*, the artist positioned herself at the same distance from the object, i.e. within the observed activity, to offer a work that produces meaning without giving an answer, inspired by the imaginary and creative margins of a world in which one always seeks to define the self in relation to others. Here, the Joycean society is treated both as conceptual material for the artwork and as a philosophical tool for social critique.

The next PIAC will be awarded in 2016.

For interview requests with Dora Garcia or Abdellah Karroum, please contact Nigel Rubenstein or Guillaume Le Tarnec at Brunswick Arts - fondationprincepierre@brunswickgroup.com

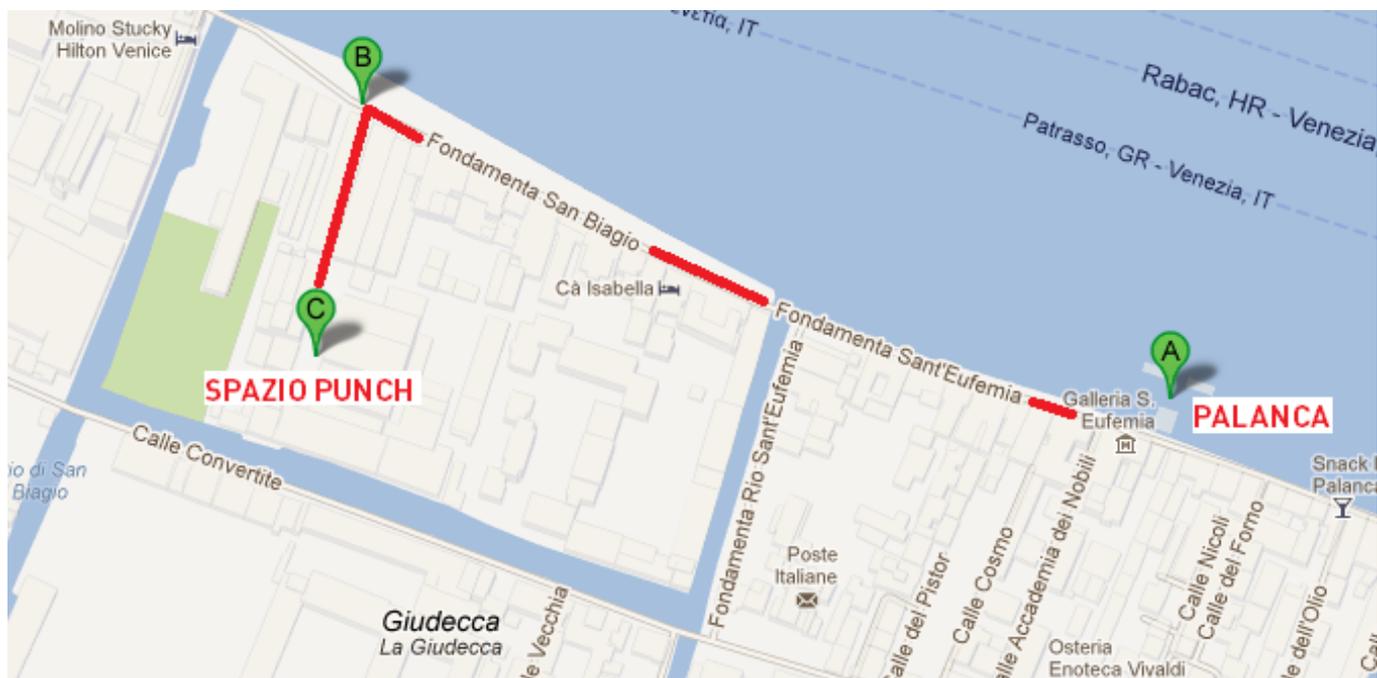
PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Exhibition from May 30th to November 24th 2013.

Spazio Punch, Giudecca 800/0, Venice

Access: Vaporetto, Palanca station, lines 4.1 (to the Giardini) and 4.2 (from the Giardini)

Free admission. Open from 1 to 7 P.M. Closed on Monday.



CATALOGUE

200 pp. French/English – Silvana publishing

In addition to stills from the video *The Joycean Society*, the catalogue features the following texts:

Foreword by H.R.H. the Princess of Hanover, President of the PIAC; Introduction by Abdellah Karroum, Artistic Director; essays by Emiliano Battista, Chantal Pontbriand, Eva Fabbris and an interview of Dora Garcia by Anna Daneri.

