

COMMAND-ALTERNATIVE-ESCAPE

Thetis Garden, Venice, Arsenale

6.5 — 13.5 17

curated by the 24th edition of The School for Curatorial Studies Venice

Opening Saturday 6th May 2017 6pm

Press preview 5pm

Confronting permanent land art works by Joseph Beuys, Jan Fabre and Michelangelo Pistoletto, in dialogue with new works by

Allora&Calzadilla | Carolina Antich | Jesse Darling | Peter De Cupere | Enej Gala | Patrizia Giambi | Kensuke Koike | Tania Kovats | Paul Kneale | Sahra Motalebi | Tao G. Vrhovec Sambolec | Kristian Sturi

A site specific group exhibition coinciding the 57th Venice Art Biennale, set in the Gardens of Spazio Thetis in the Arsenale.

Inspired by Venice's public and private community dynamics amongst the large influx of foreign individuals filtering through the city daily: "COMMAND-ALTERNATIVE-ESCAPE" calls to a critical shift in perspective towards the archetypal dichotomy between liberty and security. "Security [specifically] in the sense of knowing where you are, who you are, on what kind of future you can count [on], what will happen, whether you will preserve your position in society or whether you will be degraded and humiliated ... this sort of security ... [which for] a rising number of people — looks at the moment more attractive than more freedom" (Zygmunt Bauman).

In a context burdened by manipulative collective ideology of the present: Skepticism of mass media, controversies instigated by fake news, and filter bubbles and echo chambers calling into question the democratizing potential offered by connectivity—even so in a time parallel to virtually limitless geographical and cultural confines—"COMMAND-ALTERNATIVE-ESCAPE" will confront how individuals default to their own bubble of security.

By recalling invented nostalgia, which trace collective narratives of a time that may never have existed; or reconstructing a sense of identity and belonging, which has dissolved in an age of swift global interchange of people, information, and culture; "COMMAND-ALTERNATIVE-ESCAPE" will expose works by artists that assert, and realize their individual modes of expression amongst the polarization between liberty and security. Exhibiting "glimpses" of real cultural, religious, economic and social practices currently at stake in society, visitors are invited to discover inherent conflicts, ironies, faults, and opportunities lying in the exhibited personal *truths*.