

«Versations/Tetralógia»

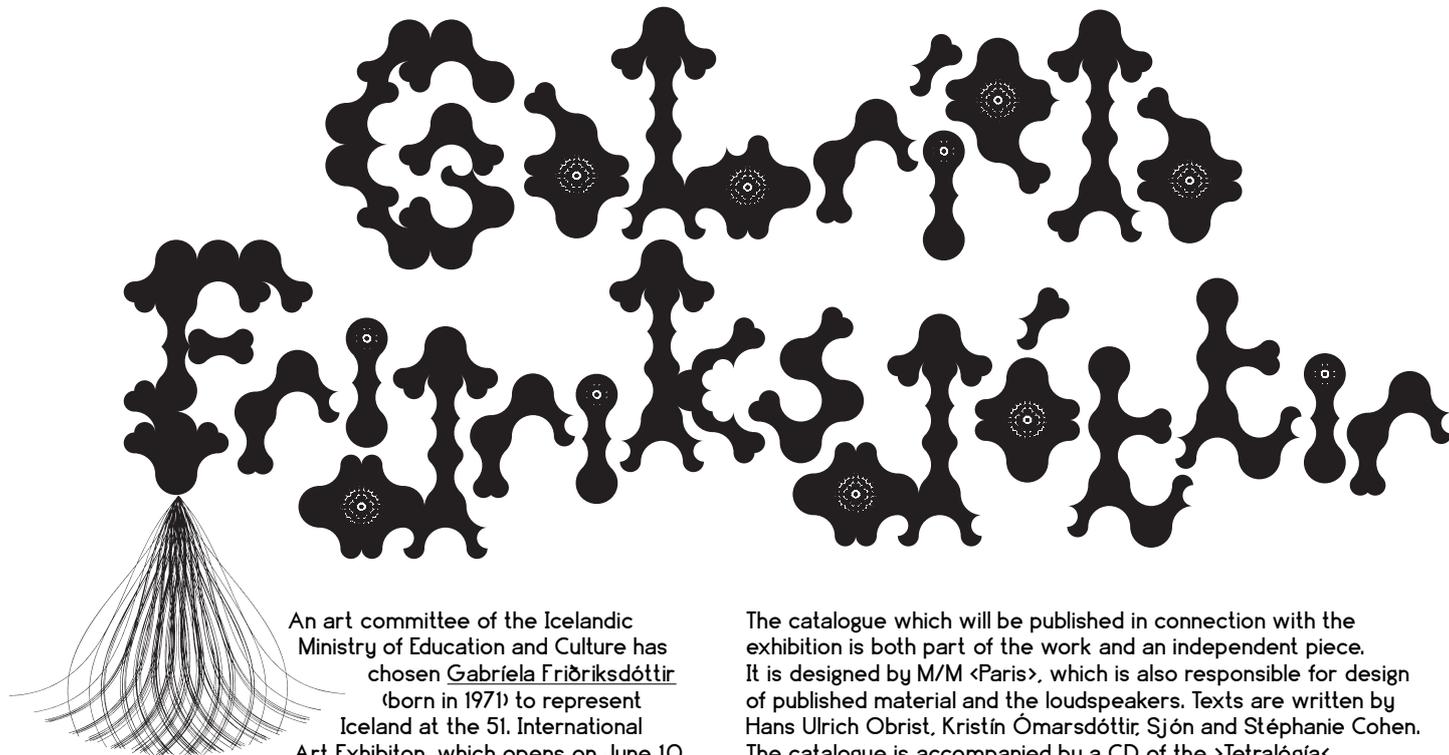
The Icelandic Pavilion, 51. International Art Exhibition,
La Biennale di Venezia

June 12 — November 6, 2005

51.
esposizione
internazionale
d'arte

L'ESPERIENZA
DELL'ARTE
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PIU' LONTANO

la Biennale di Venezia



An art committee of the Icelandic Ministry of Education and Culture has chosen Gabriela Friðriksdóttir (born in 1971) to represent Iceland at the 51. International Art Exhibition, which opens on June 10.

Gabriela is the youngest artist who has represented Iceland at La Biennale di Venezia; she has already won many awards, and is one of the most original and interesting artists of her generation.

>Versations/Tetralógia< which Gabriela will show at La Biennale di Venezia, is a polyphonic installation in which the different themes and media she has used hitherto are crystallised: painting, sculpture, bas-relief, and four video-works, >Tetralógia<. In the work she explores our perceptions, urges, feelings and desires, she takes arms against the chaos, excess and disorder of the present day, and considers the boundaries between these media, and their fusion and tension.

The installation's physical form is the pavilion itself; the façade has been altered in accord with the content, and loudspeakers are installed outside, through which the music of the videos is heard, thus eliminating the boundary between exterior and interior, and the visitor has a vague premonition of the journey that waits within. He/she becomes an explorer in this wonderland of symbols, images and sounds, encountering all sorts of bizarre beings, which drift between dream and reality, truth and illusion, heaven and hell.

The videos >Tetralógia<, were made in collaboration with Björk Guðmundsdóttir, Daniel Ágúst Haraldsson, Erna Ómarsdóttir and Sigurður Guðjónsson.

The music for the >Tetralógia< sequence is by four composers: Björk Guðmundsdóttir, Borgar Þor Magnason, Daniel Ágúst Haraldsson and Jónas Sen.

The catalogue which will be published in connection with the exhibition is both part of the work and an independent piece. It is designed by M/M <Paris>, which is also responsible for design of published material and the loudspeakers. Texts are written by Hans Ulrich Obrist, Kristín Ómarsdóttir, Sjón and Stéphanie Cohen. The catalogue is accompanied by a CD of the >Tetralógia< compositions.

Gabriela is also showing the work >Operazione Oesophagus< and >The Foodprocessors< with Matthew Barney at the Akureyri Art Museum in north Iceland, as part of the Reykjavík Arts Festival programme, from 11 May 2005.

Laufey Helgadóttir, a freelance art historian and curator, is curator on behalf of Iceland at the 51. International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

Laufey Helgadóttir can also be contacted for further information, photographs or interviews:

T/F + 33 1 42 49 73 95

E laufey@noos.fr

Rights-free high resolutions images can be downloaded here <<http://www.gabriela.is>>

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