

# THERME ART

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Press Release

## Therme Art Announces Wellbeing Culture Forum at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia

Four panel discussions on the future of architecture and cohabitation will launch Therme Art's participation in the Biennale Architettura 2021



Overview of Wellbeing Culture Forum Panellists 2020 – 2021

### For Immediate Release

Berlin, May 2021

On occasion of the opening of the 17th International Architecture Exhibition How will we live together?, May 21-22, 2021, Therme Art will host a series of panel discussions featuring leading voices in art, architecture, and science about the future of architecture and cohabitation.

Realised in collaboration with the British Council, Serpentine, Pnat, V-A-C Foundation and the Italian Pavilion, the Wellbeing Culture Forum will respond to the international exhibition's invitation to 'create a new spatial contract' in the

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face of ongoing global crises, through discussions that will address the politics of Gaia, the fluidity of molecular life, and the role of creativity and experimentation in urban design.

Participating panellists from our partner institutions include Serpentine Artistic Director Hans Ulrich Obrist and British Pavilion Co-curators Madeleine Kessler and Manijeh Verghese; Biennale participants Sissel Tolaas, Stefano Mancuso, Refik Anadol, Anab Jain and Not Vital; and indigenous rights activist Nina Gualinga.

At La Biennale di Venezia, the Wellbeing Culture Forum will explore symbiosis and cohabitation in greater detail, using the central exhibition as well as other projects as points of inspiration to consider the role of innovative art and architecture in fostering more sustainable modes of life.

The first three talks of the programme will hone in on these themes by looking at the possibilities explored within the exhibitions at the Italian and British Pavilions and in the Giardini's Central Pavilion. The final discussion will explore practical solutions that draw upon principles of nature to formulate new, sustainable frameworks in architecture and urban development.

Included among the panelists exchanging ideas at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia are Stefanie Albrecht, Refik Anadol, Stefano Boeri, Sevrá Davis, Joseph Grima, Nina Gualinga, Robert C. Hanea, Finn Harries, Maja Hoffmann, Monilola Ilupeju, Madeleine Kessler, Joseph Kosuth, Jeanne de Kroon, Marianne Krogh, Stefano Mancuso, Alessandro Melis, Hans Ulrich Obrist, David Ogunmuyiwa, Camilla Pandolfi, Noah Raford, Salome Rodeck, Mikolaj Sekutowicz, Simon Schäfer-Stradowsky, Anab Jain (Superflux), Sissel Tolaas, Manijeh Verghese, Not Vital, Alexander Voigt, Hala Wardé and Sarah Wilson among others.

The talks programme will take place across several venues in a mixed reality format, featuring both in-person and video-streamed participation of the panelists. This series is published in partnership with Therme Art's Wellbeing Culture Forum media partner, Dezeen.

## **MUTUAL AID: The Politics of Gaia**

**Date: 21 May 2021**

**Time: 10:00 – 11:30 CEST**

Moderation: Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director Serpentine

Panel: Refik Anadol, Media Artist & Designer, Nina Gualinga, Indigenous Rights Activist, Maja Hoffmann, Founder & President, Luma Arles, Jeanne de Kroon, Social Entrepreneur, Stefano Mancuso, Author & Professor of Botany at University of Florence, Salome Rodeck, Cultural Theorist, Not Vital, Artist, Anab Jain, Superflux, Design Studio, Hala Wardé, Founding Architect of HW Architecture

## **RESURRECTING THE SUBLIME: The Smell of Gaia's Molecules**

**Date: 21 May 2021**

**Time: 11:30 - 13:00 CEST**

Moderation: Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director Serpentine

Panel: Sissel Tolaas, Artist, Joseph Grima, Curator and Founder of Space Caviar, Maja Hoffmann, Founder & President, Luma Arles, Marianne Krogh, Curator the Danish Pavilion, Refik Anadol, Media Artist & Designer, Not Vital, Artist

## **EXPERIMENTS IN NEW SPATIAL CONTRACTS: The Garden of Privatised Delights**

**Date: 21 May 2021**

**Time: 18:00 – 19:30 CEST**

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Moderation: Sevrá Davis, Director of Architecture, Design and Fashion, the British Council, Monilola Ilupeju, Artist and Curator

Panel: Sarah Wilson, Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art History, Courtauld Institute of Art, Madeleine Kessler, Unscene Architecture and Co-curator the British Pavilion, Manijeh Verghese, Unscene Architecture and Co-curator the British Pavilion; Head of Public Programmes at the Architectural Association, David Ogunmuyiwa, Architect & Principle of Architecture Doing Place, Jayden Ali, Founding Director of Interdisciplinary Practice JA Projects

