



Pavilion of the Republic of North Macedonia  
at the **60th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia**

April 20th – November 24th, 2024  
Scuola dei Laneri, Santa Croce 131/A, 30100 Venezia VE, Italy

***INTER SPEM ET METUM***

curator: Dr. Ana Frangovska

**At the 60th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, the Republic of North Macedonia will be represented by the project INTER SPEM ET METUM (*Between hope and fear*), conceived by artist Slavica Janešlieva. The commissioner of the project is Dr. Dita Starova Qerimi, director of the NU National Gallery of the Republic of North Macedonia, and the curator is Dr. Ana Frangovska, senior curator at the National Gallery of Macedonia.**

“It is only with the heart that one can see clearly, for the most essential things are invisible to the eye.” - Hans Christian Andersen

Can we substitute the word ‘beauty’ with the words ‘respect’, ‘freedom’, ‘love’, ‘tolerance’, ‘approval’? Can we accept someone for all that he/she/it is and because we know their essence?

The transmedial and transnarrative project **INTER SPEM ET METUM** by **Slavica Janešlieva** represents a visually cleansed and conceptually envisaged spatial installation, which casts us into the civilizational debris in a rather sensitive and imaginative manner. Through multidimensional, media platforms and materials, such as feathers, led-neon signs, projections, mirrors, Janešlieva launches us into several conceptually-narrative matrices, where she urges us to face the feeling of being a stranger, the one present everywhere: in me, in you, in them, in us.... Namely, she challenges us with acceptance or non-acceptance of the distinct labels from the ones familiar and ordinary to the masses; encompassing differences based on gender, sexual orientation, appearance, demeanor, attitude, illness, nationality, religion, language, political orientation...

She tickles our feelings of self-stigma, auto censorship, self-criticism, due to the imposed expectations.

However, being different carries the potential for transformation. Just as in the natural selection processes, the mutation increases the likelihood of either a failure in the adaptation or the emergence of a new variant, much superior to its predecessor. Alternatively, the transformational power of 'the other' can be understood to derive from the psychological pain and suffering, as alternative sources of inspiration and motivation to rise above the criticism and denunciation, common societal effects of 'being different'.

It is up to each of us to find the swan within.

Text: Dr. Ana Frangovska

**Commissioner:** Dr. Dita Starova Qerimi, Director of the NI National Gallery of the Republic of North Macedonia

**Artist:** Slavica Janešlieva

**Project holder:** NI National Gallery of the Republic of North Macedonia

**Curator:** Dr. Ana Frangovska, Curator Advisor at the National Gallery of the Republic of North Macedonia

**Supported by:** The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of North Macedonia

**Location:** Scuola dei Laneri

**Exhibition dates:** 18 April -24 November 2024

**Inauguration:** April 18, 6 – 10 p.m.

**Working hours:**

Preview: 17-19 April, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

from 18 April to 24 November: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

April 20 to September 30: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Until September 30 on Fridays and Saturdays extended opening until 8 pm

October 1 to November 24: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Closed on Mondays (except 22 April, 17 June, 22 July, 2 and 30 September, 18 November)

**Press office:**

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La Biennale Website: [www.labiennale.org](http://www.labiennale.org)

Press kit downloads from the following link: <https://nationalgallery.mk/la-biennale-di-venezia/?lang=en>

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Hashtag: #BiennaleArte2024 #StranieriOvunque #ForeignersEverywhere #MacedonianPavilion2024

**Location:** Scuola dei Laneri, Santa Croce 131/A, 30100 Venezia VE, Italy

**Nearest vaporetto stop:** S. Toma