

Azerbaijan

Biennale Arte 2022 / **Born To Love**



ARTE
SƏNƏTİN İNTERNASİYONAL
KOMMUNİKASYON
BİREYİ

Ministry for Culture
of the Republic of Azerbaijan



FONDAZIONE
HEYDAR ALIYEV



La Biennale di Venezia

59. Esposizione
Internazionale
d'Arte

Partecipazioni Nazionali

Born to Love Azerbaijan Pavilion

For the Biennale Arte 2022, the Azerbaijan Pavilion is proud to present *Born to Love*, which marks **Azerbaijan's fifth participation** in the International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, realized by the **Heydar Aliyev Foundation**.

Born to Love is a reinterpretation of the principles of the time, imbued with the history of Azerbaijani culture and trends in modern technology.

Curator **Emin Mammadov** introduces the fascinating exhibition of works by seven Azerbaijani contemporary female artists that draw on the phenomenon of the Infinite Consciousness of the Universe.

All the projects presented at the **Azerbaijan National Pavilion** resonate with the central theme of the Biennale, *Milk of Dreams*, after the children's book of the same name by the surrealist artist **Leonora Carrington**, and at the same time speak to important cultural and historical features of our country.

Culture is the irreplaceable means by which people learn to understand each other more deeply and more justly. It comprises a universal language of communication clear to all, irrespective of national or religious identity. Through culture and art, people demonstrate their aspiration to develop humanitarian cooperation and to contribute to the expansion of dialogue between civilizations.

Azerbaijan, which incorporated Eastern and Western cultural values, and where representatives of various nationalities and religions have lived in mutual respect and trust for centuries, has had very positive experiences in the field of cultural dialogue. International festivals, conferences, and exhibitions form an integral part of modern Azerbaijan's cultural life.

Creative projects, organized abroad, have become a fine tradition. Through the language of art, we tell the world about Azerbaijan, its culture, and its history. Each new event varies in staging and invokes a different spiritual atmosphere in each viewer. It is free and creative communication, and direct human contact, that promotes the strengthening of mutual understanding, friendship, and trust.

This year, at Biennale Arte 2022, Azerbaijan presents a fascinating exposition *Born to Love* in which seven Azerbaijani female artists use modern techniques and materials to realise and convey their ideas. *Born to Love* could be a reinterpretation of the standards of the time, pervaded by the history of Azerbaijani culture and patterns in cutting edge innovation.

All the projects displayed at the Azerbaijan National Pavilion resound with the central subject of the Biennale, Milk of Dreams, after the children's book of the same title by the surrealist Leonora Carrington, and at the same time talk to imperative social and verifiable highlights of our nation.

Mehriban Aliyeva
President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation
Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO and ISESCO



Heydar Aliyev Foundation

Set up in 2004, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation is the largest non-governmental organisation in Azerbaijan, contributing to the social and economic development of the country. The Foundation's primary goal is safeguarding national and spiritual values and the widespread promotion of Azerbaijani culture. The organisation is implementing numerous projects and programs in various fields such as education, culture, public health, science and technology, sports and the environment. It contributes to promoting and recognising Azerbaijani culture worldwide and the reconciliation between nations and religions by providing large-scale projects abroad.



**HEYDAR ALIYEV
FOUNDATION**

Various agreements are signed between Azerbaijan and Italy in all the fields of partnership. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation is actively engaged and participates in the cooperation between the two countries. Cultural events are organised by the Foundation in Italy and move the bilateral relations up a rung. Recognition of the rich and ancient culture of Azerbaijan in Italy contributes to the strengthening and promoting the international image of the country worldwide.

Those bilateral relations are essential in the scope of significant cultural and humanitarian projects realised by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation led by Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, President of the Foundation. Thus, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation implements projects and holds a significant number of events to open out the culture of Azerbaijan, its history, music and cuisine, and touristic potential. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation also applies some charitable activities, such as the restoration of ancient historical and cultural monuments in Italy: restoration of the Philosophers Hall of the Capitoline Museums in Rome, restoration of antique bookshelves in the Sistine Hall of the Musei Vaticani (museum of the Vatican), restoration of ancient manuscripts dedicated to Azerbaijan in the Vatican library, or restoration of the Zeus statue in the Museo Pio Clementino (museum of the Vatican). One of the most important projects in the matter was the restoration of the Catacombs of Marcellinus, which dated back to the Roman Empire period and are very significant for the whole Christian world. Moreover, the Foundation contributed generous funds to restore Chiesa della Pietà in Venice.

The Artists



Agdes Baghirzade

Born in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 1975

Lives and works in Baku, Azerbaijan

Since 2002 has participated in the numerous local and international exhibitions

The Other Side of Me

The Other Side of Me is a subjective illustration of the world as Agdes Baghirzade sees it, taking vignettes of everyday life, ranging from architectural details to phantasmagorical reflections, Sufi dervishes, and abstract patterns from nature. She takes great delight in chance happenings or images. The environment – whether natural or urban –always stimulates her work and the aura created by that which we find in our world, where man-made objects and constructions co-exist with nature.

