

PRESS RELEASE

Revitalisation by Reconciliation, Opening Conference, May 27, Fondazione Querini Stampalia

Collateral Event of the 15th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

This is today a starting point to realize a new step in co-producing urban design in Europe, said the participants invited by Jo Coenen at Mario Botta Auditorium of Querini Stampalia in Venice.

We witness an increasing demand from civil society, professionals and politicians for a change of method, for more democracy in designing their environment. Isolated citizens initiatives are developing everywhere, studies are published, but where is the political translation of this movement?

Presenting his way of thinking and working with spatial matter to reconcile the fragmented urban landscape, Curator Jo Coenen invited the visitors to see the exhibition *Revitalisation by Reconciliation* as the starting point of a quest for new knowledge and experience that can contribute to a new way of using the potential of cities and regions, their civic societies and to mobilize academic research to find a place into the political debate that should include new readings and new accounts. Where common top-down trends aim at optimizing practices that have been considered effective, research and experimentation can think of radically new practice.

The process launched at Biennale Architettura 2016 objective is more than a traditional best practice exchanges. The Venice Exhibition together with an International Studio proposals not only reflect on the questioning of the political, social, economic, cultural and ecological dimension of IBA method and its Legacy in cities and territories, but also aim to ease the way for replication in similar contexts. By inspiring beyond their local context, it expresses what would also be the highest form of a shared knowledge platform, in a time when Europe is being questioned.

The May 30, the European Union is adopting a new European Urban Agenda. It aims to reinforce the Public Authorities as well as Civil Society, and it involves for the first time Cities and Experts in designing policies, in the implementation of programmes, and to ease synergy between funding instruments. Seizing this momentum, Jo Coenen will set up during the coming months a series of academic research projects with Universities in Europe and debates with European policy makers. Networked, experiences can provide research with a common ground of European scale that can be a testing ground for possible futures.

The results of this discourse will be presented in October, at the European Week of Cities and Regions in Brussels.

Information:

http://www.querinistampalia.org/eng/revitalisation_by_reconciliation_28_may_27_november_2016.php

<http://www.labiennale.org/en/architecture/exhibition/collateral-events/index.html>



Location: Fondazione Querini Stampalia dates : **27-05/27-11 2016**
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