

Biennale Architettura 2021 – Transnational Midissage organised by the Curators Collective – 27 – 29 August 2021

The Curators Collective is pleased to announce that from the 27 – 29 August 2021, in the days preceding the postponed award ceremony of the Biennale Architettura 2021, a series of public events will take place across a number of collaborating national pavilions in the Giardini, Arsenale, and throughout Venice, to mark the midterm of one of the most important cultural events this year. This ‘Midissage’ is one aspect of the Curators Collective’s ongoing effort to fulfil the Biennale’s potential as a platform for synergistic collaboration, solidarity, and accessibility. The Midissage events will be open to all visitors of the Biennale Architettura. Selected events will also be streamed online for those who cannot attend the exhibition in person.

Organised by the joint forces of over 20 participating countries, the Midissage will offer a rich and diverse programme running from Friday, 27 August to Sunday, 29 August 2021. Ranging from panel discussions, to exhibition presentations, to book launches and walking tours, these events will open space for collective reflection on the ways in which curators of national pavilions have responded to the core question of the Biennale Architettura 2021 ‘How will we live together?’ A brief summary of planned events can be found below. More detailed information, including the full programme and schedule, will be announced closer to the date in the final weeks of August, and will be made accessible via the Curators Collective website: <http://curatorscollective.org/about/>, the Biennale website: <https://www.labiennale.org/en/architecture/2021/meetings-architecture>, and the webpages of individual pavilions.

For the first time in the history of the Venice Biennale, more than 50 curators of the various national contributions have come together and established a coordinated network of mutual support and dialogue: the Curators Collective (CC). Through these transnationally programmed events, the Midissage will offer audiences, both onsite and online, the opportunity to take part in this unique forum of global exchange. It will exercise and enact the CC’s intention to forge new collaborative possibilities, to better address the great challenges we are all facing today in inhabiting our built environments.

The CC Midissage team

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CC Midissage – Preliminary Programme

Friday, 28 August 2021

*Dominican Pavilion Press Open House
Press Conference and Drinks
9 – 10:30 am Friday, 27 August 2021*

In collaboration with studio Begnini, the pavilion of the Dominican Republic will host a press conference announcing the intentions of the Curators Collective and Midissage weekend. The press conference will be held at Chiesa Anglicana San Giorgio, Campo San Vio 729.

*A Bench in Venice // Evolving Manifesto Launch
Inauguration Ceremony
11 am – 12 pm Friday, 27 August 2021*

The national pavilion of the United Arab Emirates will host an inauguration ceremony for the winners of 'A Bench in Venice,' an open-call competition where students from around the world were invited to design a bench to be installed in Venice. The three winning students will be invited over zoom to participate in a celebratory gathering, hosted in the open space in front of the National Pavilion of the United Arab Emirates in the Arsenale. From 11:30, the inauguration will evolve into a launch of the CC's Evolving Manifesto. This launch will take the form of the physical/virtual activity, where drafts of the CC manifesto will be presented, and visitors/viewers will be encouraged to respond, question and engage with these evolving claims. By presenting the manifesto as a liquid space for co-produced, evolving guidelines, the manifesto will respond to our contemporary moment's urgent need for active questioning, diversity and collaboration, rather than universalising claims and reductive answers.

*Quarta Tesa: Sound Ecology and Contemporary Sound Practices.
Listening Session and Discussion
11 am – 12 pm Friday, 27 August 2021*

The Uzbek Pavilion will host a listening session inside their pavilion in the Arsenale. Following the listening session, curators Carlos Casas and Francesco Berhamo will engage in a public dialogue about the the context and historical background of the Sound Ecology movement and the soundscape and field recording practices from early 70s, which have persisted until today. Contextualising an architectural dimension of sound, they will connect these soundscapes to the Uzbek pavilion project.

*Private vs. Public Spaces
Panel Discussion
1 pm – 2 pm Friday, 27 August 2021*

The British Pavilion, in collaboration with the Austrian Pavilion, will engage in a panel discussion on the steps of the British Pavilion in the Giardini. The panel discussion will explore the conceptual and architectural differences between private and public space, performatively enacted through the liminality of the pavilion's steps as a site of encounter.

