

Paradise Lost

The First Roma Pavilion



la Biennale di Venezia

52. Esposizione
Internazionale
d'Arte

Eventi collaterali

Venue:

Palazzo Pisani

San Marina

Calle delle Erbe, Cannaregio 6103

Curator:

Tímea Junghaus

Artists:

Daniel Baker

Tibor Balogh

Mihaela Ionela Cimpeanu

Gabi Jimenez

András Kállai

Damian Le Bas

Delaine Le Bas

Kiba Lumberg

Omara

Marian Petre

Nihad Nino Pušija

Jenő André Raatzsch

Dusan Ristic

István Szentandrassy

Norbert Szirmai & János Révész



Open to the public:

10 June - 21 November 2007

Tuesday - Sunday, 10 am - 6 pm

Press conference:

Thursday, 7 June, 3 pm

Organizers:

Roma Cultural Participation Project

Arts and Culture Network Program

Open Society Institute - Budapest

European Cultural Foundation - Amsterdam, Niederlande

Allianz Kulturstiftung - München, Deutschland

Contact:

Open Society Institute

Október 6. u. 12

H-1051 Budapest

Postal address:

H-1397 Budapest

P. O. Box 519

Tel.: (+36-1) 327-3100

Fax: (+36-1) 327-3101

Website: www.soros.org

Scientific Committee:

Viktor Misiano - Art historian, international curator and critic (Russia)

Thomas Acton - Professor of Romani Studies, University of Greenwich (UK)

Barnabás Bencsik - Curator, Director of ACAX | Agency for Contemporary Art Exchange (Hungary)

Dragan Klaić - Scholar, cultural analyst, and a writer in the field of European cultural policy (Netherlands)

Marketta Seppälä - Director of the Frame Foundation, Commissioner of the Nordic Pavilion 2007 (Finland)

Katalin Székely - Art historian, art critic (Hungary)

Paradise Lost. The First Roma Pavilion

By Tímea Junghaus, curator

"Paradise Lost" is the first contemporary show representing an international selection of Roma contemporary artists.

The exhibition showcases the visual art talents of the largest European ethnic minority. The artists embrace and transform, deny and deconstruct, oppose and analyze, challenge and overwrite the existing stereotypes in a confident intellectual manner, reinventing the Roma tradition and its elements as contemporary culture.

The archetypical motives provide a firm underlying sentiment, but the result unexpectedly suggests a new interpretation, one that is created by the Roma artists themselves. The envisioned alternative identity highlights the strengths of Roma, the capacity for fusion, the sense of glamour, humor and irony, adaptability, mobility and transnationalism.

The intention of opposing and denying the existing (mis)representations and promoting the contrary carry an irresolvable dichotomy, which embodies in art unfree from sorrowful beauty, paranoia, schizophrenia, and post traumatic syndromes.

If the terra incognita of exotic gypsies has been the target of escape since 19th century modernism for Europe, have we all lost our search for Paradise?