

Press Release
27 April 2021

Taiwan's Collateral Event at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia embarks on a journey for another year

Hosted by the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts (NTMoFA), an affiliated institution of Taiwan's Ministry of Culture, Divooe Zein Architects and Double-Grass International Co., are curating the Taiwan Collateral Event for the 17th International Architecture Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia (Biennale Architettura 2021). Titled *Primitive Migration from/to Taiwan*, the Taiwan Collateral Event will take place at the Palazzo delle Prigioni from 22 May to 21 November 2021.

On 27 April, a press conference chaired by Deputy Minister of Culture Lee Ching-Hwi was attended by the Director of NTMoFA Liang Yung-Fei; Deputy Director of Department of Cultural Exchange Chi Tung-Yang; First Secretary of the European Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hu Chih-Chien; Divooe Zein Architects Divooe Zein and Frank Huang; jury member Kuo Chao-Lee and partner representatives to wish the Taiwan Collateral Event every success in its journey to Venice.

Deputy Minister of Culture Lee Ching-Hwi said that the ministry has always selected teams that can best represent Taiwan's ideas and concepts at Biennale Architettura. While the 17th edition of Biennale Architettura was postponed due to the pandemic, thanks to the teams' persistency to move forward with our national architectural concept despite the pandemic, "the world now has a chance to witness Taiwan's architectural imagination and its sensibility towards the environment."

NTMoFA Director Liang Yung Fei, said that the pandemic has not only the postponed the current edition of Biennale Architettura, but also greatly reduced the number of staff that can be dispatched. On this occasion, Liang also thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Welfare for their assistance in facilitating the teams' journey. NTMoFA will hold another press conference in June, allowing Taiwan to witness the teams represent us in Venice.

With a focus on the question posed by the biennale's curator Hashim Sarkis, "How will we live together?", the biennale illuminates the current global need for architecture, especially projects that can serve as a bridge between environment and people, integrating life, work and ideologies, whilst also lending itself as a site that weaves the divine, life, and travel altogether. Taking a new relevance after a year-long delay, Taiwan's contribution *Primitive Migration from/to Taiwan* is primed to tackle the overarching theme of this biennale.

Primitive Migration from/to Taiwan draws from existing case studies and interdisciplinary collaborations that elicit in-depth discussions around constructing pioneering, environmentally friendly buildings to present an exemplary model for future experimental architecture. The three sub-themes of the Taiwanese presentation – Ask, Work Together, and Influence Each Other – foregrounds the

unique relationship between humans and nature. These sub-themes will be unveiled through five architectural projects: *Siu siu – Lab of Primitive Sense*, *Nature Monastery in Bali*, *Semi-ecosphere glass house for isolation and meditation*, *Lab of Primitive Sense* and *The Forest BIG*. Additionally, the exhibition will unite audiovisual and olfaction designs by collaborating with Peruvian director Mauricio Freyre to produce conceptual images and Äi Äi Illum Lab to design interactive elements, inviting viewers to experience a unique curatorial concept that stimulates our five senses.

Primitive Migration from/to Taiwan will be staged in the ancient prison of Palazzo delle Prigioni, an emblematic landmark situated in the heart of Venice. The architectural design provides viewers with a tranquil environment that echoes the history of Venice. Facing the adversity of COVID-19, the exhibition also provides viewers an opportunity to examine these nature-inspired projects to find a tranquil state of mind. The Palazzo is an ideal venue for the presentation as it offers vast empty areas for creativity and the display of new work, whilst retaining many original elements of the Palazzo itself.

The exhibits were transported in early March 2021 and are expected to arrive in Venice in early May. In conjunction with the official opening of Biennale Architettura on May 22, the Taiwan Collateral Event has scheduled a virtual opening to provide remote viewing access. In a press conference held on 12 April, Roberto Cicutto, President of La Biennale di Venezia, expressed that physical events will take place as scheduled after a year-long preparation. Biennale Architettura 2021 is expected to welcome architectural teams from 63 countries and regions in May with a limited number of visitors able to attend at any one time. Ticket purchase information and COVID-19 prevention guidelines are available on La Biennale's official website.

NTMoFA is grateful for the cooperation and support of various inter-ministerial agencies. The Command Center for Severe Pneumonia with Novel Pathogens of Taiwan Centers for Disease Control has specially arranged vaccines to ensure the health and safety of personnel travelling to Venice for Taiwan's Collateral Event at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. Following a year of delay, travelling for the exhibition set-up was also made possible thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' sponsorship. The teams travelling to Venice include: Zein Group Co., Ltd./Divooe Zein Architects, TransGlobal Logistics and the NTMoFA administrative team. Adhering to La Biennale's pandemic regulations, the Taiwan Collateral Event at Biennale Architettura 2021 is expected to overcome overseas travel challenges for the exhibition set-up and launch successfully.

For further details about the exhibition and opening activities, please refer to the Biennale Architettura page of [NTMoFA](#) and the official website of [La Biennale di Venezia](#). The public is invited to follow Taiwan's living traditions, largely influenced by its mountains and surrounding ocean, through its distinctive architectural presentation in an international context.

Click [here](#) to download the full press kit or scan the QR code below



Taiwan Collateral Event at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia

- Dates : 22 May to 21 November 2021 (closed on Monday's)
- Location: Palazzo delle Prigioni, Venice, Italy
- Exhibition organizers: Chao Hsin-Yi, Ho Thung-Yu (04) 23723552 #303 、 #308
- Media contacts:
NTMoFA: Wang Yi-Yin (Emily), Kuo Chun-Yi (04) 2372-3552 #133、 336
Sutton: David Yu davidy@suttoncomms.com +852 2528 0792

National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts

- Opening hours:
Tuesday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00
Saturday to Sunday 09:00 – 18:00
Closed on Mondays
- Address: Wu Chuan West Road, West District, Taichung, Taiwan, 40359
- Website: <http://www.ntmofa.gov.tw>
- Phone: +886 (04) 2372-3552

Partners

Zuellig Pharma (for specially arranging N95 masks, protective clothing, face masks, disinfectant supplies and anti-epidemic drugs to the travelling teams)

Newland Taiwan

SHOULD

Shen Mao Gardening

Relax 33

HP Taiwan

L'atelier Fantasia

Roly Taiwan

Jiu Zhen Nan Bakery

CMP PUJEN Foundation for Arts and Culture

Spring Pool Glass

Äi Äi Illum Lab

Jut Foundation for Arts and Architecture