

The Nordic Countries Pavilion at the 60th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia

About the Artists

Read more about the artist Lap-See Lam (Sweden), the composer Tze Yeung Ho (Norway) and the artist Kholod Hawash (Finland). Press images of each of the artists and the group can be accessed in the press room on Moderna Museet's website.

Kholod Hawash was born in Basra, Iraq, in 1977 and lives and works in Espoo, Finland. For many years she was working as an illustrator of children's books for major publishers in Iraq.

Kholod Hawash uses the textile craft technique of *jodaleia*, the Arabic term for quilting. Traditionally, Iraqi quilts are created from re-used textiles that are sewn together by hand and used to cover and protect furniture and walls.

Kholod Hawash gets her inspiration from memories of her mother's quilting, Iraqi folklore and its myths and legends, as well as animals and nature in the rich archaeological landscape where she grew up. The motifs are dominated by strong feminist beliefs and our human longing for and right to freedom and self-determination. Her colourful visual stories emerge stitch by stitch, the present and the past converging in a magical universe.

Kholod Hawash's work has been presented in a number of solo exhibitions in Finland, Jordan and Lebanon. In Finland she has also participated in group exhibitions, such as ARS22 at the Museum for Contemporary Art Kiasma in Helsinki, as well as the textile exhibition *Pehmo* (soft) at the Helsinki Art Museum in 2022.

Kholod Hawash received the William Thuring Prize in 2022, as well as professional grants from the Arts Promotion Centre Finland (Taika) and the Kone Foundation. Her work is represented in the collections of Kiasma, the Helsinki Art Museum and the Espoo Museum for Modern Art, as well as private collections in Dubai, France, Iraq, Switzerland and Spain.

Tze Yeung Ho was born in Oslo, Norway, in 1992 and commutes between Oslo and Helsinki. He holds a doctoral degree from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre and a master's degree from the Norwegian Academy of Music.

Tze Yeung Ho's compositions reflect his multilingual background and explore speech, translations of language, dramaturgy and poetry. He engages in close collaborations with writers and storytellers, as well as word-based artists. The audience often encounters the end result in the shape of musical theatre, not least chamber operas. At the same time, he produces concert series and festivals and is involved in the theory and practice of curatorship.

Tze Yeung Ho has represented Norway in the music festival Ung Nordisk Musik for several years, held a residency at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Berlin and been the recipient of numerous grants including the Norwegian government grant and the Fergesten Foundation's artist's grant. The writer, dramatist and poet Linda Gabrielsen is one of his many recurring collaborators. Their joint work "hvorfor pusen?" (why the kitty?) was awarded second prize in the Shanghai New Music Week's Chamber Opera Composition Competition in 2019.

Tze Yeung Ho is active in a number of Nordic and international contexts involving cross-disciplinary art forms, for example as a board member of *Periferien*, the concert series of contemporary Norwegian music and as a member of the ECCO working group within ECSA (the European Composers and Songwriters' Alliance).

Lap-See Lam was born in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1990, where she still lives and works. She obtained her master's degree in Fine Art in 2020 from the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm. Using a combination of digital and analogue techniques she explores issues regarding social and cultural constructs, identification and alienation, as well as the migration of people and objects.

Lap-See Lam takes the audience on a journey through different dimensions and suggestive layers – time and space, dream and reality, past and future – like in *Mother's Tongue* (in collaboration with Wingyee Wu, 2018), *Phantom Banquet* (2019–2021), *Dreamers' Quay* (2022) and *Tales of the Altersea* (2023).

The works are the result of Lap-See Lam's close collaboration with a number of different professionals ranging from dramatists, composers and sinologists to light and sound specialists and developers within 3D scanning and virtual reality.

Within a relatively short space of time, Lap-See Lam has emerged as one of the leading Swedish artists of the younger generation. After several acclaimed exhibitions in the Nordic countries, her international debut came in 2023 with solo exhibitions at Portikus in Frankfurt am Main, the Swiss Institute in New York and the Buffalo AKG Art Museum in New York.

Lap-See Lam is represented in the collections of Moderna Museet, the Kadist Foundation and the Buffalo AKG Art Museum. She was the recipient of the Maria Bonnier Dahlin Foundation grant in 2017, as well as being nominated for the Future Generation Art Prize in 2021. Lap-See Lam was awarded the Dagens Nyheter Culture Prize in 2021, as well as being invited to produce an episode for the popular Swedish radio programme "Sommar & Vinter i P1". This year she is nominated for the visual arts prize Ars Fennica 2023.

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