

26 June, 2018 / Istanbul

Dear Hanru,

Congratulations for the continuation of a consistent yet open programme that you have started in 2013.

Reflecting the aim of creating an open museum, a public domain, the programme of 2019 is a solid itineration of MAXXI's focus on cities, the geographical and cultural contexts that bind them and the potentiality of change that such cities incubate.

After Istanbul, Beirut and Africa, it is exciting to learn that for 2019 your focus has narrowed down directly on the street itself, as the praxis site of the democratic apparatus, exploring the spatial organization and cultural forces at work as the main protagonists of social change.

The inclusion of *No More Heroes, Contemporary Artists and the Heritage of Yugoslavia* to the special programme of MAXXI on the unprivileged lands such as the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern is a great asset for re-evaluating the drive for social change, its historicity and repercussions. The whole programme of 2019 is like a rhizomatic entity, bringing out the diverse roots and connotations of social change, in line with artistic visions and practices. For instance, like the lyric abstractions after the WW2, which signified a need for healing for the society, can we consider the *Spiritual Now* exhibition as an attempt to explore the poetic exodus from the current political turmoil or a refuge for healing?

The programme with its monographic solo exhibitions of iconic artists such as Maria Lai and Paola Pivi or architect Gio Ponti creates crevices and depths to the larger picture providing the audience with a thorough look at the relation between the artistic practices and the social. It would be great to have other international monographic solos (non-Italian) to give leverage to their works. Besides, the exhibitions from the MAXXI architecture collection manifest a similar lack of such leverage, although the vast collection was facilitated well with different accents and emphasis.

It is good to learn that the *Independent* extended its reach through organizing a symposium and a publication on *Collective Intelligence*.

Finally, it is fantastic that you have developed significant international collaborations such as with IVAM, Valencia or the Deutsche Bank Kunsthalle Berlin. However, the Italian Cultural institute exhibitions may be too much of a national frame.

Wish you the best meeting!

Very best,

Fulya Erdemci