The Other Side of Me is where each object or moment of which is not only fixed by the camera but full of hidden meaning.



The Other Side of Me, 2022, a photo project

Image courtesy of Agdes Baghirzade

The Artists



Fidan Akhundova

Born in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 1989
Lives and works in Berlin, Germany
Since 2011 has participated in the numerous local and international exhibitions

Saltation

The sculpture tells the story of one step. To leave a stuffy room and make her own, conscious choice. What awaits the woman who takes this step, the leap into the unknown? The road ahead is full of doubts and difficulties but it is a more conscious and free one. Patriarchal, traditional society deprives women of choice in the womb. Selective abortion deprives a woman of her right to life. And if she happens to be born, from an early age her perception of the world is strictly controlled by her father, brother, family, and society. Toxic attitudes inherited from the family turn her into a dependent, non-self-acting person. Visitors are given the opportunity to feel the state before stepping into the unknown, new and free, and to experience the dynamics of the sculpture, which symbolises thousands and thousands of women's destinies.



Saltation, 2022, sculpture
Image courtesy of Fidan Akhundova

The Artists



Fidan Kim (Novruzova)

Born in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 1997

Lives and works in San Francisco, USA

Since 2009 has participated in the numerous local and international exhibitions

Totem

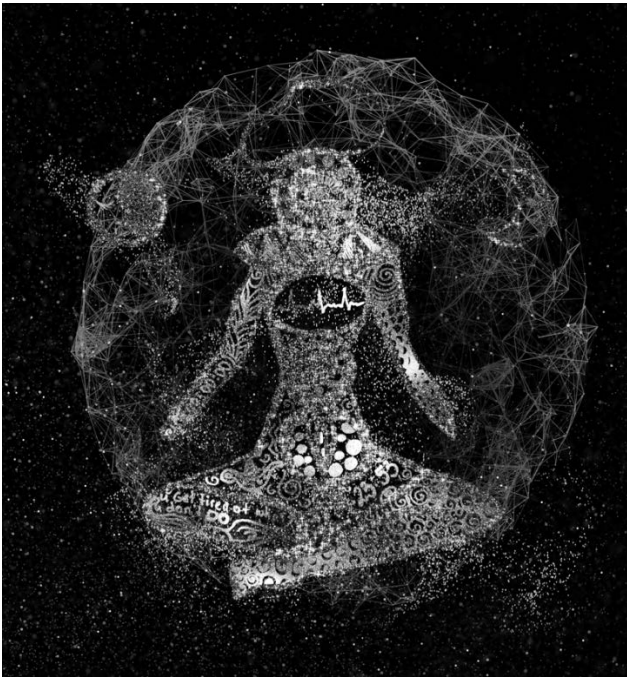
Fidan Kim (Novruzova) in her *Totem* project reflects the evolution of mankind, the relationship of man with animals, and the basic principle of life, which is and that is survival of the fittest. Man's struggle with himself as well as with the environment. And that at the moment protecting the environment, animals in particular, is a top priority for all of us. Environmental protection is an important issue because the environment is on its way to degradation.

The struggle for existence is a struggle 'for' something; it is purposeful and only in so being is it meaningful and able to bring meaning into life. The environment refers to everything that surrounds us. The trees, plants, forests, rivers, and all are our natural environment. Unfortunately, this natural environment of ours is under threat due to human activities. Humans are damaging the environment on a daily basis, pressing the need for its protection.

Totem, 2022, installation, mixed media
Image courtesy of Fidan Kim (Novruzova)



The Artists



Infinity

All is sacred

The ethereal and mind-blowing graphics of the *All is sacred* installation by Infinity are based on the sacred geometric patterns that exist all around us – they are the perfect shapes and patterns forming the basic layout for life in the universe. By using these sacred geometry patterns and the harmonic sounds of the Universe, this installation allows us to be seen as a person that's partitioned from others.

Infinity's art in spite of being profoundly individual belongs to everyone, reflecting our poetic sensibility and effortless grace.

Infinity clarifies, "My artwork is driven by a need to be one with the essence of nature and the world in which we live. Being a seeker of wisdom and truth, all humans are extremely motivated to understand mankind's place in the universe and the meaning of our existence." *All is sacred* immerses us into the ocean, where the pearls of perception and intelligence can be our own to hold and reclaim.



All is sacred, 2022, installation, digital media
Image courtesy of QGallery

The Artists

Ramina Saadatkhon

Born in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 1977

Lives and works in Baku, Azerbaijan

Since 1992 has participated in the numerous local and international exhibitions



Energy of Chaos, 2022, painting

Image courtesy of Fakhriyya Mammadova

Energy of Chaos

In this artist's world, two beginnings have already manifested themselves, which should lead to the birth of a multidimensional human universe. These two beginnings, from the interaction of which comes all the egregious diversity of our cosmos, are called differently by different world traditions - good-evil, yin-yang, feminine-masculine. Most often in today's world, one speaks of the latter interactive nexus, the masculine and the feminine. But Ramina Saadatkhon's art, despite its dynamic though unobtrusive eroticism, is above these socio-cultural "gender" issues. The artist creates *Energy of Chaos*, controlled chaos in the blazing cauldron of which one image melts into another... not to talk about feminine or masculine in their trivial sense. For the author of these paintings, the main thing is the discovery and manifestation of the superhuman, archetypal energies in their mutual penetration and mutually extinguishing ...

