

A project by Omar Kholeif, Maria Kramar and V—A—C

13 new commissions explore the notion and function of time in the 21st Century

Time, Forward!

11 May – 20 October 2019

Biennale preview days:
8/9/10 May, 10am to 8pm

Press preview:
8 May, 3–6pm

V—A—C Zattere,
Dorsoduro 1401, Venice

Vaporetto Stops:
San Basilio or Zattere

Open:
Thursday to Tuesday 11am – 7pm;
Wednesday Closed;

Free entry

For all further information on this
and all V—A—C projects, contact:

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Participating artists: Rosa Barba, Aleksandra Domanović, Valentin Fetisov, Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, Daria Irincheeva, Alexandra Sukhareva, Christopher Kulendran Thomas, Adam Linder, Haroon Mirza, Trevor Paglen, Walid Raad, James Richards, Kirill Savchenkov, Where Dogs Run.

Time, Forward!, a new project by Omar Kholeif, Maria Kramar and V—A—C Foundation, seeks to question the notion and function of time and how it relates to new forms of consciousness, action and sight in the twenty-first century. "First we begin with time, the singular moment of experience, but then we pause, before charging forward, as the title of the exhibition suggests," says Kholeif. The title is also an ironic take on the revolutionary 20th century concept and Soviet slogan. Time Forward! became a celebrated book, a film and a tune used extensively throughout the 60s and which is still highly recognisable today. While its original use proposes an optimistic and progressive view of acceleration, the exhibition takes a more critical position towards the celebration of velocity and compression of time in the digital age.

With artistic production at its very core, V—A—C Foundation has commissioned 13 new works, some site-specific, by emerging and internationally acclaimed artists for Time, Forward!. The artists all met in Venice in May 2018 to activate a collaborative dialogue intertwining their ideas and they were asked to imagine and suggest strategies to cope with the accelerated digital time. When our lives are deluged with images, tweets, real and fake information, can we embrace tools or positions of resistance that will help us improve our living conditions?

The exhibition, occupying the entire space of V—A—C Zattere, encompasses a range of propositions. An errant history of modernity by Walid Raad, a score by James Richards, a science fiction film by Rosa Barba, a meditation on the state of the Earth by Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, a look at the image, and its decay from Alexandra Sukhareva, a deep dive into the anthropocene by Daria Irincheeva, a proposal on virtuality by Kirill Savchenkov, a speculation on the future of the senses by Haroon Mirza, a proposal on new ways of seeing by Trevor Paglen, a psycho-physical by Adam Linder, a reflection on violence by Valentin Fetisov, and, an architectural exploration into algorithmic cityscapes with Where Dogs Run and a look at time traveling with Aleksandra Domanović.

Curated by Omar Kholeif, Maria Kramar and the V—A—C team, Time, Forward! will be accompanied by a publication in the form of a propositional reader, which will be available at the opening. As well as essays by Eugenia Suslova, Omar Kholeif, Yoel Regev, Ben Eastham, Orit Gat, Paul Soulellis, Mathew Dryhurst, Francis Tseng, and Alexei Penzin, each artist will occupy a number of pages where they have been invited to provide sketches of the proposed new work or images of previous or contextualizing works or references.

This will be V—A—C's second time working with writer, curator, editor and broadcaster Omar Kholeif, since his collaboration with V—A—C on a series of year-long displays of the V—A—C collection selected by British artists such as James Richards, who also features in this project, at the Whitechapel Gallery in 2014/15.

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V–A–C Foundation

V–A–C produces new culture together with artists and audiences alike. It is a platform for open discussion aimed at redefining the contemporary landscape. Working with local communities, V–A–C promotes its exhibition, publishing, performative and learning programmes beyond all disciplinary boundaries and thus constantly resets the coordinates for dialogue within a new global geography. This methodology is employed in all V–A–C initiatives, taking place in its Venetian space, through international, cross-institutional partnerships and in its future home for arts and culture in Moscow, GES-2.

V–A–C Zattere

V–A–C's Venetian space launched in spring 2017. This newly renovated building, situated on Zattere overlooking the Canale della Giudecca, can accommodate exhibitions, events and residencies. Originally dating back to the mid 1800s, the building's interior was renovated at different times from the 1950s to the 1990s. The Foundation commissioned local architect Alessandro Pedron of _apml architetti to carry out the more recent renovation project, transforming Palazzo delle Zattere into a new centre for contemporary culture for the city of Venice. The entire space covers 2000 sq metres over four levels, half of which is exhibition space.

V–A–C Foundation supports as donor the 58th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

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