

Art & Knowledge - Lore Bert and the 5 Platonic Solids, Collateral Event of the 55. International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia

The German artist Lore Bert exposes in the Monumental Rooms of the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana of St Mark's square in Venice, from May 28th to November 24th 2013. The exhibition, consisting in a large environment of paper and 11 three-dimensional unpublished works, has been designed specifically for the historical space of the Libreria Sansoviniana and is recognized by the Biennale di Venezia as Collateral Event of the 55. International Art Exhibition.

Lore Bert was born in 1936 in Giessen, Germany. After studying visual art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Berlin, under the guidance of the sculptor Hans Uhlmann (1953-1957), she began traveling through Europe, up to Turkey. In 1982, the artist produced her first collage with Japanese and oriental paper applied on canvas, paper or wood and already in the following year she created the first *three-dimensional pictures* of paper and canvas. In a short time, the volumes separate from the canvas and become autonomous: they are the first installations and environments of paper. Lore Bert continues to travel: from the 80's until today her works have been exhibited not only in Germany but also in Switzerland, Canada, Portugal, Norway, Poland, United States, Iceland, Hungary, China, Austria, Italy, Australia, France, Korea, Belgium, United Kingdom, Nepal, Iraq etc ... In 1989 she created the first *Poetic Transparent* made of padded Japanese paper on which letters or words are written, and in 1996 Lore Bert was invited to the "Great Cairo Library" in Egypt for a solo exhibition. On this occasion, she created a very large environment of very light white paper that establishes a spiritual dialogue between the material and the place. In 1999 she was received as Guest of Honour at the 4. International Art Exhibition in Sharjah (United Arab Emirates) and in 2011 she was invited as Artist of Honour at the 1. International Art Biennale of Izmir in Turkey. Lore Bert, international and cosmopolitan artist, lives and works between Mainz and Venice. Until now, the artist has participated to more than 200 exhibitions in 26 different countries, and over 40 monographs are devoted to her.

Lore Bert's works of paper reflect the spiritual depth of the artist through a geometrical language and a construction of extreme finesse. The exhibition "***Art and Knowledge - Lore Bert and the 5 Platonic Solids***" is set in the Libreria Sansoviniana of the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana in St Mark's Square in Venice: in the center of the historic and majestic Libreria extends an ocean of very light folded white paper which encloses the *5 Platonic Solids*, 5 polyhedral volumes of one meter cube made with mirror surface. The Library, the visitors and the city of Venice reflect and blend into prisms of light emitted from the installation, which establishes a direct link between the place and its history, in a spiritual movement out of Time. All around the environment are arranged 11 three-dimensional paintings created with oriental paper (Japanese and Nepalese) and gold leaf. In front of the entrance of the Libreria Sansoviniana is exhibited the work "Dante", a work of collage and writing on padded Japanese paper, which quotes the opening lines of the *Divina Commedia*.

The exhibition "*Art and Knowledge - Lore Bert and the 5 Platonic Solids*" was made possible thanks to the support of the **van der Koelen Foundation for Art and Science**. It is an institution of public benefit, a non-profit organization founded in 2003 in Mainz, Germany. Composed of a chairman, Dr. Dorothea van der Koelen, and of an Advisory Committee, the Foundation has a collection of over 400 works of visual art and a public library with approx. 20,000 books on contemporary art. In direct connection with the University of Mainz, the Foundation organizes conferences and regularly awards a scholarship for PhD in contemporary art. In addition, the institution sponsors exhibitions, catalogs and contemporary art projects.

Dorothea van der Koelen, chairman of the Foundation, has a contemporary art gallery founded in Mainz (Germany) in 1979. In 1989 she created a second gallery, still in Mainz, and in 1995 she founded the art books publishing house "Chorus-Verlag". In 2001 she opened a third art gallery in Venice, named "La Galleria", located in San Marco's district, between Sant'Angelo's Square and La Fenice Opera House. Since 1988 Dorothea van der Koelen has curated more than 500 contemporary art exhibition in the worldwide and she has published more than 150 contemporary art catalogs, writing 20 scientific papers and several articles in art books. She is a member of the Association of Art Galleries in Italy (ANGMAC) and in Germany (BVDG) and Association of Women Entrepreneur VdU (in Germany), AIDDA (in Italy) and FCEM (in the world).

The curatorial team of the exhibition is international: Alice Jaillet-Brébant is French and she holds university degrees in literature from Paris and Venice. Cristiana Coletti is Italian and she lives in Köln where she works as a journalist. Petra Schaefer is German, she is an art historian and she works at the German Centre for Venetian Studies.

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