



Venice, 10th April 2019

Concilio Europeo dell'Arte presents "PERFORMING TEXTILES"
by Kawita Vatanajyankur



The thai artist's solo-exhibition, back to Venice on the occasion of the 58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia, inaugurates the new art exhibition space and gallery of Concilio Europeo dell'Arte, InParadiso 3030.

An exhibition that, through the artist's extreme performances, explores the female world and the role of women in art and society, capturing the physical manifestation of manual labour processes undertaken by women in Thailand.

InParadiso 3030 | Frari San Polo 3030 - 30125 Venice

9th May - 30th June 2019

Free entrance, open every day, h 10.00 - 18.00
closed on Sundays

"Performing Textiles" by the Thai artist Kawita Vatanajyankur, is the solo-exhibition which inaugurates the opening of the CEA - Concilio Europeo dell'Arte's new seat and gallery - InParadiso 3030, in the very heart of Venice art district, just aside the magnificent Basilica dei Frari.

It is no coincidence that the Concilio Europeo dell'Arte chose the renowned video artist and performer Kawita Vatanajyankur for the opening of InParadiso 3030, on the occasion of the 58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia. Her solo-exhibition brings her latest provocations to Venice: the series *Performing Textiles* provoke questions surrounding the place of cultural identity, feminism, women's work, consumerism and lived experiences - classified through a lens of hyper-coloured realism and the intensity of physical versus material composition. Her suite of videos offers a vignette into the physicality and vulnerability of the feminine body.

Protagonist of the contemporary Asian and Australian art scene, as well as in Europe and USA, Kawita investigates throughout her video-performances the **vulnerable female condition**, in which female bodies are engaged in almost impossible balancing acts, while captivating and luminous colors characterize an aesthetic research that draws on the visual language of the network, a sarcastic allusion to consumerism that claims to give instant gratification.

Performing Textiles - created when travelling around **New Zealand** - stems from a journey in **Thailand** that the artist has undertaken to explore the various textile production techniques existing in small villages, adopted by local women workers: here, production was often time-consuming, but the quality of fabrics fashioned by these women were superior. And it is **Kawita's body performances giving voice to the work of these women**, questioning the way in which work is organized and, in turn, the position of women in society.

However, textiles undeniably have a place firmly embedded in **history**, and it is this history of textile production - recognised as **women's labour** - that has ingrained itself in our culture. Basketry, loom weaving, knitting, crochet and lacemaking are all feminine material skills that rendered men unnecessary. As such, Vatanajyankur's practice "**focuses on valuing women's everyday work and labour, while offering a powerful examination of social and cultural ways of viewing women's work**". Labour exploitation is a major issue within consumeristic society, blocking access to female empowerment and gender equality. Performing Textiles brings this issue into the public sphere.

In her performances, Vatanajyankur **transforms her body** into various textile process tools. Her physical form becomes the embodiment of a spinning wheel or weaving shuttle. As the works progress, her body struggles to compete as the material tool, and thus her form undergoes both psychological and physical metamorphosis. repeating infinitely the movements.

Textiles are linked symbolically to birth, fertility and reproduction. The practice of working with materials connects women's bodies to the earth. It is a symbol of life and power. There is a poetic parallel which exists between the creation of new thread and new life.

KAWITA VATANAJYANKUR has achieved significant recognition since graduating from RMIT University (BA, Fine Art) in 2011. In 2015 she was a Finalist in the Jaguar Asia Pacific Tech Art Prize and curated into the prestigious Thailand Eye exhibition at Saatchi Gallery, London. In 2017, her work has been curated into 'Islands in the Stream' exhibition by **Alamak!project** in collaboration with **Concilio Europeo dell'Arte** alongside the 57th Biennale di Venezia; into Asia Triennale of Performing Arts at the Melbourne Arts Centre, as well as 'Negotiating the Future' curated exhibition of the Asian Art Biennial Taiwan. In 2018, she showed her works as part of the Bangkok Art Biennale 2018. Vatanajyankur has exhibited widely across Australia, as well as Asia, USA and Europe. Vatanajyankur's work is held the National Collection of Thailand and in Museum collections including Singapore Art Museum, Dunedin Public Art Gallery (Dunedin Art Museum), Miami Contemporary Art Museum, as well as university collections and private collections in Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Europe and America. She is currently represented by Nova Contemporary, Bangkok / **Alamak!project** / Clear Edition & Gallery, Tokyo and Antidote Organisation, Australia.

InPARADISO 3030 is the new contemporary exhibition space, gallery and store of the Concilio Europeo dell'Arte, opened in the historic center of Venice next to the monumental Basilica dei Frari. Renewed headquarters of the CEA in Venice, it joins the cultural activities organized by Concilio Europeo dell'Arte at the InParadiso Art Gallery (Giardini della Biennale) promoting Cultural Heritage, Arts and Culture on the international scene.

Il **CONCILIO EUROPEO DELL'ARTE** - organizer and curator of Performing Textiles - was founded in 2006 in Florence (Italy) as the Association CEA - Concilio Europeo dell'Arte, a not-for-profit organization which aims to promote Cultural Heritage, Arts and Culture, fostering a constant dialogue with public and private Institutions, within and outside national borders. Due to its European and international perspective, Concilio Europeo dell'Arte has seats in Italy (Florence and Venice), France (Paris) and Croatia (Labin).

Inauguration

Thursday 9th May, h 11.00

InParadiso 3030

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