

03 June 2009

Kyiv

PinchukArtCentre to represent Ukraine with a project of Illya Chichkan and Mihara Yasuhiro at the 53rd International Art Exposition, 2009 Venice Biennale

Ukrainian Pavilion
 Palazzo Papadopoli
 San Polo, 1364
 30125 Venice, Italy

Thursday, 4 June
 13:00 – 15:00 – press preview
 15:00 – 17:00 – official inauguration

www.ukrainianpavilion2009.org



The PinchukArtCentre and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine are pleased to present artists Illya Chichkan (Ukraine) and Mihara Yasuhiro (Japan) in the exhibition *Steppes of Dreamers* - a major contribution to the 53rd Venice Biennale entitled, *Making Worlds*. The project emphasises the process of creation and expands the boundaries of art and collaboration. The Commissioner is Peter Doroshenko, PinchukArtCentre's artistic director. The curator of the Ukrainian Pavilion is Wladimir Klitschko. The partner of the Ukrainian Pavilion at the 53d Venice Biennale is the international brand *Nemiroff*.

Life is like a film. The many things that happen and the many forms that life takes on – are of an ephemeral nature. They are all fleeting. Things, events, situations, thoughts, emotions, desires, ambitions, fears, drama...they all come, pretend to be all-important, and before you know it they are gone, dissolved into the nothingness out of which they came. Were they ever real? Were they ever more than a dream? *Steppes of Dreamers*, creates the opportunity for all visitors to produce their own short mental movies. Just like the title of the Biennale, *Making Worlds*, suggests, *Steppes of Dreamers* helps move all into discovering who they are in the present world.

This is the basis for the collaborative effort between Illya Chichkan and Mihara Yasuhiro. Working together in the uncharted boundary where art and fashion meet, they examine the past, present and future of the Eurasian landscape through various cinema metaphors. Their four large-scale art installations include: light, sound, performance, advertising and the Palazzo Papadopoli itself as a film-set. Additionally, two large kinetic works by Mihara Yasuhiro addressing space and movement will also add to the assembly of exhibition. Miharo Yasuhiro's partner artist for the project became Ogata Kinichi, who helped to embody Miharo's ideas. The installations are located inside the palazzo and in front of the Academia Bridge. Both artists demonstrate a single, unique vision regarding travel, identity and consciousness.

Victor Pinchuk, businessman and philanthropist: '*PinchukArtCentre appreciates the new opportunity to help the international team of artists representing Ukraine at the Venice Biennale. Every Biennale is a new challenge that advances you more and more. And there is always space for advancement, since the steppes of exploration are infinite.*'

PinchukArtCentre

Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine



Peter Doroshenko, Commissioner of the Ukrainian Pavilion: *'Ukraine has always been an interconnecting point for cultural, social and economic routes that extend from West to East. Illya Chichkan at one point in his life was a fashion designer and then later became an artist. Mihara Yasuhiro started out as an artist and then became a fashion designer. Wladimir Klitschko, the world champion boxer, has been appointed curator for the exhibition. Their varied backgrounds will create an important dialogue around identity and roles issues in society today.'*

Using various visual elements, Illya Chichkan and Mihara Yasuhiro put the spectator of the in the position of realizing the transitory nature of perception by emphasizing the process of consciousness. We enter these physical spaces. We recognize the elements around us. We take for granted certain situations. To awaken within the dream is our purpose now. When we are awake within the dream, life dramas come to an end and a more wondrous dream arises.

Working with the Ukrainian and Japanese artists, the PinchukArtCentre positions its commitment to bridge national identity and international challenges. Officially representing Ukraine for the second time at the Venice Biennale has been a part of the global competence and a long term strategy of the PinchukArtCentre, the young but seminal art institution which supports, develops and promotes the Ukrainian art-scene.

Background information:

Location:

Ukrainian Pavilion www.ukrainianpavilion2009.org
 Palazzo Papadopoli
 San Polo, 1364
 30125 Venice, Italy

Organising Institutions:

PinchukArtCentre
 Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine

Partners:

International Brand: Nemiroff – Partner of the Ukrainian Pavilion at the 53d Venice Biennale

Artists:

Illya Chichkan was born in 1967 in Kyiv. Illya Chichkan can be regarded as one of the founders of the Ukrainian art movement *New Wave*, formed in the early 1990s and is one of the most internationally exhibited artists living in Ukraine. Chichkan has taken part in various exhibitions, including: *Reflection*, PinchukArtCentre (Kyiv, 2007); *Manifesta 5*, San-Sebastian (Spain, 2004); and the *Sao Paulo International Biennale* (Brazil, 1996).
 Official website: chichkan.com

Mihara Yasuhiro was born in 1972 in Nagasaki, Japan. As a student at Tama Art University, he started developing designs for his own footwear brand, opening his first boutique in 1998. In 2001, in collaboration with Puma, Mihara launched a special footwear collection *PUMA by Miharayasuhiro*. For the past few years, Yasuhiro has been active in both women's and men's clothing shows in both Milan and Paris.
 Official website: sosu.co.jp

PinchukArtCentre

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Mr Kinichi Ogata

1970: Born in Sendai, Japan

1996: Starts his career as a freelance designer

1998: Sets up 'OGATA' company and sells original furniture / store design and construction

EXHIBITIONS /WORKS

2004: Exhibition 'Tokyo Designers Block'

2007: Design for SOSU MIHARAYASUHIRO Hong Kong Store

2008: Exhibition 'Maison&OBJET' in Paris

Original music created for the exhibition by Fuyuki Yamakawa (Tokyo, Japan).

PinchukArtCentre

PinchukArtCentre is one of the largest centres for contemporary art in the Eastern Europe, opening in September 2006. The PinchukArtCentre organises exhibitions by leading international and Ukrainian artists and supports various other cultural art initiatives. At the present time, the art centre has the major exhibition, *Damien Hirst: Requiem* up until 20 September 2009. In October 2009, the centre will open major exhibition of short-listed artists in association with the PinchukArtCentre Prize and a focused exhibition about Ukrainian contemporary art. In 2007, the PinchukArtCentre organised the Ukrainian Pavilion at the 52nd Venice Biennale entitled - *Poem about an Inland Sea*.

For more information please visit: pinchukartcentre.org

The Victor Pinchuk Foundation

Established in 2006 by businessman and philanthropist Victor Pinchuk, the Victor Pinchuk Foundation is one of the largest private philanthropic organizations in Ukraine. The Foundation develops and implements social projects aimed at modernising Ukraine and nurturing a new generation of Ukrainian leaders.

For more information please visit: pinchukfund.org

Nemiroff is a socially responsible company which puts a high value to its social and charity programs realization. It constantly comes forward as an organizer and sponsor of various international projects in the areas of sport, culture, fashion, etc.

For more information please visit: nemiroff.ua

For information, images or interviews please contact Dennis Kazvan, head of the press-office of the PinchukArtCentre

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