

Pavilion of South Africa at the 59th International Art Exhibition

La Biennale di Venezia

South Africa's journey 'Into the Light' announced in Venice

Roberto Cicutto, President of La Biennale di Venezia, has announced that South Africa will be among the approximately ninety countries participating in the 59th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, also known as Biennale Arte 2022. The announcement was made during the live international briefing, delivered on Wednesday 2 February. The briefing confirmed participating countries and their selected artists in preparation for the official opening of Biennale Arte 2022 on 23 April.

The South African national exhibition will be curated by Amé Bell and showcases the works of three selected artists: photographer Roger Ballen, visual artist Lebohang Kganye, and multidisciplinary artist Phumulani Ntuli. The selected artworks of all three artists reflect the national exhibition theme of 'Into the Light'. This theme proposes that artists can use the isolation of COVID-19 pandemic lockdown to embark on introspective journeys of discovery, in search of redefining self-identity, artistic vision and personal truth.

Roberto Cicutto believes that the Biennale Arte offers 'reinvention of new and more sustainable relations between individuals and the universe we live in', and education is among the primary goals of the organisers. These vital aspects have also been incorporated into South Africa's participation.

"The implications and benefits of Biennale Arte 2022 extend far beyond our exhibited artists and South Africans who attend the event," explains Nosipho Ngcaba, South African Ambassador to the Italian Republic, who is also serving as Commissioner for the South African Pavilion at Biennale Arte 2022. "We view this highlight event as an ideal opportunity to reach out and include the broader public, to educate about art, to raise awareness of the arts as a viable career choice towards sustainable job creation, and to promote corporate funding and individual patronage of the arts in developing the arts sector to its full potential."

To this end, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture will be hosting a nationwide competition for young artists, in tandem with other Biennale Arts activities. The competition, titled ***mzansiart@Venice***, invites aspiring school learner artists to create and submit their own interpretations of the Biennale Arte 2022 theme 'The Milk of Dreams', which emphasises the richness of artistic expression that is unlocked when the artist delves into the realm of fantasy and

imagination. Entrants stand to win exciting prizes and winning entries may be exhibited at the South African national stand during Biennale Arte 2022.

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