

ANTARCTIC pavilion

ANTARCTOPIA

7 June –23 November, 2014
Fondaco Marcello, Grand Canal, Venice
San Marco 3415 calle dei Garzoni

Continent to be represented for the first time during
the Venice Biennale of Architecture

YURI AVVAKUMOV
ALEXANDER BRODSKY
HUGH BROUGHTON ARCHITECTS
YURY GRIGORYAN
STUDIO ZAHA HADID VIENNA
JUERGEN MAYER H.
ALEXEY KOZYR
TOTAN KUZEMBAEV
MARIELE NEUDECKER
ALEX SCHWEDER
SERGEI SKURATOV ARCHITECTS
LIZA VINTOVA
VEECH MEDIA ARCHITECTURE (VMA)
ALEXANDER ZELIKIN

Commissioner
ALEXANDER PONOMAREV

Curator
NADIM SAMMAN

The ANTARCTIC PAVILION brings together leading international architects and artists to explore present and future models of living with Antarctica.

Almost without exception, Antarctic stations are designed by engineers with minimal aesthetic regard for living conditions. How does their pseudo-architecture circumscribe man's relationship with the continent? More importantly—What are the alternatives? The projects featured in this pavilion are directed towards other pasts, presents and futures whose relevance and power transcend South Polar geography. They propose an expanded Antarctic imaginary.

The overall scenography of the exhibition has been designed by Alexey Kozyr architectural studio. It invokes the provisional nature of architecture in Antarctica – as well as the logistical reality of having to transport all building materials into the continent. A series of flight-cases, of same kind used to transport scientific equipment, will act as plinths for maquettes by contributing architects.

The Antarctic Pavilion is a long-term project, initially focused on alerting the architectural profession to its disregard for what is built in the South Polar region. In time, our program will impact upon the design of real stations.

The Pavilion's status as a '[trans]National Pavilion' also constitutes a polemical engagement with the Biennale's nationally over-determined structure: a quasi-institutional claim to represent a transnational sphere, out of line with the festival's politics of territorial representation. More importantly, it points to Antarctica as a Giardini of sorts, in which the sovereignty-obsessed cultural ambitions relevant two centuries ago still seem to hold sway – for the worse.

Despite all the kilometres of ground untrodden by human foot, mountains unnamed and creatures unknown, Antarctica is a cultural space. The projects featured in this pavilion are testaments to the Antarctic community that would yet know itself – and the continent – in ways transcending national-scientific missions. Among enthusiasts and unbuilt schemes dwells the promise of a new Antarctic man.

The Antarctic Pavilion is initiated by the artist Alexander Ponomarev. Drawing upon his background in nautical engineering and early career as a submariner, Ponomarev's work chiefly invokes journeys at sea and remote terrain – contexts in which to explore the relationship between illusion and reality, the utility of art, and the shifting tides of personal and cultural history. Ponomarev is a regular visitor to Antarctica, and has realized numerous projects on the continent. The Antarctic Pavilion draws upon his longstanding interest in Antarctica's potential as a cultural field.

The Antarctic Pavilion is a European interface platform for a biennale to be held in Antarctica, also devised and implemented by artist Alexander Ponomarev, and curated by Nadim Samman. The Antarctic Biennale will be take place in 2015-2016 aboard international research vessels. The Antarctic Biennale is conceived as a cultural exchange between artists and the continent's scientists and support staff.

(On the occasion of the exhibition, The Antarctic Pavilion will publish a full-colour book cataloguing contributions to Antarctopia, along with articles pertaining to the conception of the The Antarctic Biennale.)

NOTES TO EDITORS

Press view: **June 7, 2-4pm. Fondaco Marcello**
Vernissage: **June 7, 6-9pm. Fondaco Marcello**

Commissioner: **ALEXANDER PONOMAREV**
Curator: **NADIM SAMMAN**
Exhibition Architect: **ALEXEY KOZYR**
Graphic Design: **ALENA IVANOVA-JOHANSON**
Exhibition manager: **KATJA SCHOLZ**

Organizer: **OCEANIC FUND PROJECTS**
General Partner: **AVC CHARITY FOUNDATION**
Partner: **ISMAIL AKHMETOV FOUNDATION**

Exhibition realized thanks to **ISMAIL AKHMETOV FOUNDATION**

TALK PROGRAM

7 June, 5pm **Fondaco Marcello, Grand Canal**

CONSTRUCTING ANTARCTICA

Hugh Broughton
Alexey Kozyr
Yuriy Grigoryan
Carlo Barbante

Daria Parkhomenko
Matteo Bertelé
VMA

This panel will address the existing state of architecture in the South Polar region while considering the proposals for alternative visions presented in Antarctopia. Why must we reimagine the potential of architecture in Antarctica?

