

# 30. grafični bienale

## 30<sup>th</sup> Biennial of Graphic Arts

### 14.9. – 24.11.2013

#### Ljubljana



Mednarodni grafični likovni center / International Centre of Graphic Arts  
Grad Tivoli, Pod turnom 3, SI - 1000 Ljubljana, t: + 386 1 241 38 00, [www.mglc-lj.si](http://www.mglc-lj.si)

### María Elena González wins Grand Prize at 30<sup>th</sup> Biennial of Graphic Arts

The Grand Prize of the 30th Biennial of Graphic Arts Ljubljana was announced by the jury on Friday, 13 September 2013 at the press conference held at the International Centre of Graphic Arts. The award was given to María Elena González.



The jury, whose members included Tevž Logar (president), Chema de Francisco, Sally Tallant and Dusica Kirjakovic, awarded the Grand Prize of the 30th Biennial of Graphic Arts to Cuban artist María Elena González for her work *The Tree Talk Series*.

The jury stated: "In its complexity, the work entitled *The Tree Talk Series* depicts the potentials that the graphic process as such has to offer in this day and age. The artist traverses through the various expressive mediums (print, performance, installation, sound), extremely precisely, harmoniously joining them into a whole that is convincingly "anchored" in its conceptual framework. The piece has an extremely poetic air to it (at times even romantic in the way that it relates and escapes into nature), because of which it leaves the door to reflection wide open to the individual. On the other hand, however, it is analytical in its approach and speaks directly of the complexity of nature, its order, and in an extremely subtle way, establishes a relation with science and its translations into the cultural sphere, and consequently into the field of art. In this way, the artist and the artwork openly speak of the fact that artworks (as they were before and as they will be after) can serve as a kind of reminder to the viewer, since each one of them is a record of a state that is, without exception, such as every individual ... whether it be death, anxiety, identity, transience or love. Something that each one of us can always recognise."

María Elena González (1957), born in Havana, Cuba  
Lives and works in New York and Basel, Switzerland.

"Best known for sculptural installations that are architecturally as well as personally informed, one of González's most recent series, *Tree Talk*, was inspired by her encounter with a fallen birch tree in the woods of the summer artist colony the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine. She collected and flattened its bark, made drawings and rubbings, and then scanned its striated patterns to see what kind of sounds would result. She digitally translated the bark patterns and had them laser-cut into a roll for a player piano. When played, the scroll has an unexpected 'score': the phrasing, polyphony, and rhythms seem deliberately composed and modern. This

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project allows us to hear the 'music' of the birch tree and reminds us of the inherent logic that exists in all of nature's patterns."

Deborah Cullen, PhD, Curator of the 30<sup>th</sup> Biennial of Graphic Arts  
Director and Chief Curator, The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University, NY

Video of Music performance by María Elena González, 14 September 2013, Tivoli Park, Ljubljana, Slovenia: <http://vimeo.com/74824980>

#### Honourable Mention to Meta Grgurevič and Urša Vidic

In addition to the Grand Prize, the jury also gave an Honourable Mention to Meta Grgurevič and Urša Vidic for their project *GalanterieMécanique / Fil d'argent*.

The project could be described as a dance performance in which man is replaced by objects, while all the elements, including objects, music and lights, are closely connected and reciprocal in their responses. All of this creates an atmosphere of a ballet. With a thoughtful playfulness and curiosity, the artists move between history and memory, whereas their mechanized environments, full of shadows, become a sort of symphony of kinetic objects, video, performance and music.

Meta Grgurevič, born 1979, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Urša Vidic, born 1978, Kranj, Slovenia

Both live and work in Ljubljana; a collaborative team since 2009

#### The jury:

Chema de Francisco, Director, Estampa Arte Múltiple, Feria Internacional de Arte Múltiple Contemporáneo, Madrid

Dusica Kirjakovic, Executive Director, Lower East Side Printshop, New York

Tevž Logar, Artistic Director and curator, Galerija Škuc, Ljubljana

Sally Tallant, Director of Liverpool Biennial – The UK Biennial of International Contemporary Art

**30th Biennial of Graphic Arts Ljubljana** is organized and produced by The International Centre of Graphic Arts (MGLC), which was established on the foundations of the Biennial to serve its needs and has the status of a specialized museum and producer of printed and contemporary art.

For additional information or image material please contact:

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Video: Mateja Starič / Photo: Urška Boljkovac / Courtesy: MGLC