The Artists

Sabiha Khankishiyeva

Born in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 1990
Lives and works in Baku, Azerbaijan
Since 2012 has participated in the numerous
local and international exhibitions



Dragon

Azerbaijan is considered one of the main centers of carpet weaving in the world. As an example of ancient art, Azerbaijani carpets were famous all over the world. Now, these carpets are considered to be the most valuable exhibits in world museums. Varni and Ajdahali (dragon) carpets are such well-known carpets. In her *Dragon* project, Sabiha Khankishiyeva used different ceramic plates with dragon symbols peculiar to Karabakh carpets to create the illusion of the giant "Karabakh dragon". Karabakh carpets have a special place in the collection of pile carpets and the history of carpet weaving in the territory of Karabakh dates back to BC, to the third millennium.

In European tradition, the dragon is typically fire-breathing and tends to symbolize chaos or evil, whereas in East Asia it is usually a beneficent symbol of fertility, associated with water and the heavens. "S" - shaped mystical Karabakh **Dragon** by the artist reflects the central element of "Gasimushagi" carpets that belong to the Jabrayil group of the Karabakh carpet-weaving type and is a symbol of mankind's protection

Dragon, 2022, ceramics, installation

Image courtesy of QGallery



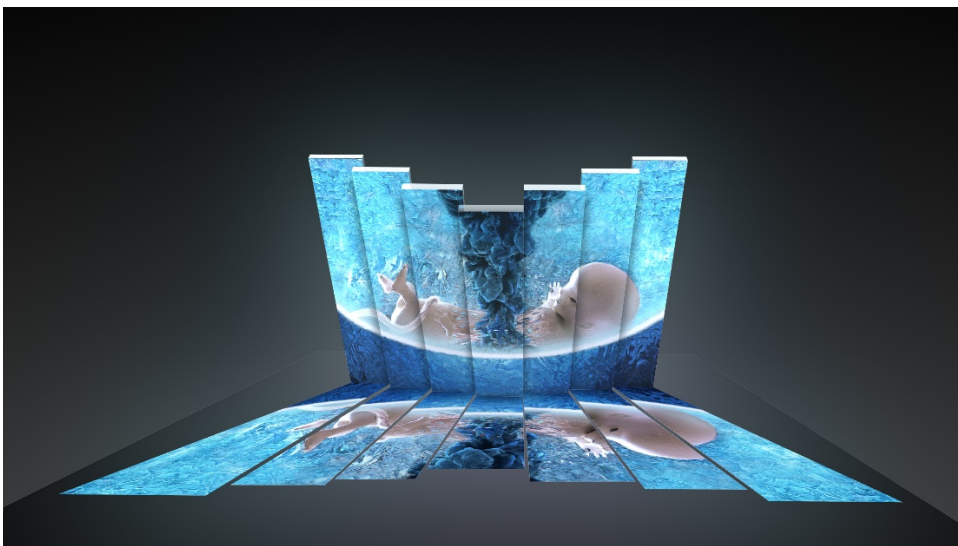
The Artists

Zhuk

Born in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 1992

Lives and works in Baku, Azerbaijan

Since 2009 has participated in the numerous local and international exhibitions



Born to Love, 2022, painting, installation

Image courtesy of Zhuk

Born to Love

In the *Born to Love* installation of Zhuk, the water element is used as the environment that is the basis of the birth of mankind, starting with the womb of the mother.

The project's primary purpose is to connect the constant interaction between man and our planet, which both gives us this life and nourishes it. In return, in most cases, it receives indifferent and negative influences from our side. In this project, the symbol of life on Earth is the image of the embryo as the beginning of the origin of all life on the Planet. The dark substance visually represents the emissions of the waste left by humans in the environment. Thereby showing the indifferent and negligent attitude of humanity towards Earth.



Curator

Emin Mammadov

Emin Mammadov, Artistic Advisor of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, lives in Baku. In 2012 he was appointed Honored Worker of Art of the Azerbaijan Republic. Mammadov has gained international recognition quickly and has curated numerous exhibitions in Azerbaijan and Europe. Mammadov curated *Virtual Reality* Azerbaijan Pavilion in 2019, *UNDER ONE SUN. The Art of Living Together* Azerbaijan Pavilion in 2017, and also curated the exhibitions *Beyond the Line* and *Vita Vitale* that were shown at the Azerbaijani Pavilion of the Biennale Arte 2015. Within 2016–to 2018 he was curating the international travelling exhibition *Live Life* in London, Paris, Berlin, Tbilisi and Moscow.

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Web-site: <https://azerbaijanvenicebiennale.com/>

Azerbaijan Pavilion – La Biennale di Venezia

Born to Love

Venue: Piazza San Marco, Procuratie Vecchie, 139-153

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