

Lyon Biennale to host the International Biennial Association* on 12-14 October 2024

The members of the International Biennial Association (IBA) will gather at its 11th General Assembly in Lyon, France, on 12-14 October 2024, during the 17th Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art entitled “Les voix des fleuves, *Crossing the water*”.

The assembly’s theme will be “*Mending the Shores: Transforming Biennials for a Sustainable Future*”.

The IBA General Assembly is a unique occasion for all Biennial representatives: an opportunity for IBA members and peers from all over the world to connect and interact each year at a partner biennial.

Founded in 2012, and chaired by Hoor Al Qasimi, the IBA now has an 82-strong membership, including the Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art, a founding member.

The IBA’s member biennials

Aichi Triennale (Japan); Artocène (France); Associação Cultural Videobrasil (Brazil); Athens Biennale (Greece); Ballarat International Foto Biennale (Australia); Beppu Project (Japan); Bergen Assembly (Norway); Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art (Germany); Bermuda National Gallery (Bermuda); Bienal de Arte Paiz (Guatemala); Bienal de Artes Mediales de Santiago (Chile); Bienal de Cuenca (Spain); Curitiba International Biennial (Brazil); Biennale d’Art Contemporain Autochtone (Canada); Biennale Internationale de Casablanca (Morocco); Biennale of Sydney (Australia); Biennial Land Art Mongolia (Mongolia); Carnegie Museum of Art (USA); Contour Biennale (Belgium); Coventry Biennial (UK); Culturescapes (Switzerland); Dak’Art (Senegal); Florence Biennale (Italy); Folkestone Biennial (UK); Front International (USA); Ghetto Biennale (Haiti); Glasgow International (UK); Göteborg International Biennial for Contemporary Art (Sweden); Gwangju Biennale Foundation (Korea); Helsinki Biennial (Finland); Istanbul Biennial (Turkey); Istanbul Design

Biennial (Turkey); Karachi Biennale Trust (Pakistan); Kaunas Biennial (Lithuania); Kochi Biennale Foundation (India); Lyon Biennale (France); Labin Art Express (Croatia); Lahore Biennale (Pakistan); Liverpool Biennial (UK); Lofoten International Art Festival (Norway); Manifesta Foundation (Spain); Mardin Bienali (Turkey); MGLC (Slovenia); Picha – Lumumbashi Biennale (Democratic Republic of Congo); Shanghai Biennale (China); Rencontres Africaines de la Photographie (Mali); Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art (Latvia); Riga Photography Biennial (Latvia); SACO Biennial of Contemporary Art (Chile); Serendipity Arts Foundation (India); Sharjah Art Foundation (United Arab Emirates); Singapore Biennale (Singapore); Tbilisi Triennial (Georgia); Thailand Biennale (Thailand); Toronto Biennial of Art (Canada); Triennial of Small Sculpture Fellbach (Germany); Ural Industrial Biennial (Russia); Vancouver Biennale (Canada); Yokohama Triennale (Japan) (...)

* A nonprofit arts association created as a platform for establishing, researching and exchanging knowledge and information necessary for institutions and professionals who organise biennials and triennials, as well as artists, researchers and others concerned with contemporary art.

Programme

The programme of the 11th IBA General Assembly will focus on the theme “Mending the Shores: Transforming Biennials for a Sustainable Future” in order to strengthen and reiterate our members’ commitment to acting responsibly and to building resilient institutions.

During these three days in Lyon, the IBA’s members will exchange experiences and enjoy social interludes, as well as visiting the venues of the 17th Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art.

The 11th General Assembly will include a day-long public seminar (13 October) devised to kindle thinking and generate responses to the tangible challenges that biennials share.

The programme will begin with a keynote by the historian Didier Gondola, paving the way for three focus groups attended by artists, researchers and cultural-sector professionals.

The first focus group, “Sustainability through De-Growth? Between Ecological and Strategic Thinking”, will explore new ways for biennials to reposition themselves and envision a de-growth rationale, which can be sources of positive cultural impact.

The second focus group, “Inclusivity and Diversity: How to Broaden the Role of Society in All Its Complexity?”, will consider the current status of biennials and how to make them more representative and inclusive of diverse voices.

And finally, the third focus group, “Solidarity and the Global Networks: What Role Can Biennials Play in Times of Global Polarisation and Conflict?”, will examine the vital role that biennials can play to encourage solidarity and collaboration in an increasingly divided world.

This General Assembly will end with a vote on its first code of conduct for biennials. This initiative is a joint commitment by its members to respect ethical standards and to adopt practices that are sustainable, inclusive and culturally responsible. The signing of this document will mark a milestone in redefining biennials’ role, and reaffirm their collective commitment to positive evolution.

For more details: www.biennialassociation.org

Contacts

IBA Office – Jennifer Lee: jennifer@biennialassociation.org

Biennale de Lyon – Cécile Perrichon: cperrichon@labiennaledelyon.com