

La Biennale di Venezia /

Biennale Architettura will open in 2021

It will last 6 months and will be held from May 22nd to November 21st /

Biennale Arte will open in 2022, from April 23rd to November 27th

La Biennale di Venezia announces that the **17th International Architecture Exhibition – *How will we live together?*** – curated by **Hashim Sarkis**, which was to take place in Venice from August 29th through November 29th 2020, has been **postponed to 2021**, to be held Saturday **May 22nd** to Sunday **November 21st**.

Consequently, the **59th International Art Exhibition**, curated by **Cecilia Alemani**, which was to take place in 2021, has in turn been postponed to **2022**. **It will last 7 months** and will be held from Saturday **April 23rd** to Sunday **November 27th**.

The decision to postpone the Biennale Architettura to May 2021 is an acknowledgment that it is impossible to move forward - within the set time limits – in the realization of such a complex and worldwide exhibition, due to the persistence of a series of objective difficulties caused by the effects by the health emergency underway.

The current situation, up to now, has definitely prejudiced the realization of the exhibition in its entirety, jeopardizing the realization, transport and presence of the works and consequently the quality of the Exhibition itself. Therefore, after consulting with the Curator Hashim Sarkis and in consideration of the problems, the invited architects, participating countries, institutions, collateral events are facing, thanking all of them for their efforts so far, La Biennale has decided to postpone the opening date of the Biennale Architettura to the year 2021, extending its duration back to the customary six months, from May 22nd to November 21st.

All other events remain confirmed: the **77th Venice International Film Festival** directed by **Alberto Barbera** from **September 2nd to 12th**; the **48th International Theatre Festival** directed by **Antonio Latella** from **September 14th to 24th**; the **64th International Festival of Contemporary Music** directed by **Ivan Fedele**, from **September 25th to October 4th**; the **14th International Festival of Contemporary Dance** directed by **Marie Chouinard** from **October 13th to 25th**.

“The last few days – declared **President Roberto Cicutto** - have clarified the real state of the situation we are all facing. With the utmost respect for the work done by all of us, the investments made by the participants, and considering the difficulties that all countries,

institutions, universities, architectural studios have met together with the uncertainty of the shipments, personal travel restraints and Covid-19 protective measures that are being and were be adopted, we have decided to listen to those, the majority, who requested that the Biennale di Architettura be postponed. I have received many messages asking for a postponement to 2021. We now plan to open the 17th Biennale Architettura in May 2021 and allow it a longer life until November, as it was before the pandemic. Nevertheless Architecture will be in Venice this Fall organizing several events keeping at the center of the stage the question, more relevant than ever, of “How will we live together?”.

“I am deeply moved by the perseverance of all the participants during the last three months – stated **Curator Hashim Sarkis**. I hope that the new opening date will allow them first to catch their breath, and then to complete their work with the time and vigor it truly deserves. We did not plan it this way. Neither the question I asked “How will we live together?” nor the wealth of ways in response to it, were meant to address the crisis they are living, but here we are. We are in some ways fortunate because we are well equipped to absorb the immediate and longer-term implications of the crisis into the 17th Biennale. The theme does also provide us with the possibility to respond to the pandemic in its immediacy. This is why we will return to Venice in the coming months for a series of activities devoted to the Architecture.”

Venice, 18 May 2020

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