



La Biennale di Venezia

60. Esposizione  
Internazionale  
d'Arte  
Eventi Collaterali

*Per non perdere il filo.*  
*Karine N'guyen Van Tham - Parul Thacker*

Collateral Event of the  
60th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia

Curated by Daniela Ferretti

Venice, Fondazione dell'Albero d'Oro  
20 April - 24 November 2024

Venice, 8 February 2024 - **Fondazione dell'Albero d'Oro** is pleased to present, as a **Collateral Event of the 60th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia**, the exhibition *Per non perdere il filo. Karine N'guyen Van Tham - Parul Thacker*, curated by Daniela Ferretti.

The exhibition, conceived and produced by Fondazione dell'Albero d'Oro for Palazzo Vendramin Grimani, hosts the **Franco-Vietnamese artist Karine N'guyen Van Tham** (Marseille, 1988) and **India's Parul Thacker** (Mumbai, 1973). The artists will be **spending some time in Venice** as from late February and will collaborate on the installation of the exhibition, which includes **site-specific works** designed especially for the spaces of the Palazzo in the San Polo sestiere of Venice. Different by origin, training, sensitivity and methods of expression, Karine N'guyen Van Tham and Parul Thacker will build their dialogue around the **privileged theme of the thread** (hence the term 'filo' in the title of the exhibition, which translates as 'So as not to lose the thread'), intended as an expressive medium, a source of inspiration, a metaphor that alludes to writing; one that develops physically in the braiding, in the weaving and in the art of embroidery.

The spaces of the ancient Venetian residence will thus welcome the delicately **poetic, intimate and frugal** works of **Karine N'guyen Van Tham** and the **multi-material, expressive and spiritual** ones of **Parul Thacker**.

**Karine N'guyen Van Tham's** works are characterised by the assembly of fabrics she produces on a small oriental loom, then dyes and sews using natural elements such as shards

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of cones. The resulting items - armours, helmets, garments - evoke the itinerant storytellers of yesteryear, and are often set in natural settings. As part of an **artist-in-residence programme** at **Palazzo Vendramin Grimani**, from the end of February Karine N'guyen Van Tham will be creating a **textile work-in-progress lasting the duration of the exhibition**, as it will only be completed and presented in its entirety in October.

**Parul Thacker's** works are complex structures, inspired by the sculptures adorning Indian temples, by Tantra cosmology and by quantum physics, revealing the artist's profound spirituality and deep-seated rooting in her native culture.

Among her **site-specific works** is a composition inspired by a precious wool and silk tapestry, 'L'Audience de l'empereur', made in the late 17th century by the Beauvais Manufactory. This extraordinary tapestry forms part of the collection owned by Fondation Etrillard, which regularly lends works to Fondazione dell'Albero d'Oro. 'L'Audience de l'empereur' will be displayed for the first time at Palazzo Vendramin Grimani, in the 'Sala delle Quattro Famiglie'. For the ground floor entrance hall, Parul Thacker has also designed an installation consisting of **18 large, gossamer, hand-embroidered silk organza canvases** and a soundtrack created by blending the sounds of the ancient Indian string instrument Rudra veena with the sounds of the Grand Canal and the gurgling of the Arctic waters, audio tracks recorded during the artist's stay in the frozen lands of the North and reworked by Canadian composer Frank Horvat.

**Craftsmanship excellence** - all the works are made strictly by hand by the artists themselves - and **ingenious creativity** coexist in the works of both. Their visions and cosmogonies - more tied to a private mythology in the case of Karine N'guyen Van Tham and rooted in the spiritualities of both Indian culture and quantum physics in the case of Parul Thacker - will give rise to a dialogue in which individual experiences and cultural belonging measure up against one another and against everything 'foreign'.

In this regard, *Per non perdere il filo. Karine N'guyen Van Tham - Parul Thacker* is a fitting choice for a Collateral Event of the 60th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia, whose theme, chosen by curator Adriano Pedrosa, is *Foreigners Everywhere*. Moreover, it takes up the **mission of Fondazione dell'Albero d'Oro** to promote and produce **themed exhibitions with artists from all over the world**, in this case still relatively outside the major international circuits, for whom Palazzo Vendramin Grimani and Venice as a whole may serve as a source of inspiration, constantly intersecting the themes of travel, the meeting of cultures, and the exchange of artistic practices and eras.

