

# CALL

# FOR

Philippine Participation  
at the 59<sup>th</sup> Venice Art Biennale  
2022

# CURATORIAL PROPOSALS

BACKGROUND & CALL

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE & SELECTION PROCESS

SUBMISSION GUIDELINE & OTHER DETAILS

Since its return to the Venice Biennale in 2015, the country has continuously participated in the global conversation on the condition of the world to propose a course of action through the Philippine Pavilion at the Venice Art Biennale.

Hailed as a 'must-see' pavilion by art organizations and institutions, **Tie A String Around the World** curated by Patrick D. Flores in 2015 was a reflection on the changing configurations of the world via the Philippines, and the contentious meanings of nation, border, and territory.

**The Spectre of Comparison** curated by Joselina Cruz in 2017 asked, "how does one represent a nation?" at a time when political winds were blowing towards the shifting nationalisms emerging in Europe and in Asia.

For its part, **Island Weather** curated by Tessa Maria Guazon in 2019 explored the myriad of ways in which islands are perceived and imagined; including how humans regard them as a location that may refer to a nation.

The Philippines will continue to participate in the important contemporary art exhibition and once again announces the **OPEN CALL FOR CURATORIAL PROPOSALS** for the Philippine participation at the 59<sup>th</sup> Venice Art Biennale in 2022, initiated by la Fondazione la Biennale di Venezia.

The year 2020 was challenging, gripped by the pandemic and imperiled by a range of social and ecological issues, isolating people from each other but also enabling them to forge solidarities and express sympathies in creative ways. In times of global distress, the world leaned on the promise of art in hopes of both exposing and coming to terms with humbling realities.

The OPEN CALL encourages proponents to develop concepts for the Philippine Pavilion that are sensitive and responsive to these current realities, revealing contradictions and yet offering space for deep introspection and decisions. The “contemporary” emerges from this context, shaping its material, its discourse, and its engagement with a broad community.

The search is spearheaded by the **National Commission for Culture and the Arts** (NCCA), in partnership with the **Department of Foreign Affairs** (DFA), and the **Office of the Deputy Speaker and Congresswoman Loren Legarda**.

The selected curatorial proposal will officially represent the Philippines in 2022 at one of the world’s oldest and most prestigious exhibition platforms for contemporary art. **The deadline for the CALL will be on 20 May 2021.**

NCCA Chairman Arsenio “Nick” J. Lizaso is the Commissioner of the Philippine Pavilion.

The Philippine Pavilion will continue to be housed at the Artiglierie in Arsenale, the main venue of the Venice Biennale.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The CALL is open to all curators and contemporary Filipino practitioners residing in the Philippines and abroad. The CALL is open to proposals by a single curator or by a team of two curators. In case of a team in which one member is not Filipino, the lead curator should be Filipino.

## SELECTION PROCESS

A preliminary jury will shortlist proposals from among the submissions. If necessary, a meeting with the proponents of the shortlisted proposals will be held. A final panel of jurors will convene to deliberate on the final proposals submitted by the shortlisted proponents. The final panel will select one curatorial proposal to represent the Philippines at the 59<sup>th</sup> Venice Art Biennale 2022.

With the support of all the cooperating agencies through the Philippine Arts in Venice Biennale Coordinating Committee (PAVB), the selected proposal will be realized in the Philippine Pavilion at the Arsenale in Venice, slated to open on April 23, 2022 and will run until November 27, 2022.

## ON NATIONAL PARTICIPATION

Only one project, consisting of the exhibition and all related activities, is recognized by la Biennale for each participating country. Thus, the formal invitation to participate is coursed through the highest concerned government agency of a country, which in turn initiates a distinct process of selecting and realizing a proposal for the country pavilion. The exhibition that officially represents a country will be recognized in all the materials produced by la Biennale di Venezia, particularly the catalogue, as the only participation of the country.

