

TRANSCENDENTAL REALISM THE ART OF ADI DA SAMRAJ



la Biennale di Venezia

52. Esposizione
Internazionale
d'Arte
Eventi collaterali

PALAZZO BOLLANI

Castello 3647- 30122 Venice

10 June - 21 November 2007

Hours: 10.00 am – 6.00 pm (closed on Mondays)

PRESS RELEASE

ARTIST, SCHOLAR, AND SPIRITUAL TEACHER ADI DA SAMRAJ SELECTED FOR VENICE BIENNALE COLLATERAL EXHIBITION

The dramatic, philosophically and spiritually informed artwork of Adi Da Samraj will be introduced to the international art world in an exhibition entitled *Transcendental Realism: The Art of Adi Da Samraj*. Mounted as a collateral exhibition of the 52nd Biennale di Venezia and curated by the renowned art critic and historian Achille Bonito Oliva, the exhibition is housed in the historic Palazzo Bollani (Castello 3647), newly refurbished for exhibiting art and situated between St. Mark's Square and the Public Gardens of the Biennale proper. The exhibition opens to the public on Sunday, June 10, 2007, with press previews beginning on Wednesday, June 6, and a press conference on Saturday, June 9, at 10:45 a.m. at the Teatro Piccolo in the nearby Arsenale (Calle della Tana 2168/B). The show's opening reception is Saturday, June 9, at 5 p.m., followed by a dinner with entertainment at the Cipriani Hotel. The exhibition has been honored by being placed under the cultural patronage of the Regione Veneto, Provincia di Venezia, and the Comune di Venezia.

Artist, scholar, and spiritual teacher, Adi Da Samraj has explored new forms of digital technology to produce ever more complex and sophisticated images embodying his spirituality, philosophy, and distinctly Modernist aesthetic sensibility. Major examples of his most recent and to date unexhibited work comprise *Transcendental Realism*—an immersive display of monumental, boldly colored, powerfully structured multi-dimensional images.

Transcendental Realism: The Art of Adi Da Samraj comprises ten large, visually overwhelming works realized by Adi Da Samraj in the last year and employing

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(continued) a complex variety of digital means. Displayed in the Palazzo Bollani's upstairs galleries, the ten recent works will be supplemented downstairs by a rotating documentary display of Adi Da Samraj's earlier work with photographic and digital media.

The chief curator for *Transcendental Realism: The Art of Adi Da Samraj* is Achille Bonito Oliva, renowned art critic and historian. Bonito Oliva is author of essays on mannerism, the avant-garde, and the neo-avant-garde. He is also the founder of the artistic movement Transavanguardia. He has curated thematic and interdisciplinary exhibitions both in Italy and abroad, including *Contemporanea*, *Aperto 80*, *Avanguardia transavanguardia*, *Arte e depressione*, and *Minimalia*. He curated the 39th and 45th Venice Biennales. He currently teaches history of contemporary art at La Sapienza University in Rome. He has received numerous prizes and awards, including the Valentino d'Oro, international prize for art criticism, in 1991.

Transcendental Realism: The Art of Adi Da Samraj runs the length of the Biennale itself, closing on Sunday, November 21, 2007. It is open to the public Tuesdays–Sundays, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. A 48-page catalogue accompanies the exhibition, with contributions by chief curator Achille Bonito Oliva and co-curator Peter Frank, and an exhibition brochure featuring an annotated checklist is available free to all visitors.

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