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*Per non perdere il filo. Karine N'guyen Van Tham - Parul Thacker* was made possible by the generosity of Fondation Etrillard, a Geneva family-based foundation established in 2015 to encourage charitable and cultural initiatives that reconcile European culture and tradition with the contemporary world. Fondation Etrillard is also a staunch supporter of Fondazione dell'Albero d'Oro.



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## Biographies

**Daniela Ferretti**, an architect specialised in the field of exhibition design, has set-up more than 250 shows for public and private entities since 1977, both in Venice and elsewhere, for which she has collaborated with many leading Italian and foreign art critics and historians. She boasts collaborations with La Biennale di Venezia, Scuderie del Quirinale and Galleria Borghese in Rome, Barcelona's CCCB, the Hayward Gallery in London, the Reina Sofia in Madrid, the Haus der Kunst in Munich, the Puskin Museum in Moscow, the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, Palazzo Grassi and Palazzo Grimani in Venice. In addition to designing exhibitions, she is also experienced in organising them in their entirety. Head of the Exhibitions Office of Venice's Department of Culture, in 1996 she was appointed Coordinator of Shows and Exhibitions at the Venetian Civic Museums Directorate. She is a member of the International Committee for the reorganisation of the Piazza San Marco Museums and heads a number of projects aimed at the creation of a Contemporary Art System in Venice. She directed the Fortuny Museum from 2007 to 2019. In 2008, she was appointed director of Museum Area 3. She joined the Board of Directors of the Maeght Foundation of S. Paul de Vence. *Proportio*, curated alongside Axel Vervoordt and staged at Palazzo Fortuny, won the 2015 Leading Culture Destinations Awards for Best Exhibition of the Year. Since 2019, she has been a member of the Board of Directors of Fondazione dell'Albero d'Oro in Venice. From 2020 to 2023, she curated and staged exhibitions in Aix en Provence, Turin, Padua and Venice.

**Karine N'guyen Van Tham** studied at the École Supérieure d'Art et de Design Marseille-Méditerranée and then trained as an upholsterer, developing a keen passion for textiles. In 2014, she began her apprenticeship as a self-taught weaver, before deciding in 2017 to design her own fabrics in the form of clothes. In the same year, her first mural item 'Cérémonie lunaire' - inspired by the traditional Kimono - was awarded the Prix Création de la Région Bretagne des Métiers d'art. Today she has her own atelier in Brittany. She has always thought of her textile works as items of inheritance and transmission, relics imprinted with life, scents, postures and emotions: the artist feels, writes, weaves, immerses her hands in vegetable dyes, embroiders, wears, sculpts and models. Recent group exhibitions include: 'Âmes sauvages', Atelier Galerie Le 6, Morlaix, France, 2023; 'Japanese Textile & Craft Festival', Craft Central, London, UK, 2021; 'Japanese Textile & Craft Festival', Craft Central, London, UK, 2020; 'Invisibles présences', The Fibery, Fiber Art Gallery, Paris, France; 'Parures, Objets d'art à porter', Factory Museum, Roubaix, France, 2019; 'L'atelier, d'Ateliers d'Art de France', Paris, France; 'Maison & Objet', Paris, France, 2017.

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**Parul Thacker** trained as a traditional weaver, studying Textile Design at the Sophia Polytechnic College of Art and Design in Mumbai (Bachelor of Arts) and specialising in weaving and printing techniques. At the National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad, she studied Fiber Art with Nita Thakore as her mentor. Since 2008, she has been working actively as an artist and has presented her works at India Art Fair, Art Dubai, Frieze London, Art HK and Shanghai Contemporary. She lives in Mumbai and often stays at Golconde, in the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, where she studies and practices her art of sewn metaphysical drawings and woven sculptures. Recent exhibitions include: 'Surface', curated by Mayank Mansigh Kaul, Sutrakala Foundation Jodhpur, India, 2023; 'North Pole: a treatise on earth Arctic summer, art and science expedition', International Territory of Svalbard, Norway, 2023; 'Form: Flow a two-solo presentation' by Amar Gallery, London, 2017; 'Parul Thacker', Beirut exhibition centre, 1x1 art gallery with Beirut Exhibition Center, Lebanon, 2015; 'Approaching Abstraction', Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai, India, 2015; 'I For Inscription', The Luxe Museum, Paradox and 1x1 art gallery with J. P. Morgan, Singapore, 2013; 'One Year In Berlin', Galerie Christian Hosp, Berlin, Germany, 2010; 'Matrix Natura Miniarttextil' Como 18th International Exhibition of Contemporary Textile Art, Como, 2008.

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