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JOSEPH BEUYS
DIFESA DELLA NATURA
THE LIVING SCULPTURE. Kassel 1977-Venice 2007
HOMAGE TO HARALD SZEEMANN

Spazio Thetis, Venice, June-September 2007

Organizer and curator of the event:

Lucrezia De Domizio Durini

Cultural director: Prof. Antonio d'Avossa

Coordination: Antonietta Grandesso, architect

Scientific collaborators: Prof. Massimo Donà, Prof. Vitantonio Russo, Pierparide Tedeschi

President of the Event: Antonio Paruzzolo, engineer

The event will be held in the sphere of the Art Biennial in Venice, **from June 10 for 100 days**, at the **Spazio Thetis**, entitled "**Joseph Beuys. Defense of Nature. The Living Sculpture. Kassel 1977-Venice 2007**". The project, organized and curated by Lucrezia De Domizio Durini, is a presentation in Venice, thirty years later, and with current developments, of the cultural, environmental, social, economic, humanitarian and political topics discussed and analyzed by Beuys for 100 days at Documenta 6 in Kassel.

100 days in which, like that time, during the presentation of the Free International University, open discussions will involve: economists, intellectuals, lawyers, educators, scientists, designers, philosophers, artists, students, musicians, humanitarian, religious and environmental foundations with the primary view of examining the various possibilities for an improvement of human life.

A Social Model, the famous LIVING SCULPTURE, the greatest humanitarian artistic masterpiece of the 20th century, by Joseph Beuys, one of the most emblematic and significant characters of the history of art in the world after World War II. The Living Sculpture is, in Beuys' philosophy, based on the protection of the environment and the human race that lives in it, an example of solidarity and free collaboration and communication among men of different cultures, origins, religions, social, economic and political conditions.

*"I collaborated directly with Joseph Beuys during the last 15 years of his life, on his famous Operation DEFENSE OF NATURE. - declared Lucrezia De Domizio Durini – The event planned for Venice is a new chapter in this itinerary and, during the **100 days of Permanent Conference**, it will be a great metaphorical work serving to represent the themes and work undertaken by Beuys in a dynamic, constructive manner. Many topics can stimulate interdisciplinary communication: economic, humanitarian, environmental, creative and cultural themes in every field, from the educational system to scientific research, from the worldwide problem of poverty to the enormous environmental concerns, from political systems to economic situations, from religious positions to the multiethnic debate, from the need for water to pollution, from*

fashion to food. I will also have the support of prestigious personalities from the world of culture who have taken a profound interest over the years in Beuys' thinking and have studied and taught it".

Some of the organizations involved in the project are:

- **Italian and foreign Humanitarian Associations, Environmental and Agrarian Association, Associations for the protection of the waters and of animals, Associations that promote charitable projects of humanitarian aid, Religious Foundations.** Among those invited: Amnesty International, Banco Alimentare, Caritas Italia, Croce Rossa Italiana, Emergency, FAI, FAO, Forplanet, Greenpeace, Legambiente, Medici Senza Frontiere, Terres des Hommes, UNHCR, Unicef, WWF Italia.

Each will have a stand to promote its activities, and a common area where they can publicize their work in free and organized discussions.

- **intellectuals, cultural operators, galleries, museums, journalists, writers, collectors, artists** who have participated in the expansion of Beuys' philosophy by every means from 1986 until 2007 in the POST-BEUYS era.

They are invited to participate with video projections and with their precious contribution of unquestionable truth.

- **Enterprises, Industries, Banks, Universities and the mass media.**

A continuous cycle of videos and theme conferences will be the mode of expression of the event, not only for post-Beuysian artists and associations, but also for those who intend to sponsor the project.

An important collection will also be presented: the Luigi Bonotto Archive, consisting of video projections of all the Posters by the German master from 1956 to 1986, a precious collection in which the language of the images decodes the Beuysian message.

An extraordinary publication-catalogue of the event, edited by Silvana Editoriale (MI), will be published in two languages, Italian and English. In addition to Lucrezia De Domizio Durini, the intellectuals who collaborated culturally and scientifically in the Post-Beuys years will participate.

Every presentation and all the installations will be photographed, recorded and videotaped by experts to produce documents that will later be published in Italian and English, for a comparative analysis of the two historical periods 1977-2007: a document that will also be an appeal to the world for a tentative cultural and social rebirth.

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