

'Nature Is Watching': British Artist Lauren Baker Unveils Bronze Sculpture As An Environmental Message At Venice Art Biennial



Consciousness Awakening, 2024, 202 x 109 x 87 cm, bronze

Exhibition Details

Lauren Baker At 'Personal Structures - Beyond Boundaries' Art Biennial In Venice
Free public exhibition: 20 April until 24 Nov 2024 / Open daily, 7.30am-8.30pm
European Cultural Centre, Marinaressa Gardens, Venice, Italy

For Images of *Consciousness Awakening* please see the [Dropbox link](#)
Mystical Visions - [art book](#) released at Venice Biennale by Lauren Baker & James Putnam
For further press images and interviews with Lauren Baker, [email](#).

Lauren Baker's *Consciousness Awakening*, part of the *Nature Is Watching* series, was last week unveiled at the renowned, Marinaressa Gardens, within the European Culture Centre's 'Personal Structures - Beyond Boundaries' exhibition.

Consciousness awakening is exhibited alongside the works of Emily Young and Yoko Ono until 24 November. Previous high profile artists showing with the European Cultural Centre in Venice include Marina Abramovic, Anthony Gormley, Louis Bourgeois.

It is this bond between human beings and the natural world which inspired the sculpture, the latest in Baker's 'Nature is Watching' series. The inclusion of feminine eyes emerging from a tree-like plant, reminds us that Mother Nature is alive, opening the door to a harmonious



dialogue and connection between the observer and the observed. The artist describes each bronze eye as a 'third eye', a window to a higher state of consciousness.

Inspired by the folkloric reverence of the silver birch and aspen, known as "The Watchful Tree" within mediaeval literature and myths, Lauren Baker's *Consciousness Awakening* encapsulates the essence of nature's vigilance and the interconnectedness of all living things. Within these ancient tales, the trees were perceived as guardians of ancient wisdom, and conduits between the earthly realm and the divine.

To celebrate the Venice exhibit, Lauren Baker launched her first art book: 'Mystical Visions' written with Curator James Putnam, first released during the opening week in Venice. The next book launch will be held in Ibiza in June, and in London - July 2024, to be announced via the artists' mailing list.

During opening week, *Consciousness Awakening* became a living installation, as if nature itself had claimed it as its own. Ivy, with its sinuous tendrils was wrapped around the sculpture roots and the plants that entwined acted as a metaphor for the deep bond between art and the natural world.

Baker's artwork explores nature's vigilance and the vitality of the natural world, with eyes symbolising the trees' role as guardians of earth's rich biodiversity. Rooted in this profound connection to nature, the sculpture serves as a poignant reflection on the theme of "Foreigners Everywhere" by prompting us to consider our own role as foreigners in the vast fabric of existence, embracing a stronger connection with the natural world and reconsider our perceptions of what is familiar and foreign in the natural realm.

"The sculpture evokes a mysterious and dreamlike quality. It invites the viewer to contemplate the complex relationship between humans and the natural world thereby conveying a deeper understanding of existence, mortality, and the interconnectedness of all living things" - James Putnam, British Curator

Baker's commitment to environmental stewardship is demonstrated through a pledge to plant 8888 trees in the Amazon rainforest. By fostering a deeper appreciation for the beauty and resilience of nature, *Consciousness Awakening* inspires viewers to embrace their role as guardians of the earth's rich biodiversity. It prompts reflection on the impact of our actions and our shared responsibility to protect the planet.



Lauren Baker took part in a meaningful panel discussion during the opening week of Venice Biennale, entitled; 'Bridging Boundaries: Conscious Art And Environmental Activism' at the European Cultural Centre's Palazzo Bembo, along with artist Faiza Butt, and moderated by UAE Curator Nasser Abdulla. The talk, on 19 April, drew crowds as Lauren spoke about how poignant it was to present environmentally conscious art on the 'sinking city' of Venice to an international audience.

Sara Danieli, Director, European Cultural Centre, Italy, said; "Through her thought-provoking work, Lauren Baker challenges us to transcend our current perspectives and engage with the urgent environmental imperatives of our time."

Can't get to Venice? Lauren Baker currently has two public light art installations in London: 'The Trees Are Watching', which is part of the 'Nature Is Watching' series, and incorporates neon eyes within a 12 metre tree at The Arc, Shoreditch, until June 2024; as well as the the 3.5 metre 'Luna Woman Power Totem', which is a permanent installation at Palmers Green, Enfield to commemorate the Suffragette movement.

About Lauren Baker

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Lauren Baker, born 1982, is a British multidisciplinary artist, acclaimed for her installations and sculptures. She delves into consciousness, communing with nature, and symbolism. A sense of mystery and emergence - of connecting with something far beyond our own immediate world - pulsates throughout her work. From the monumental 25 metre *Letter From The Universe* about peace, to the *Luna Power Totem* emblematic of the suffragette movement; her work explores higher states of consciousness. The artist's notable *Totem Tribe* series utilises symbolism to inspire community spirit. Baker's environmental dedication extends to planting 8888 trees in the Amazon. Her art career started at 28 when she got inspired by a book called 'The Power Of Now', quit her corporate job and had an epiphany while taking part in ceremonies with tribes in the Peruvian Amazon Jungle. The artist has created installations at The V&A, Tate Britain and Tate Modern and her works are held in collections worldwide.

About European Cultural Centre - Italy

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The European Cultural Centre will present its prestigious 'Personal Structures' exhibition, which will span the Palazzo Mora, the Palazzo Bembo and Venice's iconic Marinaressa Gardens from 20 April until 24 November 2024. The Marinaressa Gardens are situated between the Arsenale and the Biennale Gardens. Its location, combined with the fact the exhibition forms part of the Biennale's official program guarantees the garden section of the exhibition specifically high footfall during the biennale months.

About The Venice Biennale (La Biennale di Venezia)

labiennale.org Official hashtag: #BiennaleArte2024

Amidst the historic charm of Venice, the prestigious Venice Biennale showcases an array of visionary talents from across the globe. Embracing the diverse narratives and innovative perspectives, as artists converge under the theme "Foreigners Everywhere." The 60th International Art Exhibition will take place from 20 April to 24 November 2024, curated by Adriano Pedrosa.