

# Ukraine at the 52nd Venice Biennale

## Organised by the PinchukArtCentre

The PinchukArtCentre, the largest contemporary art centre in the Eastern Europe, will be the organizing institution for the Ukrainian Pavilion at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Venice Biennale (La Biennale di Venezia). Peter Doroshenko, Director of the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art (Gateshead), President of the PinchukArtCenter (Kyiv), and Commissioner of the Ukrainian Pavilion (Venice), announced the Centre's participation in the up-coming international contemporary art exhibition during a press conference in Kyiv on Friday - 16 February 2007.

"For many countries, attracting leading cultural institutes to represent their achievements in contemporary art is becoming a world trend. The PinchukArtCentre has become such an institution in Ukraine", Doroshenko said.

According to the PinchukArtCentre's Director, Dmitry Logvin, Ukraine's Ministry of Culture proposed that the Centre represent Ukraine at the 52<sup>nd</sup> International Exhibition. "Two years ago, we announced that we would organise an exhibition in Venice in 2007. Together with our President, Peter Doroshenko, and our curator, Alexander Soloviov, we developed a concept for our participation in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Venice Biennale. And when we received an official invitation from the Ministry of Culture to represent Ukraine at the Biennale, we accepted. It's a real honour for us."

"The Ukrainian exhibition, entitled 'Poem of an Inland Sea,' will be housed in one of the most beautiful Venetian palaces - Palazzo Papadopoli - and be open to visitors from June 7<sup>th</sup> through November 21<sup>st</sup> 2007," Doroshenko added.

"The exhibition's name 'A Poem about an Inland Sea' echoes the title of the famous film script by noted Ukrainian director, Alexander Dovzhenko. The project will show the artists' common vision and their quest to explore new and active roles in society. The exhibition is expected to raise the questions: What does it mean to be a Ukrainian? Who are the Ukrainians? Where are Ukrainians?" - Doroshenko stated.

The international artists who are engaged in the project will look at Ukraine from "the outside and from within". All of the artists will create new works for the Biennale. The participants in the project are: Serhiy Bratkov (Ukraine), Alexander Hnilitsky and Lesia Zaiats (Ukraine), Boris Mikhailov (Ukraine), Juergen Teller (United Kingdom), Mark Titchner (United Kingdom), Sam Taylor-Wood (United Kingdom), Dzine (Carlos Rolon; United States of America).

Doroshenko also noted that the location of Ukrainian Pavilion will have advantages over other pavilions and exhibitions, which will be mainly located inside buildings. "We have chosen a palazzo near the water, with a berth and a large garden. Inside the palazzo, on the first and second floors, the photography and video installations will be exhibited, and the garden will host large scale sculpture. In the Grand Canal we will place a boat created by one of the artists."

The PinchukArtCentre organised an exhibition "First Acquisitions" at the 51<sup>st</sup> Venice Biennale in 2005, independent of the official Biennale. The exhibition took place in the Palazzo Papadopoli and presented artworks by Ukrainian artists Vassiliy Tsygalov, Arsen Savadov, Boris Mikhailov, as well as works by artists from Denmark, Germany, France and Japan.

La Biennale di Venezia is one of the world's most prestigious cultural institutions. Starting from its establishment in 1895, it has played an important role in forwarding new art-trends and arranging the world events on contemporary art development. Today the Venice Biennale includes: The International Cinematographic Festival, The International Modern Art Exhibition, The International Architecture Exhibition, The Modern Music Festival, The Modern Theatre Festival and The Modern Dance Festival. Annually, more than 320 000 visitors attend the Venice Biennale events.

The PinchukArtCentre, Kyiv, Ukraine, is the largest contemporary art centre in the Eastern Europe. Among its major activities, are international exhibitions, support for various cultural projects, and contemporary art programmes. Since its opening in September 2006, more than 56.000 people have visited the gallery and its events.