

# LORE BERT

## *Art & Knowledge in the 5 Platonic Solids*

official ›Collateral Event‹ of the

55<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia

›Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana‹, St Mark's Square, Venice

PRESS RELEASE

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**Press conference:** 28 May 4.00 p.m.  
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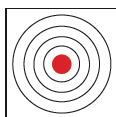
From 29 May until 24 November 2013, the collateral event of the German artist LORE BERT *Art & Knowledge in the 5 Platonic Solids* will take place in the *Sale Monumentali* of the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana. It will be curated by Alice Jaillet-Bréban, Cristiana Coletti and Petra Schaefer with the support of the ›van der Koelen Foundation for Art and Science‹ in cooperation with the ›Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana‹.

The exhibition will show the large-sized environment *5 Platonic Solids* – 5 mirrored sculptures which are integrated in an ocean of folded paper – and 11 picture objects which are 180 x 180 cm in size each. Maurizio Messina, Director of the ›Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana‹ (National Library of St Mark's), Dorothea van der Koelen, President of the ›van der Koelen Foundation for Art and Science‹ and Bettina Gräfin von Pfeil, 3sat Cultural Editor, will open the exhibition.

### **Art and Knowledge**

The topic of *Art and Knowledge* refers to a constant in the oeuvre of **Lore Bert**: the dialogue between fine arts and the universal heritage from philosophy, literature, mathematics and astronomy. On the occasion of her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, in the Gutenberg Museum in Mainz, she implemented the exhibition *Lore Bert and the Sciences* with works in which she refers to Kant, Aristoteles, Quine and Goodman, to Dante, Goethe and Rilke and finally to Copernicus, Galilei and Cantor. Lore Bert's oeuvre is homage to the discoveries and the creative achievement of these great minds, and expresses the confidence in the human being and the rationality of the human being. The rapid flow of news, pictures and information of any kind which we have to deal with nowadays is threatening to become a flood which may overpower and confuse us. We lose our orientation. Without structures that support our relation to the world, all information which we receive will lose its sense and meaning. The task of artists is also to help the people to find a way to develop an idea of themselves again, and to create a different vision of the world.

In this context, the work of Lore Bert can be implicitly regarded as suggestion of how to recover a different concept of time and the ability to rationality, and to refer to the universal dimension of the spirit again. In this sense, her work corresponds perfectly with the **topic of the 55<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia: *The Encyclopedic Palace***.



## ***The 5 Platonic Solids by Lore Bert***

The main focus of the exhibition is the large-sized environment *The 5 Platonic Solids* which has been installed in the centre of the *Salone della Libreria Sansoviniana*. *The 5 Platonic Solids* by Lore Bert are integrated in an ocean of folded paper. They are 5 mirrored sculptures (ø 1.20 m) which reflect the room and which create a visual link to the prestigious atmosphere of the library and, in the spiritual sense, to the City of Venice and its history. They reveal the implied dialogue between the artistic work and the *spirit of the place* – the library, a cultural symbol par excellence – between *Art and Knowledge*. The *Platonic Solids* are regular polyhedra and represent the 5 elements – a topic which has been the object of Lore Bert's artistic consideration since 1988. The tetrahedron stands for the fire, the hexahedron for the earth, the octahedron for the air, the icosahedron for the water, the dodecahedron for the universe.

The environment is flanked by another 11 works (each 180 x 180 cm in size) which underline the meaning of the title of the exhibition and the reference to the City of Venice. They refer to Venetian architectural shapes and floor structures, the *Transcendental Aesthetics* by Immanuel Kant, the Poetry of Rainer Maria Rilke and *The Divine Comedy* by Dante Alighieri – these are the recurring topics in the oeuvre of Lore Bert, which are dedicated a new homage by the artist.

## **Lore Bert – biographical notes**

Born in Gießen in 1936, and raised in Darmstadt, from 1953 to 1957 Lore Bert studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Berlin, with the sculptor Hans Uhlmann who aroused her interest in three-dimensional objects. Apart from picture objects and collages of paper, she implemented more than 120 environments in museums and public institutions in Europe, Asia, Africa, Arabia, the USA and Canada.

Constructional shapes, geometry, architectural elements, letters and numbers form her shape vocabulary. Poetic and philosophical writings, logical connections, science, history, characteristics, relations and the absolute in its universality comprise the intellectual content of her work.

More than 200 exhibitions of Lore Bert - 40 of them in museums in more than 26 countries all over the world - have been published in 95 books and catalogues. 38 are monographs.

Lore Bert was the Guest Artist of Honour at the Biennale of Sharjah (UAE) in 1999 and the Biennale of Izmir (Turkey) in 2011.

She lives and works in Mainz and Venice.

## **La Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana (National Library of St Mark's),**

founded by Cardinal Bessarione with the donation, in 1468, of his grand and precious collection of greek and latin manuscripts, is one of the oldest and most valuable libraries in Italy, with about 1 million books, manuscripts and incunables. The exhibition is located in the library building towards the *Piazzetta* of the architect *Sansovino*.

**On the occasion of the exhibition, a catalogue will be published with 360 pages, 300 colour illustrations and texts of different authors (in German, English, Italian).**

**An accompanying program with different events is in preparation.**

In the near future, further information will be provided on the website at:

[www.platonicsolids.lore-bert.com](http://www.platonicsolids.lore-bert.com)

Entrance during the vernissage (28/5/) and the preview days of the Biennale (29 –31/5/)

via the Piazzetta, San Marco 13/a

Entrance during the exhibition (1/6/ – 24/11/2013) via Correr Museum, open from 10.00 a.m. to 06.00 p.m.

## **Contact**

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