Quarta Tesa: The Image of Architecture
Mixing Session and Discussion
2 pm – 4 pm, 27 August 2021

Emanuel Christ and Christoph Gantenbein, curators of the Uzbek Pavilion, will engage in a discussion with Gayane Umerova, Bas Princen, Kersten Geers, Andrea Lissoni, Ekaterina Golovatyuk and Saodat Ismailova on the topic of Uzbekistan and the mahallas as a source of inspiration for artistic work and cultural exchange transfer. The event will be followed by a special mixing session from Carlos Casas and Armand Lesecq, based on the 8 hour composition that inhabits the pavilion.

Missing Pavilions: The Political Space of Representation
Online Panel Discussion
3 pm – 4:30 pm. Friday, 27 August 2021

Moderated by Marina Otero and produced by Nick Axel, this online event addresses the issue of agency and presence at La Biennale. The panel discussion is presented by the curators of the pavilions of Canada, Germany and Russia Pavilions in collaboration with e-flux architecture. The livestream will take place via the following url: <https://www.e-flux.com/video/411780/>.

Mazzocchio #7 Launch
Magazine Launch Event
5 pm – 6:30 pm, Friday, 27 August 2021

This event, hosted by the Romanian Pavilion, will take place in the Romanian Cultural Institute in Palazzo Correr, Campo Santa Fosca, Cannaregio 2214, Venice. It will be the official launch of Mazzocchio magazine #7 (the printed issue), as part of the Romanian participation in the Venice Biennale Architettura 2021. The magazine includes responses from architects all around the world to the question *How will migration influence architecture and the city?*

Voices (Towards Other Institutions)
Book Launch and Music Act
6:30 pm – 8 pm Friday, 27 August 2021

The Russian Pavilion will host an event to launch and celebrate *Voices (Towards Other Institutions)*, the book published in tandem with the project *Open*. The gathering will take place at the Grafiche Veneziane in Cannaregio, the printing house where the publication was produced. A brief discussion to introduce the book will be followed by a DJ set and a workshop.

Saturday, 28 August 2021

Otherness - Reconditioning Our Modern Heritage
Public Discussion
10 am – 11 am Saturday, 28 August 2021

The Hungarian Pavilion will host an open public discussion in their pavilion in the Giardini. The open discussion will involve the Hungarian pavilion's 12 participating architects, who will discuss their experiences in the collaborative process of developing an exhibition.

Collaboration, Cooperation, Cohabitation - Possible Futures for the Biennale
Public Discussion
11 am – 12 pm Saturday, 28 August 2021

This discussion, hosted collaboratively by the Hungarian, Polish and Russian Pavilions, to take place in the Hungarian Pavilion in the Giardini, will explore collaboration as a tool to extend the future of the Biennale. Participants will include PROLOG+1 (Polish Pavilion), Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli (Russian Pavilion), Daniel Tudor Munteanu, and Davide Tommaso Ferrando (Unfolding Pavilion) and the Otherntity team (Hungarian Pavilion).

Shifting the Gaze
Roundtable
11 am – 1 pm Saturday, 28 August 2021

This roundtable will be hosted collaboratively by the pavilions of Uzbekistan, Poland, and Israel, and take place in the Uzbekistan Pavilion in the Arsenale. The roundtable, exploring the territory, the rural, and the community, will attempt to present alternative perspectives on viewing what we define as ‘territory.’

Quarta Tesa
Sound Session
2 pm – 4 pm Saturday, 28 August 2021

The Uzbekistan Pavilion will host, in their pavilion in the Arsenale, a performance by musician and composer Andrew Pekler. The performance will explore imaginary landscapes and distant soundscapes.

Reflections on Curatorial Practice
Panel Discussion
2 pm – 3 pm Saturday, 28 August 2021

The Austrian Pavilion will host a discussion in their pavilion about the practices of curating today, and their potential as self-initiated platforms. The panel will be organised in collaboration with the Korean and Polish pavilions, and include Irit Rogoff as a guest speaker.

