

**Press Release****Guatemala Pavilion at the 61st International Art Exhibition- La Biennale di Venezia****Title: “Las Invisibles”****Venue: Spazio Berlendis, Cannaregio – Venice***Commissioner:* Liwy del Carmen Immacolata Grazioso Sierra, Minister of Culture and Sport*Curators:* Elsie Wunderlich; Stefania Pieralice*Exhibitors:* ARKEO, Luana Bottallo, Jorge Chavarría, Manuel Navichoc, Ana Lorena Núñez, SOY artistic group (Christin Behrend, Franca Fabrizio, Yang YeXin), Elsie Wunderlich

Guatemala will be present at the Biennale Arte 2026 with the exhibition “Las Invisibles” – curated by Stefania Pieralice and Elsie Wunderlich, with the Minister of Culture and Sport Liwy del Carmen Immacolata Grazioso Sierra as commissioner – at the Spazio Berlendis, in Cannaregio (Ve).

In line with the 61th International Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia “In Minor Keys” by Koyo Kouoh: “The minor keys are also the small islands, worlds amid oceans with distinct and endlessly rich ecosystems, social lives that are articulated, for better and worse, within much larger political forms and ecological stakes”, Guatemala will draw inspiration from the universe of ancient Mayan cultures made up of practices, rituals, habits that are repeated, custodians of an anthropological diversity inspired by the utopian dream of peace and inner balance, of relationship with Qachu Alom (Our Mother Earth). In these communities, women are often the custodians of a millenary history made of collective memory and identity survival, of those values that founded colonial Mayan culture; Ixmucané and Ixquic, described in the *Pop(ol) Wu*, they symbolize the strength of the female gender. The different way indigenous peoples experience and inhabit the world, compared to the models of the Western system, determines a relational conception of life, in the indissoluble bonds between the living and the dead, between humans and nature, between present and past. These bonds give rise to a social space where a new community identity is constructed, one that survives despite the process of social and racial exclusion of the indigenous population that began with the Spanish colonization. In this cosmic, timeless, sacred, and eternal dimension, the domestic hearth is the source of life in the complementarity of feminine and masculine elements. *Las Invisibles* are those Mayan women who offer their lives to the community daily, using mill, stone, and clay slabs to process corn, the source of everything and a tool for the appropriation of a people's identity. The clay *comal*, used to ensure the family's sustenance, toast corn, and prepare *tortillas*, becomes a memory of silences, wounds, caresses, and sighs, narrating the biography of each woman. The *tortear* from the hot stone often erases every fingerprint on their damp hands - to prevent the corn from sticking- taking away every identity, past and future. And it is precisely in the subdued, silent tone of the gesture, rich in generosity, consolation, and hope, that “In Minor Keys” shines, a delicate and quiet sound full of faith in humble heroism. Whispers and frequencies will emerge from an exhibition largely inspired by local, indigenous knowledge and customs. Participating artists: ARKEO, Luana Bottallo, Jorge Chavarría, Manuel Navichoc, Ana Lorena Núñez, SOY artistic group (Christin Behrend, Franca Fabrizio, Yang YeXin), Elsie Wunderlich.

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Exhibition: 9 May to 22 November 2026

Pre-opening days: 6/7/8 May 2026

Press conference and inauguration of the Guatemala Pavilion: 8th May at 11 a.m.

Spazio Berlendis, Cannaregio 6301, Venice

Summer opening hours: 11 am - 7 pm (from May to September)

Autumn opening hours: 10 am - 6 pm (from October to 22 November)

Closed on Mondays (except 11 May, 1 June, 7 September, 16 November)