8 June, 1pm Fondaco Marcello, Grand Canal

THE ANTARCTIC IMAGINARY

Alex Schweder
Mariele Neudecker
Alexander Ponomarev
Sergei Skuratov

Can we speak of an Antarctic culture? Is such a project an anathema to ecological thought? How can we, who will never go, partake of an expanded Antarctic imaginary?

ANTARCTOPIA FILM PROGRAM

Marcel Dinahet

Sein- marée montante 2'36", 2012
Danseurs immobiles , 1'52"

Guido Yannitto

Avistaje,
video performance, 3.52', 2012

Alexander Ponomarev

Mirage Architecture, 9' 25", 2007
Baffin Figure 3' 01", 2006
Maya 14' 23", 2000

Paúl Rosero Contrera

Audiopoiesis

Magali Daniaux & Cédric Pigot

Devenir Graine
Action in front the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, 12', 2012

TRAVEL

The Fondaco Marcello is located on the banks of the Grand Canal, very close to the Palazzo Grassi and between the Academia and Rialto bridges, in front of the San Tomà vaporetto station. Fondaco Marcello can be reached by vaporetto Sant'Angelo; traghetto from San Tomà to Sant'Angelo; and direct taxi boat landing at Pavilion.

ALEXANDER PONOMAREV

commissioner
of antarctic pavilion

Alexander Ponomarev graduated from the USSR Nautical Engineering College in 1979, following a period at the Orel Art School. He is an Officier d'Arts et de Lettres (France) and a member of the Russian Academy of Arts. In 2007 he represented Russia at the 52nd Biennale di Venezia and in 2009 docked his handmade submarine, SubTiziano, on the Grand Canal as an Official Collateral Project of the 53rd Biennale.

Participated in several expeditions to the Antarctic and Arctic.

COLLECTIONS

Centre George Pompidou, Paris
FNAC (Fonds National d'Art Contemporain), France
FRAC (Fonds Regional d'Art Contemporain), Bretagne, France
Ministry of Culture, Moscow
State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg
State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow
The State Hermitage Museum
Picardy Art Museum, Amien, France
National Center of Contemporary Art, Moscow
Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow
Orel Museum of Fine Arts, Orel, Russia
Collection of the Great Duchess of Luxembourg,
Luxembourg
National Museum Singapore, Singapore
Foundation F.R. Weisman, Los Angeles
Judishes Museum Reihnsburg, Reihnsburg,
Germany
University Jaume I, Castellon de la Plana (Spain).
Zimmerli Art museum, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, USA
Universidad Jaume I, Castellon de la Plana, Spain
Art Museum of Nizhny Tagil, Russia
Art Museum of Ekaterinburg, Russia
Art Museum of Krasnoyarsk, Russia

NADIM SAMMAN

Nadim Samman is an independent curator and art historian based in London & Berlin. He read Philosophy at University College London before completing a doctorate in art history at the Courtauld Institute of Art. He has written for publications including Third Text, The Art Newspaper, Art Review (Online), Contemporary, Asian Affairs, Art India, Artchronika, Erotic Review, Naked Punch, Under/current and WestEast. He has also been an invited speaker at MoMA Warsaw, Università Ca' Foscari, the 798 Beijing Biennale, Christies and SoAs. His curatorial projects in London, Moscow, Berlin, Venice, Zurich and Marrakech have included presentations of leading modern and contemporary artists. In 2012 he curated the 4th Marrakech Biennale with Carson Chan. He is a member of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA). Nadim is Co-Director of Import Projects (Berlin) and Curator at Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary (Vienna).

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY
SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE
P.P.SHIRSHOV INSTITUTE OF OCEANOLOGY OF THE RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (IO RAS)
LA COMMISSIONE SCIENTIFICA NAZIONALE PER L'ANTARTIDE (CSNA), ROMA

Andrey Cheglakov, Ismail Akhmetov, Silvia Burini, Carlo Barbante, Girolamo Conte Marcello, Giuseppe Barbieri, Konstantin Hudiakov, Alexey Sokov, Robert Nigmatulin, Sergey Gulyov, Maya Avelitcheva, Nicolas Iljine, Nika Taraba, Tom Riddell, Dmitry Zograf

THE ANTARCTIC PAVILION IS PLEASED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 4TH ART NIGHT VENEZIA - 21 JUNE, 2014. CHECK [HTTP://WWW.ARTNIGHT.IT](http://www.artnight.it) AND [WWW.ANTARCTICPAVILION.COM](http://www.antarcticpavilion.com) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

