



LA GALLERIA S.r.l. · SAN MARCO 2566 · I – 30124 VENEZIA

**PRESS RELEASE**

**»VISIONS PF BEAUTY-45 years of Gallery«  
>La Galleria< Dorothea van der Koelen · Venice**

*19 Aprile- 24 Novembre 2024*

In coincidence with the 60th Venice Art Biennale, 'La Galleria', the Italian branch of Galerie Dorothea van der Koelen in Mainz (Germany), is presenting works by 8 international artists from 6 countries in the exhibition 'Visions of Beauty' from April 19 to November 24, 2024: **Lore Bert** (D), **Daniel Buren** (F), **Mohammed Kazem** (UAE), **Joseph Kosuth** (USA), **Nam Tchun-Mo** (ROK), **Fabrizio Plessi** (I), **Turi Simeti** (I) and **Günther Uecker** (D).

*My gallery in Mainz is celebrating its 45th birthday this year – La Galleria Venezia has been around for 23 years – and I thought long and hard about what the theme of this year's exhibition could be. When I realized what horrors are happening in our world right now – the wars in the Middle East as well as Ukraine/Russia and in Yemen and many other places, hunger, climate change, the disasters caused by climate change, floods, hot forest fires, fissures in the earth, volcanic eruptions, melting ice, the energy crisis, the loss of human dignity and compassion – so I thought: we have to set a counter-model with art. We have to use art to offer a forum, to create a level on which we can be happy despite all these adversities. And what can offer us this forum? Beauty. I am convinced that it is not a nice side effect of art, but its determinant. Looking at beautiful art makes our soul beautiful. The concept of beauty is unanimously associated with something good and positive: a nice experience, a nice dinner, thank you ...*

*So I named the exhibition 'Visions of Beauty'. Because I want to take people into a world that is not characterized by these horrors, that has nothing destructive about it, that offers no sex, no crime, no kitsch, but takes them into a world full of beauty, full of peace, full of freedom of thought, into a world of art in which they can go for a walk with their imagination.*

Of course, these artists, who all work and exhibit very internationally, are *Foreigners everywhere* – as the title of this year's Venice Biennale says – but with this un-anecdotal and un-illustrative we are not trying to emphasize the differences, but to build bridges for the 'dialogue of cultures' against the 'dialogue of weapons'.

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