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Zad Moulakta to Represent Lebanon at the 2017 Venice Biennale

Lebanon's Ministry of Culture has announced that artist and composer Zad Moulakta will represent the Lebanese Pavilion at the fifty-seventh Venice Biennale, which will be held from May 13 to November 26, 2017. Emmanuel Daydé, an art historian and critic, will curate the exhibition.

Daydé said, Moulakta combines "musical invention with visual research in an approach where technology takes inspiration from the archaic." His works often explore the themes of separation, time, the violent forces of nature, memory, and impossible reconciliations through works on paper paired with audio tracks. For the pavilion, Moulakta will create *Sacrum*, a multimedia installation inspired by prehistoric caves such as Lebanon's Jeita and France's Chauvet. The work will be installed in Venice's historic church of Santa Maria della Misericordia



Born in Lebanon in 1967, Moulakta studied piano at the Music Conservatory in Beirut when he was young. The artist moved to Paris in 1984 where he continued his musical education, but also started painting and drawing. He enrolled at the Paris Conservatoire in 1989, and worked as a professional piano soloist for almost a decade before he decided to dedicate himself to composing and painting.

Moulakta is interested in integrating the language and rhythms of Western and Arabic music. In a statement about his work for the biennial he said, "In these times when the Middle East is crumbling before our eyes, foundering in fratricidal wars, every act, every thought must be moved by this foretold catastrophe." He added, "Our earth is burning, our roots are being torn up, our future is drowning in indifference."

The artist exhibited at the 2015 Venice Biennale. He will produce an audio-visual installation for the fifteenth edition of Nuit Blanche in partnership with IRCAM in 2016. He will also create a new installation for Paris's Arab World Institute in 2017.