### CURATOR OF THE 59<sup>TH</sup> VENICE ART BIENNALE (2022)

Milan-born, New York-based curator Cecilia Alemani has been appointed Artistic Director of the 2022 Venice Biennale.

Cecilia Alemani will be the first Italian woman to curate the Venice Biennale throughout its history. She was the curator of the Italian Pavilion for the 57<sup>th</sup> Venice International Art Biennale. "As the first Italian woman to hold this position, I understand and appreciate the responsibility and also the opportunity offered to me," Alemani said. "I intend to give voice to artists to create unique projects that reflect their visions and our society."

## CONTENT OF THE PROPOSAL

- 1 Title of the Exhibition
- 2 Curatorial Concept (1,000 – 1,500 words only)
- 3 Exhibition lay-out
- 4 CV of Proponent/s (please include 3 major sample works)
- 5 CV of the Exhibitor/s (please include 3 major sample works)
- 6 Budget (production of works only)
- 7 Production Timeline
- 8 Contact Information

## QUALIFICATIONS OF PROPONENT/S

- 1 Natural-born and naturalized Filipino citizens and Filipinos with dual citizenship upon submission of application (Please attach proof of identification and citizenship)
- 2 Have organized at least one contemporary exhibition or related project or platform involving cross-country representation

## QUALIFICATIONS OF EXHIBITORS

- 1 Natural-born and naturalized Filipino citizens and Filipinos with dual citizenship upon submission of application. (Please attach proof of identification and citizenship)
- 2 Have participated in at least one national exhibition or an equivalent record in related projects/platforms

## CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1 Determine the curatorial direction of the exhibition
- 2 Concretize the curatorial proposal from the preparatory phase to the mounting of the exhibition in Venice
- 3 Initiate a consultative process between and among exhibitor/s
- 4 Supervise the exhibitor/s in realizing the curatorial concept
- 5 Prepare the production schedule of the exhibition and manage its implementation
- 6 Prepare content list and recommend writer/s of the exhibition catalogue
- 7 Write the curatorial essay for the exhibition catalogue
- 8 Prepare text of the Exhibition brochure and other printed materials of the Exhibition
- 9 Collaborate with the PAVB Coordinating Committee in preparation and printing of the exhibition catalogue and other printed materials
- 10 Write exhibition notes and wall texts of the exhibition
- 11 Prepare write-ups on the exhibition for the official la Biennale catalogue and for promotional purposes of the Philippine participation at the Venice Biennale
- 12 Regularly coordinate with the Philippine Arts in Venice Biennale (PAVB) Coordinating Committee
- 13 Officially represent the Philippines in all meetings, events and other activities related to the Art Biennale
- 14 Propose collateral events for the Pavilion and help manage its implementation

## IMPORTANT NOTES

- 1** As a participating country, the Philippines abides by the rules and regulations of la Fondazione la Biennale di Venezia, including matters pertaining to public safety and security.
- 2** The Open Call does not fall under the grant program of the NCCA. Therefore, the production of Exhibition will be directly facilitated and paid by the NCCA through the PAVB Coordinating Committee and or partner organization.
- 3** As a government project, all expenses in the realization of the Exhibition are subject to government auditing rules and regulations.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINE

- 1** Download Open Call **PROPOSAL FORM** from **[www.philartsvenicebiennale.org](http://www.philartsvenicebiennale.org)**
- 2** Submit the completed form and ALL the necessary documents only via email to [info@philartvenicebiennale.net](mailto:info@philartvenicebiennale.net), with subject heading "Curatorial Proposal," on or before 20 May 2021 (Thursday).

Emailed proposals will be duly acknowledged upon receipt.

Deadline of Submission: **20 May 2021** until 11: 59 pm  
(Philippine time).

Late submissions will not be accepted

Announcement of Result: on or before **24 June 2021**

Contact Information: Email: [info@philartvenicebiennale.net](mailto:info@philartvenicebiennale.net)  
Landline: (02) 8543 8767  
Website: [www.philartsvenicebiennale.org](http://www.philartsvenicebiennale.org)