

We are very pleased to announce that Yiorgos Hadjichristou, Alessandra Swiny, and Veronica Antoniou,

Have been chosen to represent Cyprus as the Curators of the Cyprus Pavilion with their project '**I Am Where You Are**' at the

16th International Architecture Exhibition, Biennale Architettura di Venezia 2018

From May 26th to November 25th 2018 (<http://www.labiennale.org/en/architecture/2018>)

The Venice Biennale has been for over 120 years one of the most prestigious cultural institutions in the world. Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara are the curators of this year's Biennale, with their project entitled '*Freespace*'.

Our proposal for the curation of this year's State Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale was chosen as a result of an international competition launched by the Ministry of Education and Culture (www.moec.gov.cy) and by the Cyprus Architects Association (www.architecture.org.cy).

We would like to introduce you briefly to our winning concept for the Cyprus Pavilion:

<http://www.architecture.org.cy/index.php/architektonika-themata/biennale/item/349-i-am-w-here-you-are>

Title of project: **I Am Where You Are**

"We call upon voices of resistance. We challenge the globalization of the built environment. We accentuate the crafting of humanitarian constructed fragments. We augment the simplicities of everyday rituals. We note the synergy of the untouched and the harnessed environment. We record an interwoven scenography of nature and the human condition".

Curators of the Cyprus Pavilion

'**I Am Where You Are**' is a platform for communication. By highlighting, questioning and then deconstructing sets of binaries (key to cultural perception in and about Cyprus), we disengage from convention. Multiplicities, found in between these binaries, "*built_unbuilt, tradition_modernity, Island of Love_place of conflict, immigration_local identity*", are revealed in the pavilion, allowing unexpected experiences to be celebrated.

Architecture is the mediator and the lens used to investigate these often-unnoticed conditions. We focus on the importance of the architectural section. The Pavilion show-cases significant contemporary innovative projects, and incorporates important ancient and vernacular works. We collapse notions of time/space and presence/non-presence, utilizing digital and interactive means. The physicality of the body of the visitor dissolves, as it is enveloped in a wearable apparatus and immersed into a moving-scape of simultaneous projections.

'I Am Where You Are', because we are constantly moving and shifting, both physically and digitally. We continuously transform, therefore, *'I encompass some of what you are and you encompass some of what I am'*. The Cyprus Pavilion becomes a transmitter and a receiver: within the exhibit, visitors interact with people in Cyprus and are transported virtually in space and time into the Cypriot context. Different languages, customs, cultures etiquette and built form we experience on a daily basis mix and merge. They bring into focus that which differentiates, connects and binds us together.

The Team:

The team is made up of a diverse international group of architects, a practicing video artist and a museologist. The Curators have collaborated on several projects in the past. In 2016 they represented Cyprus as the Curators of the State Pavilion for the Milano Triennale with their project *'Human Topographies_Emerging Identities'*. In 2010 they collaborated on the design for the A.R.C which houses the Department of Architecture at University of Nicosia. A.Swiny and Y.Hadjichristou have been working and teaching together at the Department of Architecture, UNic, since 2008. V. Antoniou and Y.Hadjichristou have collaborated in design projects since 2004. In 2014 V. Antoniou established Urban Gorillas (a non-for-profit organization involved in urban actions through community engagement) where Y.Hadjichristou is a member of the board.

Curators:

Veronika Antoniou_Architect, Urbanist, Co-Founder and Managing Director of the NGO Urban Gorillas (www.urbangorillas.org)

Yiorgos Hadjichristou_Architect, Professor University of Nicosia, Board Director of the NGO Urban Gorillas (www.yiorgoshadjichristou.com)

Alessandra Swiny_Architect, Head of the Department of Architecture, University of Nicosia (www.alessandraswiny.com)

Team Collaborators: Matthieu Tercieux (<http://youarehereelsewhere.com>), Despo Pasia,

Team Members: Stefanos Panteli, Anastasios Balabanides, Evdokia Demetriou, Jose Luna, Teresa Ditadi

Additional Collaborators: Urban Gorillas (NGO), Cyprus Architects Association, University of Nicosia

Commissioner/Supporter: Republic of Cyprus, Ministry of Education and Culture

The works of additional Participants will be selected through two Open Calls

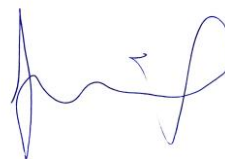
<http://www.architecture.org.cy/index.php/architektonika-themata/biennale/item/352-cy-biennale-open-call>

If you wish to know more about this project please contact us.

Best,



Alessandra Swiny
Head of the Department of Architecture/A.R.C
Architect
Associate Professor University of Nicosia



Veronika Antoniou
Architect, Urbanist
Co-founder and managing director at Urban

Email: swiny.a@unic.ac.cy
Tel: 22842601
31 Michail Yiorgalla, 2409
Nicosia, CYPRUS
www.arc.unic.ac.cy

Gorillas
Email: veronika.antoniou@gmail.com
Tel: 99345645
78 Vasileos Pavlou, Kaimakli 1021
Nicosia, CYPRUS
www.urbangorillas.org



'I Am Where You Are'_

A Section through the Cyprus Pavilion

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