Cartography of Common Themes
Roundtable and Public Presentation
3 pm – 4 pm Saturday, 28 August 2021

This roundtable, organised as a joint initiative within Curators Collective by the Pavilions of Belgium, Iraq, Philippines, Poland, Slovenia and Switzerland will discuss and present the thematic relationships of the current biennale. The purpose of this map will be to chart a thematic cartography of shared conceptual interests across pavilions, challenging the presumption that the curation of each pavilion exists in isolation.

Fiume Fantastika: Phenomena of the City
Book Promotion and Public Talk
4 pm – 5 pm Saturday, 28 August 2021

This event, organised and hosted by the Croatian Pavilion in the Arsenale, will present a book based on the research behind the Croatian Pavilion's exhibition. The book concerns the city of Rijeka, its history, and its potential futures.

Labour in the Platform City
Panel Discussion
4 pm – 5 pm Saturday, 28 August 2021

This panel, organised and hosted by the Austrian Pavilion in the Giardini, will consider the question of labour in the Platform City. Guest Speakers will include Peggy Deamer, Saskia Sassen, and Sandro Mezzadra, with moderation by the curators of the Austrian Pavilion: Peter Mörtenböck and Helge Mooshammer.

2038
Magazine Launch
5 pm – 6 pm Saturday, 28 August 2021

On the steps to the German pavilion, we will celebrate the second edition of 2038 x Arts of the Working Class. After the first collaborative issue in summer 2020, the second edition of the street journal will bring the story of 2038 to the streets of the world, again.

Rialto Fish Market Celebration
Social Gathering
7 pm – 12 am Saturday, 28 August 2021

A get-together at the Rialto fish market in the evening with music, food and drinks, hosted by the Austrian Pavilion, will be an opportunity to meet everyone involved in this Midissage initiative and to reflect on the Biennale thus far.

Sunday, 29 August 2021

Playground, Artefacts for Interaction
Inauguration
11:00 – 11:45 am, Sunday 29 August 2021

The inauguration of *Playground, Artefacts for Interaction* in the Peruvian Pavilion of the Biennale di Venezia will take place on August 29th at 11 am in the Arsenale di Venezia. The curator, architect Felipe Ferrer, will be attending with his associates and sponsors to celebrate the hard work it took to get there.

Tolong/Tulung: Collaboration in Creative Practice
Virtual Workshop
1 pm – 2:30 pm Sunday, 29 August 2021

This workshop, will be orchestrated collaboratively by the curatorial teams of The Philippines and Singapore Pavilions. Open to students internationally, the workshop is designed to provoke thinking about the processes and systems of designing spaces for collaboration especially in and within communities. In this workshop, we will use examples that span across the two countries that have also inspired the projects emerging from both Pavilions, and delve deeper into the semantics of collaboration and how it might reorientate thinking about design strategies for communal spaces.

Going Live Sessions: On Planetary

Panel Discussion

3 pm – 5 pm on Sunday, 29 August 2021

Pavilion of Turkey will host a panel discussion about the relationships between architecture and planetary imagination. Organised around the exhibition's Going Live programming sessions, this panel discussion will take place in the Pavilion of Turkey in the Sale d'Armi Arsenale and will be streamed live online. The discussion will include guest speakers and will be moderated by Neyran Turan, curator of the Pavilion of Turkey.

8th Kilometre: Promotion of the Exhibition Catalogue

Catalogue Presentation

4 pm – 5 pm Sunday, 29 August 2021

This presentation, hosted by and taking place in the Serbian Pavilion in the Giardini, will present and celebrate the catalogue for their exhibition 'The 8th Kilometre.' The event will be attended by the research and exhibition authors who will present the exhibition and catalogue, and afterward, engage in a moderated discussion on the topic.

LINA TODAY

Book Launch and Roundtable

5 pm – 6 pm Sunday, 29 August 2021

The Brazilian curatorial team have invited Francesco Perrota-Bosch, architect and critic, author of the recent biography of Lina Bo Bardi *Lina. Uma Biografia* to a conversation around the contemporary relevance of Bo Bardi's work. The event will be hosted from the outside terrace of the Brazilian pavilion in the Giardini.