ArtReview

Next Lyon Biennale to tackle 'Fragility'

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The former Usines Fagor, one the Lyon Biennale's customary venues. Photo: Blaise Adilon

Sixteenth edition to feature works spanning two millennia

The theme for the 16th edition of the Lyon Biennale, curated by duo Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath, will be manifesto of fragility and features artworks spanning two millennia.

Originally slated to open in 2021, the pandemic-postponed edition is now scheduled to run from 14 September to 31 December 2022.

'Whether in the bruised body of a protestor or the ashen skies over the earth's inflamed surface, our awareness of our shared precariousness has rarely been more tangible or visible,' reads the curatorial statement. Centring on collaboration as a form of resistance, this edition will seek to posit fragility not as a vulnerability but rather as a strength to 'harness... as a foundation for empowerment'.

Building on Lyon's layered history, the biennale will unfold across two 'axes': a 'horizontal, geographical' one, featuring work by 87 contemporary artists from 39 countries engaging with fragility today, and a 'vertical, temporal' one, exploring the theme through a selection of 100 historical artworks and objects, on loan from various institutions including New York's Met Museum, the Louvre Abu Dhabi and local and regional museums such as the Museum of Fine Arts of Lyon and the Lugdunum Museum and Roman theatres.

Another thematic display, conceived by the curators as a point of intersection between those two axes, will consider fragility in the context of the 1960s era of Beirut's Golden Age, with an additional 230 artworks by 34 artists and more than 300 archival documents drawn from nearly 40 collections worldwide. This section will bring to light Lyon's historical connection with Beirut through the nineteenth-century silk trade, and the subsequent establishment of the French Mandate in 1920.

The exhibitions will take place across the biennale's two main venues, the contemporary art museum macLYON and the disused Fagor factories, as well as in various venues across the city.

The biennale has also announced the list of the 87 contemporary artists taking part in this edition. They are:

Mohamad Abdouni
Gabriel Abrantes
Amina Agueznay
Remie Akl
Julio Anaya Cabanding
Giulia Andreani
Mali Arun
Dana Awartani
Clemens Behr
Nina Beier
Ailbhe Ní Bhriain
Lucile Boiron

Phoebe Boswell

Sarah Brahim

Leyla Cárdenas

Julian Charrière

Jean Claracq

Clément Cogitore

Nicolas Daubanes

Jose Dávila

Buck Ellison

Eva Fàbregas

Mohammed Al Faraj

Philipp Fleischmann

Léo Fourdrinier

Chafa Ghaddar

Olivier Goethals

Pedro Gómez-Egaña

Marta Górnicka

Nicki Green

Joana Hadjitomas & Khalil Joreige

Klára Hosnedlová

Nadia Kaabi-Linke

Néstor Jiménez

Annika Kahrs

Özgür Kar

Mohammed Kazem

kennedy+swan

Michelle & Noel Keserwany

Tarik Kiswanson

Nadine Labaki and Khaled Mouzanar

Hashel Al Lamki

Richard Learoyd

Hannah Levy

Randa Maroufi

Lucy McRae

Jesse Mockrin

Filwa Nazer

Eva Nielsen

Toyin Ojih Odutola

Hans Op de Beeck

Organon Art Cie

Daniel Otero Torres

Abdullah Al Othman

Daniel De Paula

Aurélie Pétrel

Sarah del Pino

Joanna Piotrowska

Christina Quarles

Omar Rajeh and Mia Habis

Erin M. Riley

Sara Sadik

Cemile Sahin

Ezster Salamon with the Jeune Ballet of the CNSMD Lyon (under the artistic direction

of Kylie Walters)

Ugo Schiavi

Markus Schinwald

Sylvie Selig

Seher Shah

Jeremy Shaw

Muhannad Shono

Taryn Simon

Kim Simonsson

Valeska Soares

Studio Safar

Young-jun Tak

Lucia Tallova

Philipp Timischl

Salman Toor

Evita Vasiljeva

Puck Verkade

WangShui

Munem Wasif

James Webb

Hannah Weinberger

Raed Yassin

Zhang Ruyi

Zhang Yunyao