FOR INFORMATION ON THE PIAC AND THE FONDATION PRINCE PIERRE DE MONACO

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<http://www.fpp.fr.nf>

NOTES TO EDITORS

Dora Garcia

Born in 1965 in Spain, lives and works in Barcelona. Her work has been shown in major contemporary art institutions, including the MACBA in Barcelona (2003), the SMAK in Gent (2006), the GfZK in Leipzig (2007), the Kunsthalle in Bern (2010), the Spanish Pavilion of the Venice Biennale (2011). She has also taken part in several biennales, for instance in Istanbul (2003), Sydney (2008), Lyon (2009), São Paulo (2010) and DOCUMENTA 13 (2012).

In her conceptual work, Dora Garcia uses photography, installations, drawing, video, sound and the web to experiment with the boundaries between reality and fiction. Marginality becomes central in the artist's work, unsettling the viewer. In Garcia's work, reality is shown to be multiple and the truth within each of her scenarios becomes debatable.

The Joycean Society (2012), produced with funding for the production of new artworks by the 45th PIAC (2013)

Technical specifications:

Format: HD Video

Duration: 49'

The Deviant Majority (2010), winner of the 45th PIAC (2013)

In this piece, Dora Garcia questions the major reforms carried out in the field of psychiatry as well as the alternative therapies practiced in health programs since the late 1960s. She also addresses the relationship between personal rebellion and the international counterculture in general. This documentary essay revolves on the idea of deviance. One of the questions included in the video is the issue of human expression and the way in which these expressions can take on a visual or theatrical form.

In other words, how can the expression of a very intense feeling become a mode for artistic expression, therefore challenging the boundaries between normality and abnormality?

The PIAC

Awarded for the first time in 1965, the International Contemporary Art Prize has been organized since 1983 by the Fondation Prince Pierre. Under the artistic direction of Jean-Louis Froment from 2004 to 2010, and of Abdellah Karroum since 2011, the PIAC was given out each year until 2010. In its current structure, it is awarded every third year by the Artistic Advisory Board after consultation with international experts.

The winner is awarded a sum of 40,000 Euros, including 20,000 Euros to fund the production of new work(s).

The PIAC has also developed an annual awards program:

- *The Prize for a text on the subject of art* (5,000 Euros) rewards a text selected on the basis of its informative and/or critical approach, its contribution to the development of art criticism and the links it creates between art and other areas of research.
- *The fund to support conferences and knowledge-sharing*: a 2,000 Euro grant is awarded each year to one or several researchers, exhibition curators or artists in order to support the development of a research project and to take part in a conference, symposium or seminar.

Abdellah Karroum

Artistic Director of the International Contemporary Art Prize of the Fondation Prince Pierre de Monaco since 2011

A researcher and curator, he founded L'appartement 22, a unique art space in Morocco, in 2002, as well as the R22 radio project (2007). He initiated the *Le Bout du Monde* artistic expedition in the Rif in 2000. He founded the Hors'champs publishing house in Bordeaux in 1999. He was an associate curator for the biennales of Dakar in 2006,

Gwangju in 2008 and headed the biennales of Marrakech in 2009 and the Benin in 2012. He was also an associate curator of the Palais de Tokyo triennial in 2012. Abdellah Karroum is the director of the “Art, Technology and Ecology” seminar and is a regular contributor to art magazines.

He has instituted the Curatorial Delegation as a methodology to direct and produce projects involving international curators. He works with many museums, including the Darat Al-Funun Khalid Shoman Foundation in Amman, the MACBA in Barcelona and the Kunsthalle in Mulhouse.

The PIAC Artistic Advisory Board

PRESIDENT

H.R.H. the Princess of Hanover

VICE-PRESIDENT

Marie-Claude Beaud

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Abdellah Karroum

MEMBERS OF THE JURY

Michel Enrici, Lorenzo Fusi, Maria Lind, Chantal Pontbriand, Philippe Rahm

GUEST MEMBER FOR THE 2013 JURY

Hou Hanru

The Fondation Prince Pierre de Monaco

The Fondation Prince Pierre de Monaco aims to support contemporary creation in the fields of literature, music and art. It is presided over by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Hanover. In addition to a season of conferences, it gives out yearly awards: Literary Prizes, Musical Composition Prizes and the International Contemporary Art Prize (PIAC).

The Fondation Prince Pierre de Monaco was created on February 17th 1966 by Prince Rainier III to honor the memory of His father, a great protector of the Arts and Letters.