## **FROM NON-EXTRACTIVE TO REGENERATIVE ARCHITECTURES: Growing a Symbiotic City**

**Date: 22 May 2021**

**Time: 11:30 – 13:00 CEST**

Moderation: Monilola Ilupeju, Artist and Curator

Panel: Sarah Wilson, Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art History, Courtauld Institute of Art, Simon Schäfer-Stradowsky, Managing Director IKEM, Jeanne de Kroon, Social Entrepreneur, Nina Gualinga, Indigenous Rights Activist, Alexander Voigt, Physicist, Robert C. Hanea, Therme Group Founder and CEO, Stefano Boeri, Architect, Joseph Kosuth, Artist, Joseph Grima, Writer, curator and architect, Dr Noah Raford, Futurist-in-Chief and Chief of Global Affairs, Dubai Future Foundation

## **Additional Information**

### **Wellbeing Culture Forum**

The Wellbeing Culture Forum is a series of discussions in virtual environments in response to the present pandemic. Gathering experts from diverse fields, the series will foster the necessary collaboration and knowledge transfer to realise a vision of the city and its cultural activity in symbiosis with the natural world, generating a holistic approach towards the health of humanity. The Wellbeing Culture Forum hosts diverse conversations designed to create 'insights for action,' culminating in the creation of a Wellbeing Manifesto. This will be made freely available worldwide, for individuals and organisations to implement and influence positive cultural change. The series is curated by Mikolaj Sekutowicz, who is co-hosting each panel discussion together with various partners and partner institutions from the private and public sector.

### **Therme Art**

Therme Art is the cultural incubator of Therme Group. Responsible for the outreach to the creative communities it curates forums between culture, science and society and works with internationally renowned artists and architects, as well as emerging talents, to commission and develop site-specific artistic projects that challenge the limitations of conventional exhibition spaces and redefine contemporary art viewing. Therme Art provides the resources and means required to fulfil artists' visions which cannot be realised in galleries or museums, regardless of their complexity, production, installation, and long-term maintenance. Further information: [therme.art](http://therme.art)

### **Therme Group**

Therme Group is a leading global wellbeing provider designing, constructing, and operating the world's largest wellbeing facilities. Its contemporary urban development proposition incorporates environmental concepts to re-integrate nature into everyday life. Therme Group's facilities combine its innovative sustainable technologies with human-oriented design. Drawing upon the tradition of ancient thermal baths, which were designed to be healing, social, and egalitarian settings, Therme Group builds environments that nurture the mind and body for visitors of all ages and demographics, creating healthy and resilient communities. Further information: [thermegrup.com](http://thermegrup.com)

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## **Serpentine**

Championing new ideas in contemporary art since 1970, the Serpentine has presented pioneering exhibitions for half a century, from a wide range of emerging practitioners to the most internationally recognised artists of our time. Across two sites only 5 minutes apart, in London's Kensington Gardens, the Serpentine presents a year-round, free programme of exhibitions, education, live events and technological innovation, in the park and beyond. Proud to maintain free access for all visitors, thanks to its unique location the Serpentine reaches an exceptionally broad audience and maintains a deep connection with its local community.

## **The British Council**

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. Last year we reached over 80 million people directly and 791 million people overall including online, broadcasts and publications. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We receive a 15 per cent core funding grant from the UK government. [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

## **Pnat**

Pnat is a think tank of designers and plant scientists with the aim of conceiving creative solutions based on evidence. Pnat utilizes current knowledge of plant behaviors to inspire innovative design concepts and products, from the small to the building scale. The goal is to set up synergic relationships and to provoke mutual exchanges between the natural and the artificial environment, which is the fundamental theme of sustainable design.

## **V-A-C Foundation**

V-A-C Foundation was established in Moscow in 2009 by Leonid Mikhelson and Teresa Iarocci Mavica, who has been Director of the Foundation since its inception. V-A-C produces new culture together with artists and audiences alike. It is a platform for open discussion aimed at redefining the contemporary landscape. Working with local communities, V-A-C promotes its exhibition, publishing, performative and learning programmes beyond all disciplinary boundaries and thus constantly resets the coordinates for dialogue within a new global geography. This methodology is applied in all V-A-C initiatives, taking place in its Venetian space, through international, cross-institutional partnerships and in its future home for arts and culture in Moscow, GES-2.

## **Press Contact**

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therme.art

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