

Moataz Nasr to Represent Egypt at the 57th Venice Biennale 2017

For Immediate Release

13 May - 26 November 2017, Giardini de la Biennale, Venezia



Moataz Nasr next to *The Return of the Griffin*, 2013, polyurethane foam and leather

ArtTalks is thrilled to announce the selection of Moataz Nasr to represent Egypt at the 57th edition of the prestigious [La Biennale di Venezia](#) International Art Exhibition to be held between 13 May and 26 November 2017.

The Egyptian Ministry of Culture and the Egyptian High Supreme Council for the Arts have announced on November 7, 2016 that Moataz Nasr has been selected to represent Egypt at the Egyptian Pavilion in the Giardini.

Egypt, since it established its pavilion in 1938, remains one of the only non-European nations to have a national pavilion in the Giardini, which currently houses the Central Pavilion and 29 permanent national pavilions.

In line with his practice to reach an ideal of humanity and in an uncanny nod to recent global events, Moataz Nasr's exhibition is titled *This Too Shall Pass* and will evolve around symbolism that incorporates layers of social comment. Nasr is one of the most significant multi-media artists of his generation. He employs painting, sculpture, and photography, video and public art in order to create installations, which connect past and present, the spiritual and the worldly and his homeland, Egypt and the universal.

Parallel to his work in the studio, Moataz Nasr maintains a social practice, through his Cairo-based nonprofit space, [Darb 1718](#), which gives access to an independent platform for education and culture through multi-disciplinary programs since 2008. His commitment to formal intervention and social activism anchors Nasr's contribution to culture at large, exemplifying his belief that, artists in the 21st century can reinvent the world we live in.

Moataz Nasr was born in Alexandria, Egypt in 1961. He lives and works in Cairo. After studying Economics, Nasr took a studio in Old Cairo and soon gained local recognition marked by numerous prizes before breaking into the international art scene in 2011, notably winning the Grand Prix at the 8th International Cairo Biennale and in 2002 winning the Biennale Prize of Dakar Biennale, Senegal. Moataz Nasr recently participated in *Senses of Time: Video and Film-Based Works of Africa* at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art (2016) and took part in the Dakar Biennale (2016). Across the years, he participated in the La Otra Biennale de Arte di Bogota (2013), the Çanakkale Biennale (2012), the Thessaloniki Biennale (2011), the Lubumbashi Biennale (2010), the Canary Biennale (2008), the Yokohama Triennale (2005), the Sao Paulo Biennale (2004), the Seoul Biennale (2004) and the Venice Biennale (2003).

Established in 1895, the Venice Biennale has for over a century been one of the most prestigious cultural institutions in the world. Today, the Biennale has an attendance of over 370,000 visitors at the Art Exhibition, which takes place every odd years. In 1995, Egypt won the Golden Lion (Leone d'Oro) for Best Pavilion with Akram El Magdoub, Hamdi Attia and Medhat Shafik, as exhibiting artists.

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