

GLADSTONE GALLERY

Eileen Kinsella, "Bienal De Sao Paulo Explores Themes of Chaos and Uncertainty," *Artnet News*, September 6, 2016

artnet® news

Art Fairs

Bienal De Sao Paulo Explores Themes of Chaos and Uncertainty

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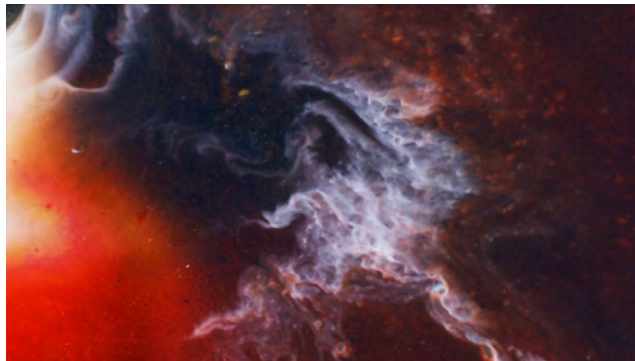
Eileen Kinsella, September 6, 2016

At a packed press conference at the Bienal de São Paulo on September 6, Jochen Volz, the head of programs at Serpentine Galleries in London, and his co-curators, Gabi Ngcobo (South Africa), Julia Rebouças (Brazil), Lars Bang Larsen (Denmark), and Sofia Olascoaga (Mexico) revealed the decision behind the chosen theme of this year's edition, "Incerteza Viva," or live uncertainty.

"Uncertainty is over-reflected in current conditions," said Volz at the press conference. "Contemporary art offers ways to address that. I want to be able to objectively address important issues of our time, including political and economic instability. It's necessary for us to sever the link between uncertainty and fear." Volz expanded on the theme in a written statement, noting that the role of the biennial is "to act as a platform which actively promotes diversity, freedom, and experimentation, at the same time exercising critical thought and proposing other real possibilities."

Amid ongoing protests against the impeachment of Brazilian president Dilma Rouseff, the press conference was briefly interrupted by a group (which included a number of artists appearing in the biennial) wearing black shirts with white letters stating in Portuguese "I want to vote" and "Out Temer!" The group began chanting their opposition to the recent leadership changes, which made the biennial's theme even more apparent.

The expansive, ambitious 32nd edition features 340 works by over 80 artists and collectives spread over three floors; in the weeks ahead, visitors can expect site-specific works and related performances throughout the city. It opens to the public September 7 and runs through December 11 at the famous Oscar Niemayer-designed pavilion in the city's sprawling Ibirapuera Park.



Rachel Rose, *Everything and More* (2015). Courtesy of Gavin Brown's Enterprise and Pilar Corrias Gallery.

A healthy dose of Brazilian and Latin American artists—some of whose names may be new to US and European audiences—are on view, as well as a considerable roster of notable names, including Jeremy Deller, Lyle Ashton Harris, Pierre Huyghe, Eduardo Navarro, Ebony G. Patterson, Pope. L, Rachel Rose, and Erika Verzutti.